

Arthur Phillip High School & Parramatta Public School

SSDA Landscape Report

NSW Department of Education

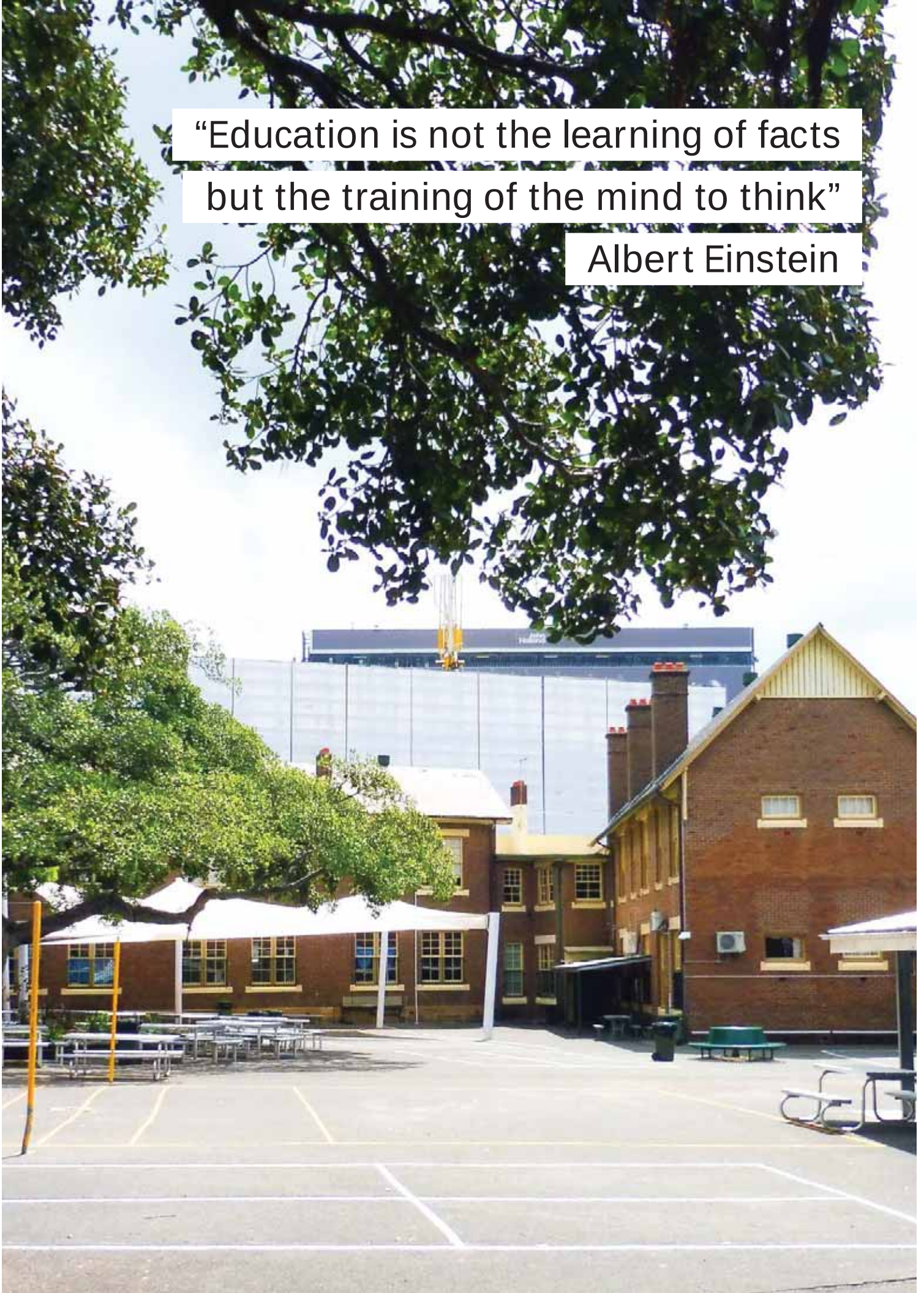


Site Plan NTS

REV C

“Education is not the learning of facts
but the training of the mind to think”

Albert Einstein



Landscape Vision and Objectives

Introduction

ASPECT Studios has been engaged by Grimshaw Architects to design the landscape spaces within and around the redevelopment of Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Primary School. This report outlines the scope of these works and provides a description of each of the landscape spaces. This report should be read in conjunction with the landscape development application drawings prepared by ASPECT Studios dated 15th April 2016.

