

### 3.5 DESIGN QUALITY CONTROLS - ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER AND IMAGE

Universities are often distinguished by the quality of their architecture, through which they instill a sense of pride and history. As cultural buildings with a long life span, university buildings can become major contributors to the cultural life of the city, and have not traditionally been subject to the dictates of developers and the commercial realm.

Over the last decade, universities in Australia have been remaking their campuses through an investment in design. Significant buildings have been commissioned to provide improved campus facilities and to project a more attractive and modern image in an increasingly competitive tertiary education market. The physical environment of the campus is regarded as being vital to the reputation and identity of the university, and representative of their attitude to the delivery and quality of their educational programmes.

Success must be considered on a number of fronts, from the quality of the architecture, the quality of spaces created, their urban response, and, most importantly, their ability to enable and reflect developments in teaching, learning and research, and maintain relevance and flexibility as tertiary institutions and teaching methods change and develop.

With a large amount of new built area UTS will be significantly increasing its capacity. The new development sites and major renovations will have a significant impact on the surrounding streetscapes with an extensive new built frontage to public streets. The most marked of these will be on Broadway, the campus's most prominent address, with its most visible and extensive streetscape. The new built frontage on Broadway will measure some 230 metres in length.

The character and identity of UTS Broadway Precinct will be transformed over the next 5 years.

The approach that will be taken is one that aligns the strategic vision and academic identity and purpose of UTS with its new built and architectural character, an approach that will enrich much more than just the built environment.

The character of the Campus will be developed as a diverse collection of acquired and purpose-designed buildings that knit together to comprise a rich and interesting city campus and urban environment, as opposed to a singular, massive institution that overwhelms the city and its streets.

#### A Sense of Community

- Campus buildings need to strengthen and reinforce a sense of community, but not obliterate it with a 'sameness' of built language. Academic communities are full of diversity, and the buildings and spaces will reflect this.
- UTS needs to transform its current collection of buildings that present as fortresses to the street and to the city. New buildings will be accessible, visible and perforate.

- The buildings will engage with and respond to external spaces – both public streets, and UTS environments. Circulation hubs, student lounges and building entries should be located so as to relate with and look back to the wider UTS community.

#### A Sense of Place

The buildings will respond to the context of the streets and environments they sit within – striking and emblematic to Broadway, finer scaled and more detailed to Jones Street and Thomas Street.

- The new Broadway street frontage should be considered as a collection of 3 buildings, not one continuous and homogeneous façade: The new extension to the Building 1 podium entrance, the southern extension to the new Learning Commons in Building 2, and the new Broadway building itself. There is the opportunity in this buildings major new facade for providing pedestrian connections that link to the street. These connections could also respond to the creation of multilevel activity hubs within the building that surround the main vertical circulation paths.
- New and existing building relationships will be considered as significant opportunities to create meaningful and diverse spaces. Architectural propositions will consider the forming of laneways, courtyards and rich streetscapes.

#### A Sense of Identity and Pride

The buildings and the campus will demonstrate the innovative knowledge precinct, be engaging and varied, experimental and research based, and represent UTS as 'the home of the creative industries'.

- Transparency is an important part of the new built language. It will speak of an institution that is proud of the knowledge, communication and innovation that occurs within it.
- Whilst UTS as an institution requires strength and identity, so too do the faculties within it. Each faculty should have its own identity reflected in its architecture, creating the ability to brand the faculty with its own unique character – for example, both the campanile of Building 5 on the Haymarket precinct and the Atrium and entrance of Building 10 have a striking and memorable image. Campus buildings should have an identifiable entrance, visibility across many levels, visible student focussed activities and shopfronts, informal lounge and gathering spaces and key teaching and computer labs that are accessed from these areas.

#### Legibility

- All building and spaces form an important part in creating a series of links and thoroughfares through the campus, and indeed the city.
- New and existing buildings will define important gateways to the campus.
- Building entries will be clear, welcoming and unambiguous.
- Colonnades and Awnings should be located in meaningful

locations to encourage dwelling and gathering spaces, and to activate the edge of public areas such as Alumni Green and Jones Street.

#### Design Excellence

There will be no instituted or homogeneous built style for the new buildings at UTS. Controls will encourage quality and creativity in design, rather than dictating design responses.

- Design Excellence is not just the quality of a building's facades, it is the quality of the spaces it creates, its urban response, and, most importantly, its ability to enable and reflect developments in teaching, learning and research, and to maintain relevance and flexibility as tertiary institutions and teaching methods change and develop.

The new built environment will be of exemplary design quality, and will be rich and diverse. The quality of the buildings will be judged by the quality of the spaces they create, the way they integrate with the city, the relevance and flexibility they have to current and future teaching practices, and the manner in which they facilitate human engagement. It is this human engagement that is vital to the communication exchange and collaborative dialogue of an innovative learning institution.

#### Urban Design Quality Controls

##### Broadway Building

- Maximise the extent of permeability of the ground plane through retail and student union shopfronts and student wide and public facilities
- Enable pedestrian connections through the site from Broadway through to Jones Street
- Consider articulating the building façade along Broadway to reduce the bulk and scale through possible devices such as openings and pedestrian connections, modulation and material quality
- Consider an element of transparency in the building design to express functions within
- Respond respectfully to the existing Building 10 in relation to the way the new building abuts the building on its west and eastern facades
- Provide at grade and above ground pedestrian connections to Building 10
- Provide vehicular connections to the new building through Building 10 carpark to avoid dangerous and unsightly driveways off Broadway and Jones streets

