

TRANS FORM ANCE

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THE LEARNING
LANDSCAPE

Learning Environments Australasia
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CITY OF PERTH LIBRARY AND PLAZA Challenger Parade, City Beach

Architect: Kerry Hill Architects

Building Contractor:

Educational and architectural ideas:

This competition-winning design was built on a complex urban site adjacent to some of Perth's finest heritage buildings.

Responding to this context, the building is cylindrical in form. The upper profile is defined by a diagonal truncation that allows winter sun to enter the public plaza and gives the library an appropriate scale as it addresses the heritage buildings. The cylindrical form allows a reading of the building as a discrete object and a building with a distinct civic identity.

The library façade of glass panels and stone fins, is at once solid and transparent, reinforcing the civic qualities of the building while providing a lightness and delicacy to the form. At the ground level, this hybrid stone and glass skin peels away to reveal a transparent entry foyer.

The main public staircase wraps the perimeter of the cylindrical volume, between the building skin and main collection floors. At the core of the building is the triple-height reading room. This screened volume receives filtered sunlight across the collection floor galleries.

The children's library occupies the fifth level and is arranged around a double-height winter garden. The interior is characterised by warm timbers and filtered light, reinforcing the atmosphere of quiet reflection.



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