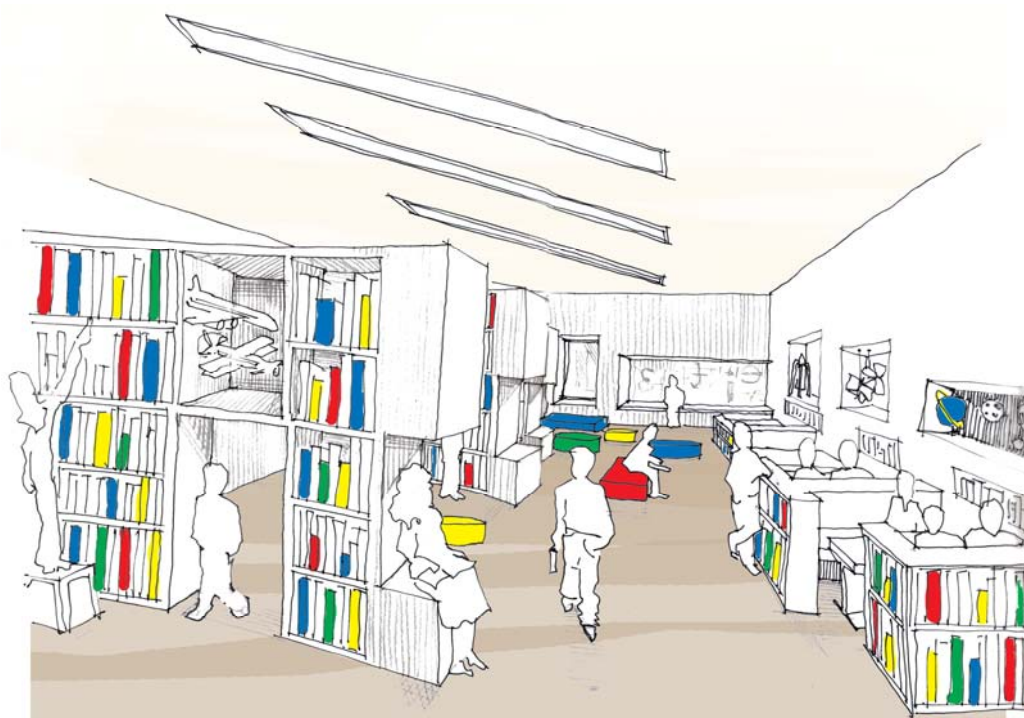


Press Release

18 February 2009

HASSELL to Design New Library for Murray Bridge



Following the successful design and delivery of the award winning Stirling Library, **HASSELL** is pleased to announce its appointment to design the fit-out of a new library for the rural city of Murray Bridge, south east of Adelaide.

This exciting \$3 million project was won at competitive interview and presents a window of opportunity to reposition the Murray Bridge Library as the social and community hub in the region, strengthening local resident's pride of place and becoming a destination of choice.

The project will see the realisation of a new non traditional interactive library which demonstrates leading edge technology and best practice, one which will appeal to young people and non-traditional library users, whilst still delivering full services and engaging with long term patrons.

The objective of this project is to create a stimulating, approachable library environment in which the diverse community can engage in learning.

Situated within the new Murray Bridge Market Place Shopping Centre, the new library will provide a strong link between the council and the local community. Its high profile location, adjacent the main entry will enable the implementation of a series of 'shopfronts' or exhibitions, these will offer exceptional opportunities to create visually stimulating displays. The connection to the external environment will also showcase the Murraylands, inviting the public into the new library.

The library at Murray Bridge Market Place will help promote the City of Murray Bridge's future business directions; and become a showcase for the City, providing education and advice to the community. The exhibit 'shopfronts' will provide a visual gateway, aimed at 'breaking down' community barriers and activating community engagement in a more retail style informal environment. This transparency will draw in new customers, retain the existing users and has the potential to attract sponsorship.

HASSELL aim to create an energetic place, one where staff will be enthused about coming to work and where local residents gather, socialise and learn in their new library hub. It will be a place where learning is encouraged and supported, a place that is effective and efficient whilst promoting and building a sense of community.

HASSELL believe a community library should express professionalism and provide easy access to information and technology. The design will be an engaging, bright, happy space that is people friendly and community orientated.

Covering 1800m², the new library features extensive adult, youth and children's collections, AV and DVD collections, Xbox technology, a historical section, training and meeting rooms, a community business centre, an IT Hub, and reading areas.

Project Team Leader Ms Yan-Yan Ho said the project has been was designed with education at the heart, but was also planned to create a space the entire community could enjoy and become involved with. One that functions as a knowledge hub, community centre, a meeting point, and the cultural heart of the Murraylands area

“Young people in the area will benefit from the extensive collections and technological equipment at the Murray Bridge library, but will also find plenty of room for reading and studying. With its new community business centre, training areas and meeting rooms, the library will be the heart of the city’s community activity.”

The new Murray Bridge library will be a dynamic attractive facility that supports the local community and is a convenient relaxed meeting location.

Currently in design development, it is hoped that work will begin on site in mid 2009.

HASSELL has an established and enviable reputation for the design and delivery of high quality library and education facilities; with seven library projects undertaken in South Australia alone, including the State Library and the City of Playford Library.

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For further press information and images:

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