

POWERHOUSE PARRAMATTA

ST GEORGES TERRACE



Museum of
Applied Arts
& Sciences

ST GEORGE’S TERRACE

St George’s Terrace is proposed to be used for flexible programming space, including a supplementary concierge for education and group bookings, an exhibition and event support, a space for school and group gathering and orientation, an education and workshop space, and supporting ticketing and front of house areas.

The multiple event spaces within Powerhouse Parramatta will be supported through a flexible design of St George’s Terrace that could include:

- Gathering and orientation space for school groups to assemble prior to either attending an event or exhibition within a presentation space, or prior to their stay at The Academy.
- Pre-dinner or pre-exhibition event space for invitees to opening nights of such events within other spaces of the Museum.
- A space to host education programs and events.
- A ticketing or screening space for events within Presentation Space 1 (or other presentation spaces) when multiple events are being held at once to enable the Concierge space to service those other events (i.e. to serve as a satellite concierge space).
- A small-scale exhibition space that could host individual events or act as a satellite to events or exhibitions in other spaces.

Integration of the Terrace

Powerhouse Parramatta is comprised of two main buildings with functional flexibility a cornerstone of the design. The buildings contain a range of spaces able to host a myriad of museum uses and are linked through the ground plane and via an overhead bridge to upper levels.

The inclusion of St George’s Terrace offers an additional opportunity to expand the functional flexibility of Powerhouse Parramatta becoming the (albeit smaller) third building that will serve to enhance the museum offering. The range of uses proposed for St George’s Terrace will serve Powerhouse Parramatta as a whole, and as such will not only complement the use of Presentation Space 1, but also all remaining presentation spaces as well as the Academy, Concierge and Powerlab offices.

Integration of St George’s Terrace is not predicated on a physical connection to enhance the functionality of the museum. Rather as with the separation of the two main buildings, reliance is placed on the ground plane as the linking device. Further to enhance the role of Powerhouse Parramatta as ‘part of the city’ a preference is made for the movement of visitors within the ground plane, adding to the overall activation of the streets of Parramatta.

Function of Presentation Space 1

Presentation Space 1 is the largest exhibition space within the museum. It will have the flexibility to host an array of exhibitions and events, including display of very large objects from the museum collection.

Museum spaces require specific design parameters in order to function adequately for the display of valuable objects. This relates to the penetration of light as well as climate controls for temperature and humidity. Presentation Space 1 is the only space within the museum that includes an opening to the exterior of the museum. This opening allows for the hosting of events and exhibitions that can withstand variances in light and climatic conditions.

The vast majority of museum exhibitions will require controlled climate and no light penetration in order to conserve the objects being displayed. Presentation Space 1 has been specifically designed to provide the ability to control light and climatic conditions with the operable façade to the north. This requires extensive engineering and design detailing to ensure the space can operate as both an indoor/outdoor space as well as a controlled museum space. The requirement to add additional penetrations along the southern façade will further erode the ability of the space to operate as a successful museum exhibition space.

In addition to the added expense of creating further penetrations to southern façade as well as the limitations this would present to the display of objects the following considerations need to be weighed:

- The museum requires security controls for the operation of all exhibitions and events. The requirement to have two points of access to the external areas of the Powerhouse will require extensive security overlay if they were to both be in operation.
- The vast majority of exhibitions within Presentation Space 1 will require no light penetration and controlled climate. This would negate the need for any openings on the southern façade of the building.
- The presence of openings along the southern façade of Presentation Space 1 would only serve as ‘activation’ if they were to be opened. As the majority of the exhibitions require light and climate control, such openings would be closed the majority of the time.

Appendix 1 of this report contains a letter from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences reiterating the above points and outlining the compromises physical integration of Presentation Space 1 and St George’s Terrace would create.

OPTIONS FOR INTEGRATION

As outlined above the Terrace will be integrated with all spaces (internal and external) of Powerhouse Parramatta through its operations. It is considered that physical separation of the building does not negate the integration of the Terrace within the overall precinct.

Whilst it is considered that the Terrace will be integrated within Powerhouse Parramatta, a number of options have been explored to satisfy the requirement to physically integrate St George’s Terrace and Presentation Space 1.

Option 1 provides for an operable southern façade to Presentation Space 1 similar to the northern façade. Whilst this option has the ability to create activation along Phillip Street and between operations of St George’s Terrace at Presentation Space 1, it is not considered satisfactory as:

- The majority of events and exhibitions within Presentation Space 1 require light and climatic control meaning these openings would be closed for the majority of the time.
- There would be little to no events or exhibitions that could conceivably utilise both St George’s Terrace and Presentation Space 1, meaning such physical integration would be obsolete.
- Opening of the southern façade would require the northern façade to remain closed to prevent creation of a wind tunnel through Presentation Space 1.
- The openings would create a new facade language that does not align with the rest of the building and would degrade the clarity of its overall expression.