The redevelopment of two of Parramatta's historic schools provides a new vision for the education precinct to the east of Parramatta's CBD. The proposed scheme redefines the traditional design of learning spaces to encompass a rich and nurturing environment for teachers, students and the wider community.

The new school will comprise of 2000 high school students and 1000 primary school students on a site of approximately 3Ha. The site is divided into two parcels by Macquarie Street which runs east-west through the centre of the site. Arthur Phillip High School is positioned on the northern block and Parramatta Primary School located on the southern block. A light rail corridor is proposed to run along Macquarie Street as part of the Parramatta Light Rail project. The site is bound by existing development to the north, Lancer Barracks to the South, Smith Street to the east and Charles Street to the west. The site is also located on the eastern edge of what is to become Parramatta Square, the emerging vibrant heart of Parramatta's CBD.

Vision

Open space play an important role in supporting teaching and learning on a number of levels. The landscape has been designed with pedagogical practice at its core which focus on the provision of a positive learning environment that caters for varied capabilities, cultural backgrounds and experiences.

The vision for the open space within both schools focuses on the creation of highly flexible and engaging spaces throughout each campus, that motivate and stimulate the learning experience. Due to the limited area of open space available to each student at ground level, outdoor space has been provided at a number of location including ground floor playgrounds, secondary terrace and break out spaces as well as accessible roof terraces. Each space is designed to maximise use as places to learn, socialise and be active.

It is also envisaged that a shared playground space located at the western end of the southern block, adjacent to the Primary School, be separately fenced to allow staggered lunch time use between the primary school and the high school. This area also includes the heritage school house located on the corner of Smith and Macquarie Streets which will be used for additional teaching space by the High School.

Objectives

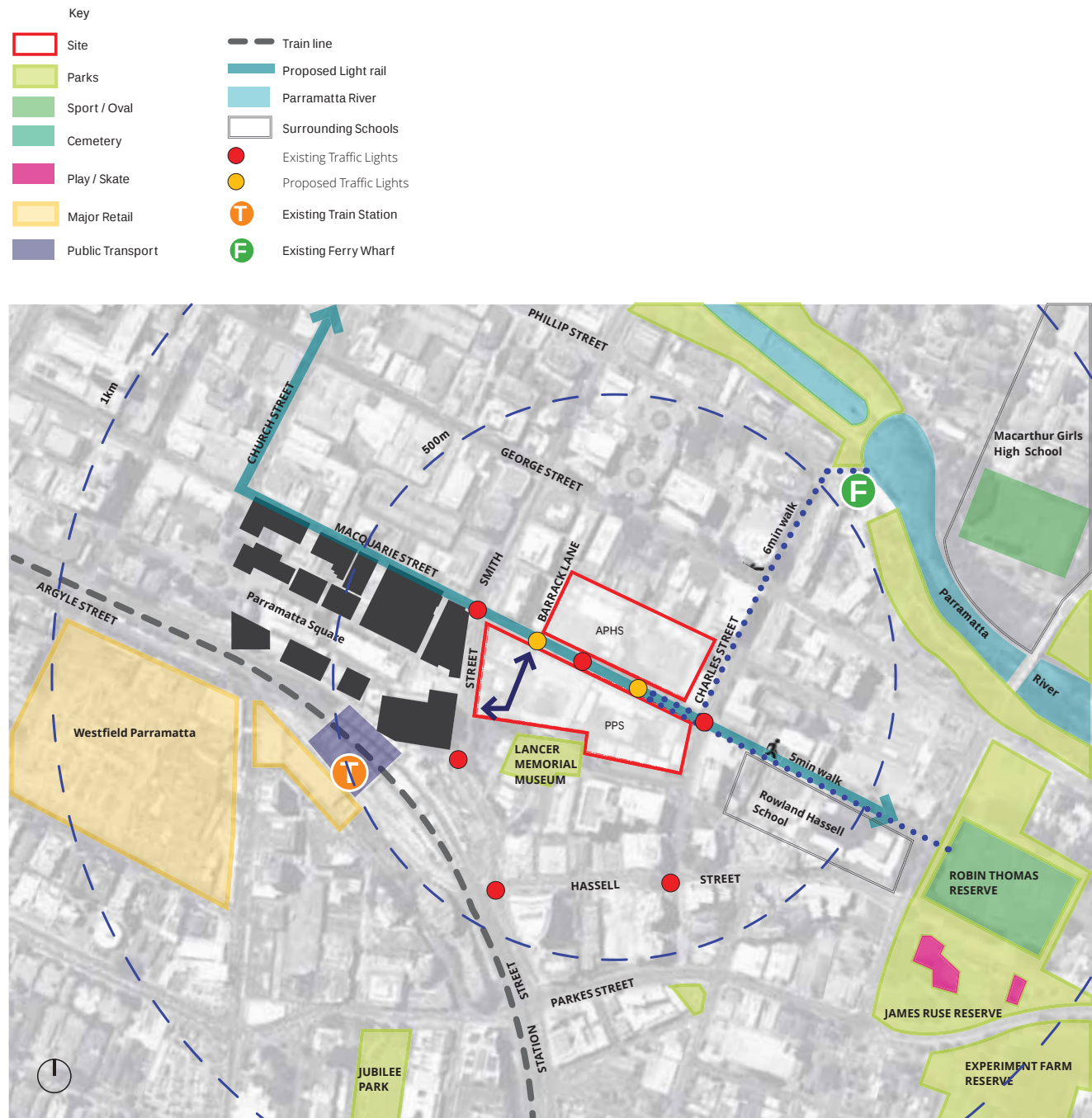
The design of external spaces across the schools is guided by the The Master Plan Study for Redevelopment of Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School prepared by DWP Suturs in 2015, which outlined the following educational objectives in relation to the design of outdoor spaces:

