

The Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club is positioned at Bar Beach NSW adjacent the Tasman Sea to the south-east. Memorial Drive divides the surf club from Empire Park and to the South-West, Merewether and more beaches, completing its prominent location. The boardwalk along the southern side of Memorial Drive is an extremely popular recreational path and in the hotter months Bar Beach becomes the destination for most using this course.

Webber was commissioned to consult with Newcastle City Council, Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club, and the community to develop the project brief, concept and sketch designs, documentation for Development Application, documentation for construction for Stage 1 of the works, contract administration during construction, handover, and post construction services.

Key to the brief for this design was maintaining an awareness of the users of the area from an urban context and scale perspective. The proposal endeavours to assist walkers and beach users, not only users of the club, to more easily transverse the lower levels of the promenade. Additionally, driving forces behind this development included the necessity for improved and enlarged spaces for the current and future needs of the club, Council and community. Future proofing in the design has been a key element through careful consideration of materials and construction systems that are low maintenance and hard wearing.

The building design comprises two elemental ideas; curved roofs intersecting a rectangular box. The box component's footprint and height effectively sits within that of the existing building in recognition of the previous club's form. Arched windows will be salvaged and relocated in approximately the same space to maintain some physical history of the site while internally, dedicated display and memorabilia areas have been allocated. The higher curved roof forms stretch from the beach side at the approximate height of the existing club and extend up and over the footpath of the new access way adjacent to the club's main entry. These cantilevering roof structures over dual stairways to the club building provide functional shaded access and rest stops, engaging the community through the protective forms. The higher, glass clad volumes of the proposed structure match the eye level of people using the Memorial Drive footpath giving an element of transparency to the structure; passers-by can look through the building without seeing directly into the club rooms, achieved through sight line analysis and 3 dimensional modelling of the proposed building in accurate contextual terrains.

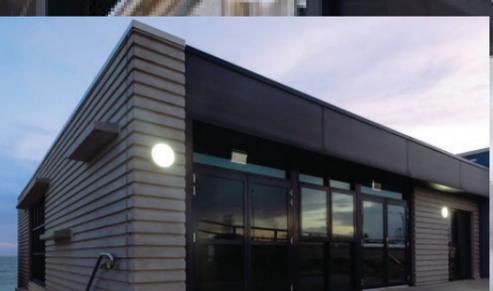
The design maximises natural light and ventilation. Treatment of façades and forms have been managed depending on orientation, access and relationship with interior spaces. Studies in 3D modelling and sight line analysis have enabled the higher volumes of the design to maintain an element of transparency while informing the layout of the façades solids and glazing panels. Each elevation of the club has undergone a unique assessment to achieve a balance of light, air and views while reducing overheating and glare.

The surf life saving culture is promoted by providing a landmark club building that members and locals can be proud, highlighting the area's importance to the community as recreational land use. The proposal improves the overall Bar Beach area by providing better amenity to the current built environment of the promenade. The club site has a tremendous exposure and it is considered a site deserving of a building of architectural interest and aesthetic quality.

Consultants

Heritage - John Carr Heritage Design
Hydraulic/Mechanical/Electrical - Marline Building Services Engineers
Quantity Surveyor - Rider Levett Bucknall
Structural/Civil/Stormwater - Michael Fitzgerald Consulting Engineers
Access - Phillip Chun & Associates
PCA - Newcert Pty Ltd

Client - Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club
Builder - MARS Building
Photography - Laura McOnie



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