

## Southern Cross Wellington - Architectural Statement

### Context

The proposal is for a 3 storey building comprising of 2 floors of associated car parking and the upper floor for medical consulting located on the Hanson Street frontage of the existing Southern Cross Hospital site in Newtown. The surrounding context is predominantly a mixture of single storey and elevated villas to the east and south of the site with the context to the north on Hanson Street comprising of medium rise residential blocks and low rise commercial activity. The western aspect of the site faces the bulky industrial aesthetic of the Indoor Sports Centre and School of Dance and Drama.

The design of the proposed building has taken into account the need to balance the function – as a medical consulting facility, with its visual aesthetic within the wider context and the functioning relationship to the existing Southern Cross Hospital.

Integral to the design concept, regard has been given to:

- The scale and relationship of the built form to the street, neighbouring properties, existing buildings and activities (including servicing and access) within the site
- The use of sympathetic building materials
- Aspect and outlook

### Form and Materials

The material palette comprises of a fritted glazed façade to the upper floor with vertical full height aluminium fins that effectively ground the building – the façade is modulated to the scale of the adjacent residential houses in Hanson St. The intention is for this Hanson Street façade to perform as a moderator between the residential aesthetic to the south and the commercial aesthetic to the north.

The car parking floors are screened by a 'green' wall – and due to the sloping nature of Hanson Street, this screened wall occupies the full two storey carpark wall to the north and part of the Hanson Street east façade. The composition of the carpark exterior walls is a perforated metal screen that has articulation that not only screens the carpark, but also has a relationship to the landscaping that is planted in front of the screen.

### Bulk and Scale

The proposed building is located on the east of the site between the Hanson St boundary and the existing hospital – it is located over the existing on grade carparks. The building employs a reasonable degree of façade articulation and is designed not to replicate the adjacent residential aesthetic, but to draw upon the elements that make this context such as the scale and size of the adjacent houses to Hanson Street.

The building is of a scale that is of a similar height to the adjacent properties – to the south, the facade faces the single storey workers cottages and to the north the building height is similar to the four storey residential apartment block.

### Entry

The pedestrian entry to the new building is directly accessed off Hanson Street and aligns with the existing hospital entry – the entry is further defined by the use of textural paving that contrasts with the drive through entry/exit. The immediate pedestrian entry to Hanson Street is further accentuated by the incorporation of a higher timber clad ceiling, seating and sculptural vertical elements that give the user of the place a sense of welcoming.

### Conclusion

An important factor in the design of this building is the careful consideration to the effects on neighbouring properties. Mitigation measures include ensuring appropriate visual articulation of the materials to assist in reducing the visual scale of the building.

This proposal will contribute positively to the local area and provide an exemplar for commercial activity within an existing context - his has been achieved with the contribution of good façade and edge activation alongside the public amenity – adding value to the existing urban environment.

Phil Grey

Warren & Mahoney Architects

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