- Premium quality learning spaces, resources and technologies to ensure a learning environment that is safe, supportive and encouraging to the development of effective learning outcomes
- Promote learning for students and staff through collaboration, social interaction and active investigation
- Be aesthetically pleasing
- Maximising the use of indoor and outdoor spaces with linkages between the two to allow passive and active learning styles across the school
- Promoting activity with functional and usable outdoor spaces including shaded passive and active play areas and localised performance zones
- Outdoor learning spaces providing natural elements such as grass, and incorporating a variety of playground areas accommodating a broad range of activity e.g. sand pit, handball courts, climbing equipment, passive/quiet areas, and purposeful social spaces
- Making families welcome – attractive environment with ease of access, parents contribute their skills and knowledge
- Spaces to promote a sense of belonging – multicultural diversity celebrated
- Recognise the proud history of Parramatta and its School

Context

Arthur Phillip High School and Public School are centrally located within the heart of the Parramatta CBD. The School site is approximately 500m from Parramatta train station and is well serviced by train, bus and ferry, all within walking distance.

The site is also located at the eastern edge of Parramatta Square which is set to become the rich and vibrant heart of the city. Proposed residential and commercial development lining a large new large urban park will shift the focus of Parramatta CBD away from Westfield to the north side of Parramatta Station.