Option 2 provides for an operable southern façade to Presentation Space 1 directly aligned to St George’s Terrace. Whilst this option has the ability to create activation between Phillip St George’s Terrace and Presentation Space 1, it is not considered satisfactory as:

- The majority of events and exhibitions within Presentation Space 1 require light and climatic control meaning these openings would be closed for the majority of the time.
- There would be little to no events or exhibitions that could conceivably utilise both St George’s Terrace and Presentation Space 1, meaning such physical integration would be obsolete.
- Any activation created by opening of this façade would be blocked from view by St George’s Terrace.

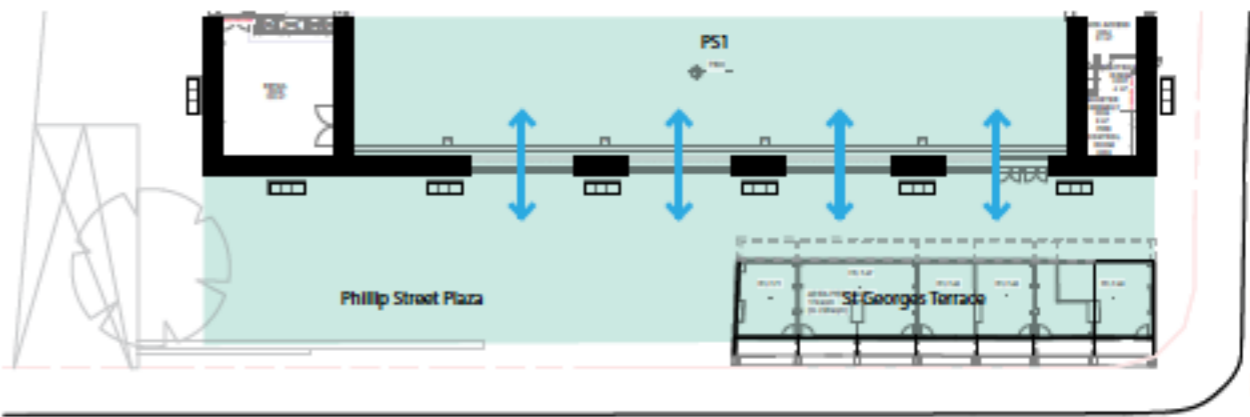
Option 3 is the proposed option, the subject of this modification. This option is in line with the approved development and is preferred as it:

- Maintains the integrity of the competition winning scheme in terms of the façade design.
- Protects the ability to host an array of events within Presentation Space 1 that require light and climatic control.
- Enables St George’s Terrace to integrate to the north and western public domain areas, providing activation of the ground plane around the Terrace through people movement.
- Allows for the operational integration of St George’s Terrace without compromising museum functionality.

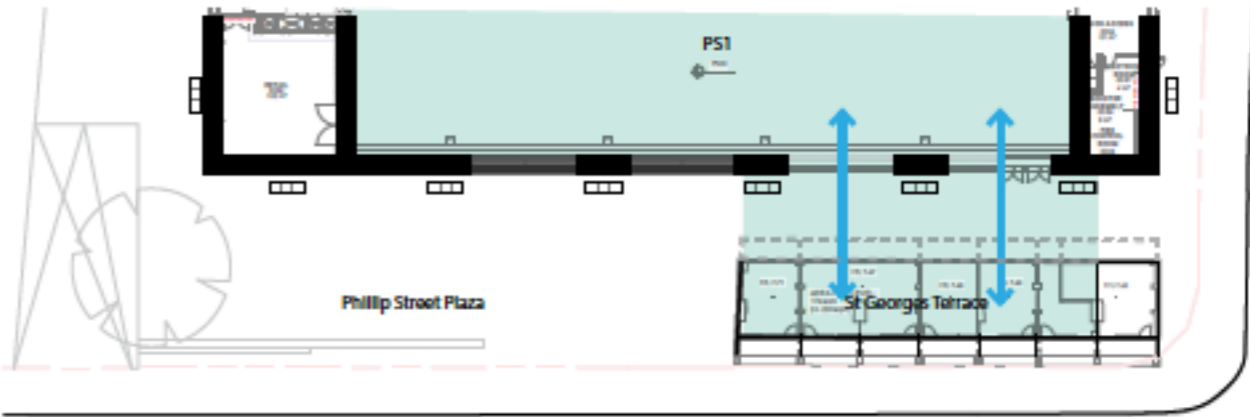
The proposed design creates ensures that the retention of St George’s Terrace fully integrates with Powerhouse Parramatta without compromising the operations of the museum. The design will allow activation of the ground plane through people movement between St George’s Terrace and Presentation Space 1 as well as the Phillip Street plaza. The glazed openings will ensure that the activities within the Terrace are viewed from Phillip Street, further activating the streetscape.

