

Darlington Public School NSW | Australia

01

Specifications

Client: FJMT Architects
 Year: 2018 - 2023
 Location: Darlington, NSW
 Budget: N/A
 Area: N/A
 Year Levels: P-6
 Students: 800
 Architect: FJMT Architects



Photo 1| Darlington Public School - Artist's Impression from above
 Source: School Infrastructure NSW/FJMT Architects

02

Overview

Darlington Public School (DPS) services parts of the inner-city growth suburbs of Chippendale, Darlington, Redfern and Newtown. DPS is culturally diverse, both students and staff, with a significant percentage identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and nearly a quarter of students coming from non-English speaking backgrounds. There is a strong ethos of social and cultural acceptance and equity. NLE was appointed as Educational Space Planner to work on the Business Case and then later for the Masterplan, Concept and Schematic Design phases. The project also includes an Early Learning Centre.

03

Process

NLE commenced this project in the business case phase and conducted associated visioning exercises. A number of spatial typologies were developed for endorsement by the school. The scheme underwent a number of different concept design iterations to find the best possible solution for this complex site in a tight urban setting. NLE continued working with the design team and school as the schematic design evolved and furniture was selected.

04

Outcomes

The design uses two different spatial typologies that combine 3 or 4 traditional classes into a series of shared spaces. Both typologies had to be adapted to suit the constrained nature of the site. Both typologies offer a range of enclosed and more open spaces as well as spaces for making and small group meetings, all interconnected. The spaces allow for the different groups in each space to work together or as individual classrooms. Due to the complex socio-cultural context of the school, there was a strong desire to maintain an intimate and well-connected learning community with an emphasis on student well-being. This resulted in community-centred spaces occupying the ground level and increased opportunities for student learning support and quiet retreat within the learning areas.

FUTURE FOCUSED TYPOLOGY B at DPS:

- Learning community for the equivalent of 3 class groups (up to 90 students)
- Equitable access to large wet studio and presentation space
- Either 2 or 3 meeting rooms, for use as retreat or for learning support
- Yellow spaces will include:
 - collaborative settings
 - open floor space
 - informal learning &
 - quiet study

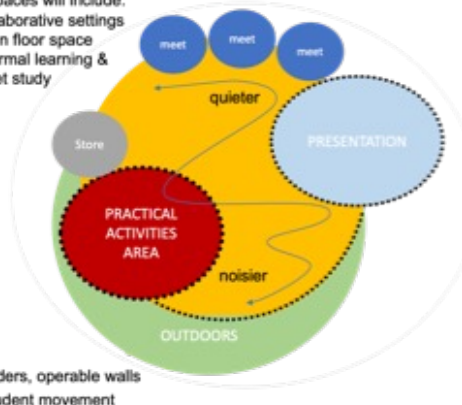


Photo 2| Darlington Public School | Base typology diagram
 Source: NLE