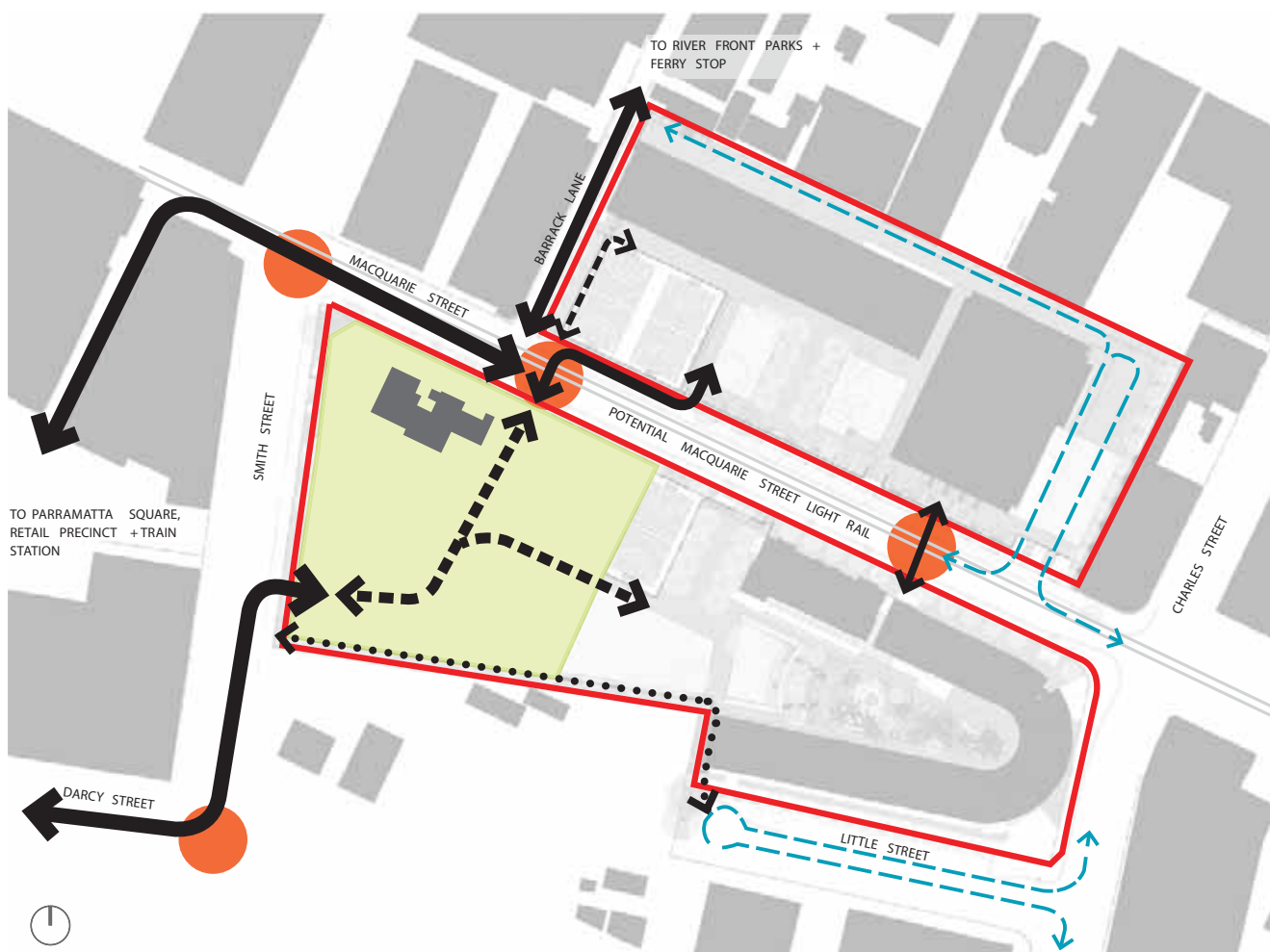
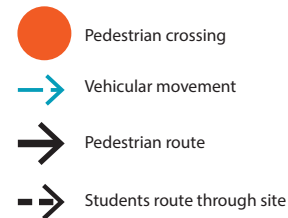
Access and Circulation

Each of the schools is primarily accessed from the west via the transport interchange at Darcy Street. Existing signalised crossings are located at the intersection of Smith and Macquarie Streets and Smith and Darcy Streets connecting the Schools to Parramatta Square.

Vehicular drop off / parking is provided on Little Street. Two proposed signalised crossings will link the two schools across Macquarie Street.

The proposed arrangement of Macquarie Street consists of bidirectional light rail on the southern edge of the street with a single lane of vehicular heading west along the northern edge.

Access to the teachers parking and drop off for special needs children is via gates along Macquarie Street. A one way internal lane wraps around the rear of the High School providing an exit onto Barrack Lane.

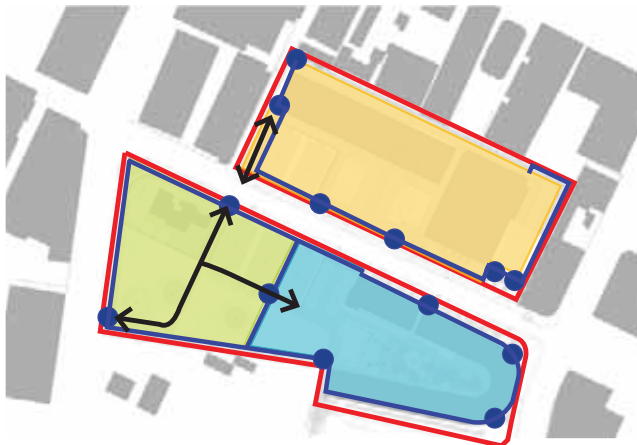


Security and Boundaries

The approach to fencing of the schools has been led by the requirements of the Department of Education guidelines. Periphery fencing of the each school campus is a minimum of 1800mm high. Where possible fence lines have been set back within areas of planting to soften their visual impact.

The facade of the new Primary School Building forms the secure line for the school with gates located at entry points from the surrounding streets.

