

A CLASS OF ITS OWN

The \$30M Melbourne Grammar School Science & Technology Centre is a new 5-level building replacing the school's existing science building. It is comprised of cutting edge design to facilitate the teaching of science, technology, engineering and IT. It encourages collaborative thinking and provides dynamic teaching methods in both formal and informal learning spaces.

When Melbourne Grammar School decided it was time their science building needed a fresh approach, Kane Constructions were engaged from the outset. Responsible for the demolition of the old establishment and the full construction of the new Geoff Handbury Science and Technology Hub, the client-contractor relationship was rigorous.

Commencing work on the school's new \$30 million project in July 2016 with completion having taken place late 2017, Kane Constructions had no time to waste. The unique, 5-level development housing teaching laboratories and learning spaces had two agendas to deliver: a singular architectural form in keeping with heritage requirements and the capacity to allow a collaborative teaching/learning environment. This, coupled with a need for a contemporary design with stylistic longevity, meant Kane Constructions were working with complex spaces involving cutting edge features.

Multi-award winners with over 330 employees, the privately owned commercial company were in their prime working in the education sector. With a business history of over 44 years, it was a visit to their roots, having branched out across many sectors from their original school-based engagements. Now operating at a high level turnover, their uniqueness can be attributed to their promise for doing what they know best; delivering quality projects across all sectors – at any location – on any scale.

Operating in both Australia and overseas with offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra, the company's Business Management System is at the forefront of innovation. Helping to design their very own interactive digital platforms, Aconex and Aconex Field has meant employees and clients can access, inspect and review projects as they progress. Aconex Field is the platform's extra arm, allowing mobile and real-time interaction with projects.

With such a strong WH&S and quality assurance scheme, Melbourne Grammar School was assured from the outset that the company was delivering labour and planning with great transparency. Creating new spaces for learning in science, technology, engineering and IT, Kane Constructions faced repeated challenges concerning architectural innovation. With a bespoke façade system and feature wall panelling, the product specifications were always complex and detailed. Constructing the project has meant Kane Constructions' successful completion of the innovative façade has facilitated a learning/teaching space with spectacular, slit-eye views across the school grounds.

To look at the space itself is to see a slim, streamlined building boasting a magnificent interplay of natural and artificial light. Collaboration offering a design brief that inspired a 5-level building with interactive vantage points and exposed learning spaces, stand out features include exposed piping, unobtrusive vents and a bright design palette of yellows, pristine white and subdued greys. Interior surfaces are highly polished while the interior structures are fresh. To look, for example, at the science fiction inspired curvaceous, pristine white laboratory desks alone, is to sample the performance/aesthetic newness of the development.

Feature projects by Kane Constructions show their commitment to teamwork and active participation across all sectors of the industry with developments spanning from the multi-award winning Geelong Library and Heritage Centre to the Master Builder of the Year Winner – University of Melbourne Arts West Redevelopment, proving their broad expertise and unique project application in eclectic and diversified developments. Then there is the impressive list of current projects such as the Cabrini Health New Clinical Building and Glebe Social Housing in New South Wales.

Clearly for Kane Constructions there is a work ethos that is unrelenting when it comes to energy and enthusiasm. With the construction of the aesthetically pleasing and high end performance capacity of Melbourne Grammar School's new Science & Technology Centre, they have shown there is no challenge which they can't dazzle into materialisation.

For more information contact Kane Constructions, 658 Church Street, Richmond VIC 3121, phone 03 8420 1200, fax 03 8420 1201, website www.kane.com.au

BUILDER : Kane Constructions
ARCHITECT : Denton Corker Marshall
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER : Irwinconsult
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$30 million

