



CIVIC DESIGN AWARD

CITATION

JOHN CURTIN CENTRE

PREMIER'S AWARD

The John Curtin Centre provides the Curtin University of Technology, Bentley Campus with an outdoor Forum and Great Court adding a civic focus which it previously lacked. The new public spaces of the complex are complemented by other major new public facilities such as The John Curtin Ministerial Library and The John Curtin Art Gallery. In addition, the new complex houses The John Curtin Centre International Institute for Regional Co-operation, within the Chancellory Building, which will add a new international dimension to the activities of Curtin University.

The John Curtin Centre is bold in concept with the great spaces of the Forum and Great Court aligned in a grand cascading vista, which links the heart of the campus with its perimeter playing fields and lake. The Forum is ringed by callipered colonnades, while the Great Court is framed by enclosing buildings and the Promenade loggia, integrating the two public spaces.

The Kahn like vocabulary of the Centre in red brick, with inset strips of red granite, tinted glass, terra cotta roofs and stainless steel downpipes, brings coherence and linkage to a set of earlier buildings and a diverse range of new buildings. The vocabulary brings an apparent simplicity and strength to the Centre and the civic gesture which it is making.

The Centre has delightful small spaces and details which lighten its monumental scale and will be enriched with the completion of the public art and signage programme. The John Curtin Centre marks the Curtin University Bentley campus coming of age in its growth from technical college, through institute of technology, to university, and has provided it with a signature identity.