Arrival: 7-9am / Departure: 3-5pm



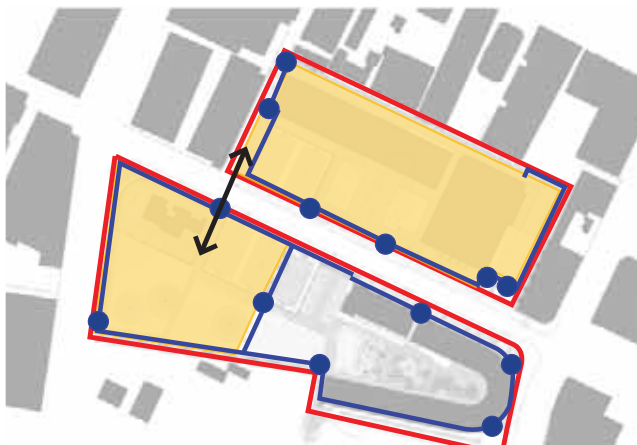
The shared green space is available to the High School and Primary School.

Lunchtime: Parramatta Primary School

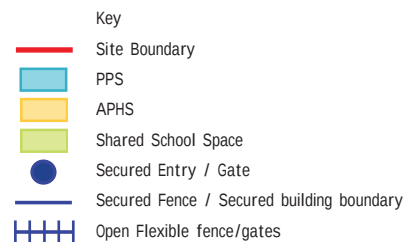


Flexible fence is opened, allowing the primary school to use all open space.

Lunchtime: Arthur Phillip High School



School shared space is available for High School students. Gate is opened and students can cross Macquarie St to access space.



Items of Significance

A number of heritage items will be retained and incorporated as part of the new schools precinct. These include the Old School House Building located on the corner of Macquarie and Smith Streets and the original Primary School Building which fronts Macquarie Street. These buildings will remain in use by the schools. Two pairs of gate posts along Macquarie Street adjacent to the Primary School Building will also be retained, one to be reused as a school entry and the other to be set within a bed of decorative planting at the front of the school.

Items of landscape significance include a heritage block wall located along the northern most boundary of the proposed high school, which is to be retained along with a small fig tree currently growing out of the wall providing it with some stability.

Other trees to be retained include two large Fig trees and a mature Eucalypt currently located within the Arthur Phillip High quadrangle. These trees will be incorporated within the shared open space west of the primary school grounds, providing areas of shade within this play space.



1. Heritage Primary School



2. Brushbox trees retained



3. Old School House Building



4. Significant mature Fig tree



Design Response

Pedagogical Practice

The design of outdoor spaces across the Schools has been underpinned by an investigation of pedagogical practices and outcomes.

This investigation reveals that the learning environment plays a key role in the education experience and should:

- Provide an environment that reflects and respects the culture of communities
- Create environments which offer exciting possibilities, filled with wonder and curiosity
- Implement a plan that allows for children to deeply engage in play by themselves, with peers and with educators
- Allow flexible routines and structures, both outdoor and indoor which support play and learning
- Support inclusivity by creating a dynamic, co-constructed learning environment
- Provide an aesthetically pleasing environment with spaces that motivate and stimulate investigation and exploration, and result in a sense of security and wellbeing



Landscape Principles

A series of landscape principles have been developed to guide the design of outdoor spaces across the Schools. These principles have been developed through an understanding of the site, the brief and effective pedagogical practices and include the following:

- Provide varied, rich and engaging external spaces which support active and passive learning, teaching and social interaction
- Allow flexibility within the design of open space to accommodate a range of user groups including Arthur Phillips High School, Parramatta Public School and the general public.
- Provide inclusive and legible connections across the schools, to Parramatta Square, Barrack Lane and proposed light rail on Macquarie Street
- Retain and enhance existing items of significance such as existing trees and heritage buildings
- Interpret the sites history throughout the landscape
- Celebrate diversity through interpretation of cultural identities.
- Provide adequate areas in shade and sun

A description of the landscape design of each space is provided on the following pages



Arthur Phillip High School

The external playground space for Arthur Phillip High School is predominantly located along the Macquarie Street frontage of the School. The playspaces consist of a variety of flexible spaces that vary in scale allowing for active, passive, formal and informal activities to occur.

Two fenced multipurpose sports courts on the corner of Macquarie Street and Barrack Lane, are positioned adjacent to the School Gym providing opportunities for both structured and informal activities to occur away from more focused internal learning environment. Their prominent position on the corner of the site also offers an active interface to the future shared way on Barrack Lane.

