

Arts West is open for classes at the University of Melbourne.

Architecture for education

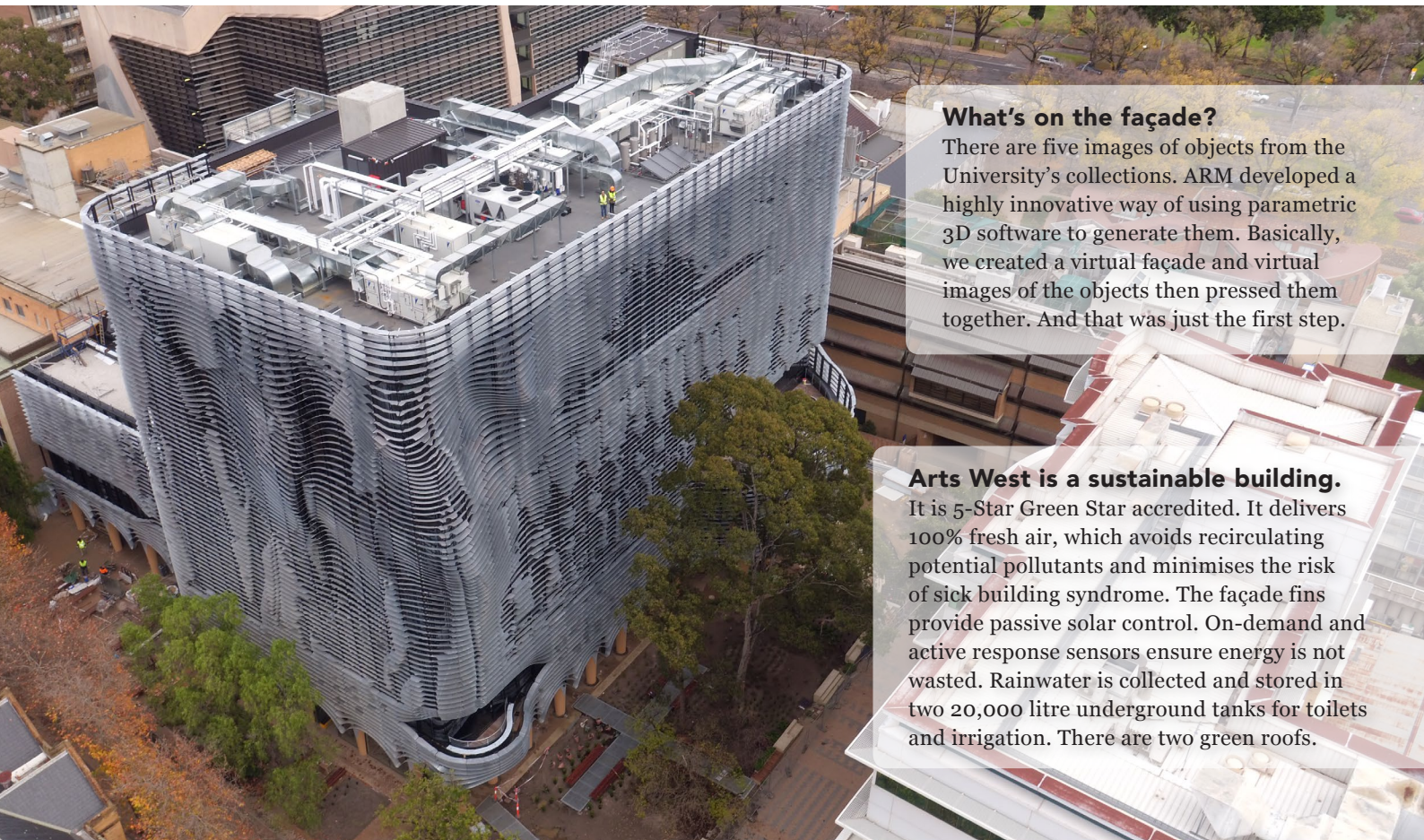
The new building is specifically designed for the contemporary pedagogical philosophies of the Faculty of Arts. Inside and out, it celebrates objects from the University's cultural collections, which are studied and displayed in multiple courses.

Campus versus online

In the digital age, Arts West's facilities keep students working on campus instead of just online. This way, they collaborate, present, discuss, debate and learn from chance encounters. The circulation spaces are filled with enticing and comfortable places for students to study together or individually, charge their devices, and learn efficiently outside contact hours.

These in-between places are serendipitous pathways for chance encounters with academic staff and fellow students. Conversation is encouraged: there are zones for great minds to collide and quiet spaces.

The building is also a University drawcard: students from around Australia and the Asia-Pacific region will compete to study there.



What's on the façade?

There are five images of objects from the University's collections. ARM developed a highly innovative way of using parametric 3D software to generate them. Basically, we created a virtual façade and virtual images of the objects then pressed them together. And that was just the first step.

Arts West is a sustainable building.

It is 5-Star Green Star accredited. It delivers 100% fresh air, which avoids recirculating potential pollutants and minimises the risk of sick building syndrome. The façade fins provide passive solar control. On-demand and active response sensors ensure energy is not wasted. Rainwater is collected and stored in two 20,000 litre underground tanks for toilets and irrigation. There are two green roofs.

Who are ARM + Architectus?

Australia/New Zealand firm Architectus are experts in tailoring educational facilities to pedagogical styles and aspirations.

Melbourne and Perth firm ARM Architecture are known for creative architecture supported by scholarly research and teaching. Our joint-venture collaboration has combined these strengths.

“You don't need to go to a museum to see something incredible—it's in your learning spaces, at the end of your corridor, inside the lifts, all around you.”

—Ruth Wilson, Director, Architectus

The Faculty of Arts didn't want classroomy-looking classrooms, or bare corridors. So we created rich interiors that explore a multitude of themes, stories, people, places and times.



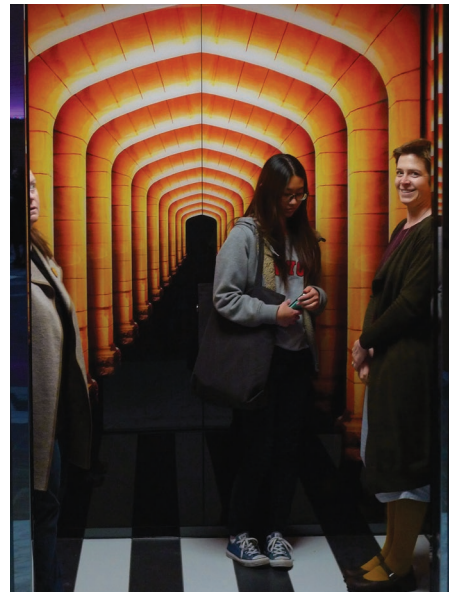
There's 1970s tartan.



There's a research lounge with French landscaped garden wallpaper and magenta banquette seating.



Pick the patterns from the 16th to 21st centuries.



Each lift is lined with a different supergraphic generated from an architectural detail around the campus. Students have voted these the best selfie backdrops on campus.

“The fins provide a successful balance of climate control and natural internal light. But they also offered the opportunity to emboss images in the cut-out edges of the finned façade. In Arts West we have tried to capture the span of influences that have created the consciousness of our City and its intellectual community.”

– Ian McDougall, Founding Director, ARM Architecture

People to interview

- Ian McDougall, Founding Director, ARM Architecture
- Ruth Wilson, Director, Architectus
- Andrea Wilson, Interior Leader, ARM Architecture
- Marina Carroll, Architect, Architectus.

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