Concierge Function

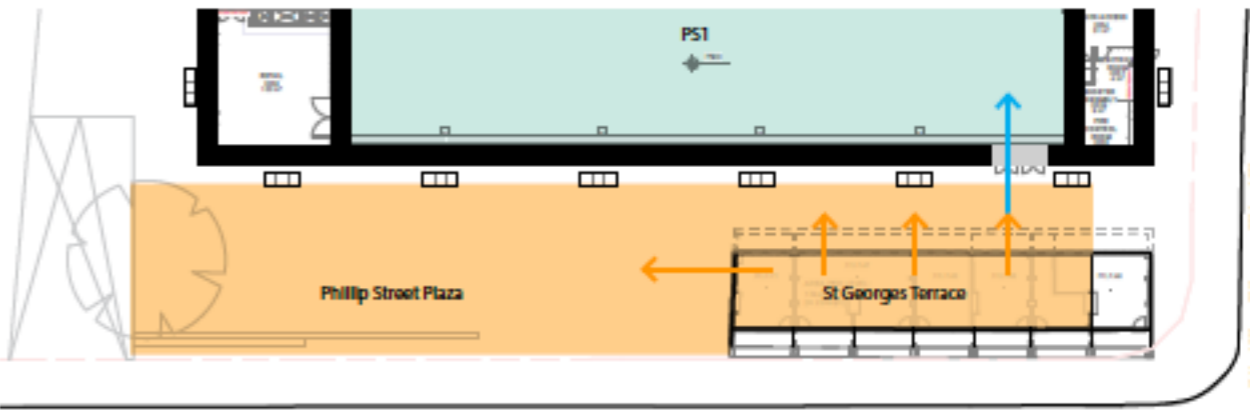
The proposed internal design of St George’s Terrace would also provide the opportunity to serve a concierge function within the overall precinct. This function would only be utilised where a number of concurrent events are occurring and by prior arrangement with attendees (e.g. for school groups). The use of the Terrace for concierge will not take away from the primacy of the Concierge space within the western building, which will remain as the ‘front door’ to the museum.



Option 1: Integration - St George's Terrace, PS1 and Phillip Street



Option 2: Integration - St George's Terrace and PS1



Option 3: Integration - St George's Terrace and Phillip Street Plaza

ARTISTS IMPRESSIONS

The following renders provide a perspective of the space between Presentation Space 1 and St George's Terrace. All finishes will be as per the approved development and will be further developed in line with existing conditions of consent, including consultation with relevant stakeholders.



6 May 2022

Michael Cassell
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Michael,

Re: St George's Terrace at Powerhouse Parramatta

I am writing regarding the importance of ensuring there are no changes to the façade of Presentation Space 1 facing Phillip Street to create further penetrations, and that Presentation Space 1 is able to operate as per the approved design at Powerhouse Parramatta.

Functional flexibility is a key principle of Powerhouse Parramatta, with each space in the museum designed to accommodate a range of exhibition, programmatic and community uses. The proposed design integrates St George's Terrace seamlessly into the visitor experience and design of the public domain, with a flexible design response which accommodates a range of uses including school group learning programs and community use, and allows for activation of the ground plane and circulation between St George's Terrace, Phillip St Plaza and Presentation Space 1.

Presentation Space 1 is a highly specified space, with the ability to function both as a light- and climate-controlled environment for immersive exhibitions, and as a connected indoor-outdoor space for civic and community programs and events. The space has been carefully designed with extensive engineering and design detailing to strike the required balance between the environmental and large-scale public domain connectivity requirements.

Any changes to the façade of Presentation Space 1 facing Phillip Street to create further penetrations will compromise the museum's ability to present exhibitions. As the flagship exhibition space of Powerhouse Parramatta, Presentation Space 1 must be able to operate as per the approved design.

The Powerhouse Museum is committed to ensuring Powerhouse Parramatta is fully integrated into the urban fabric of Parramatta CBD. The inclusion of St George's Terrace and the ability for visitors to traverse the public domain between the Terrace and other museum buildings will add to the porosity of the Powerhouse Parramatta site and make a positive contribution to the life and activation of Parramatta.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Clare Moore, Director Design and Delivery, at clare.moore@maas.museum.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Havilah
Chief Executive



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