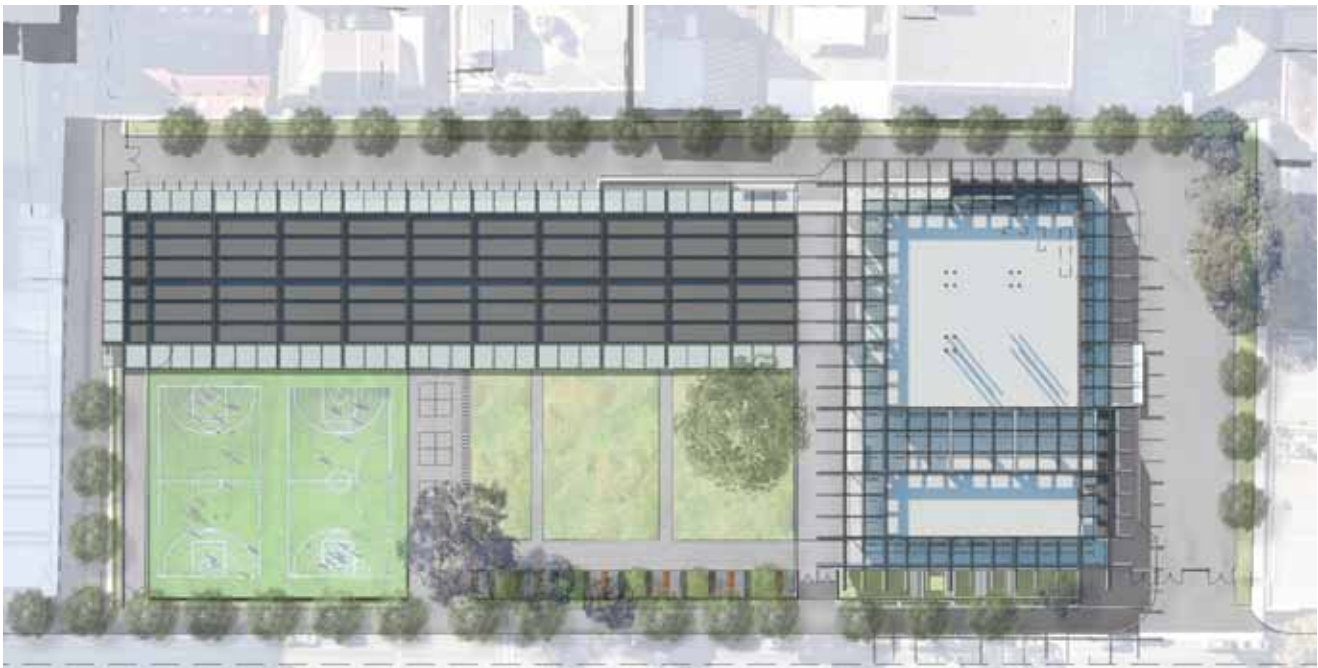
A small central lawn is located east of the courts and is shaded by a retained mature Eucalypt on its southern edge. The lawn is provided for small informal games and group gathering. The lawn will be constructed using artificial turf to limit wear and maintenance, ensuring year round use can occur.

External spaces closer to the school tower have been designed to provide social spaces for various group sizes. Small canopied

shade trees located within a structured grid provide a consistent canopy over these spaces creating a series of shaded garden rooms within beds of planting for use by students during lunch time or for small focused outdoor learning.

An open paved area is located at the main entry to the High School tower. This space allows for increased circulation to occur around the main entry as well as the canteen and offers area for small ball games and gatherings. Additional open paved areas are provided on the eastern side of the tower. This space contributes further areas for small ball games during lunch time while providing the main entry / drop off during mornings and afternoons.

A gated internal laneway running along the eastern and northern boundaries of the High School provides restricted access to the drop off zone and teacher carpark facilities. Screen planting along these boundaries will include tall shrubs and low maintenance understorey planting to screen adjacent buildings.



Landscape Plan - Arthur Phillip High School

Parramatta Public School

The design of the new Parramatta Public School encompasses the existing heritage school building with a new curved building fronting Macquarie, Charles and Little Streets. The curved form of the new buildings creates an external courtyard within the centre of the site, open on its western edge. The courtyard has been sunken to address the levels on the eastern edge of the site resulting in a highly surveillanced and protected space for children's play.

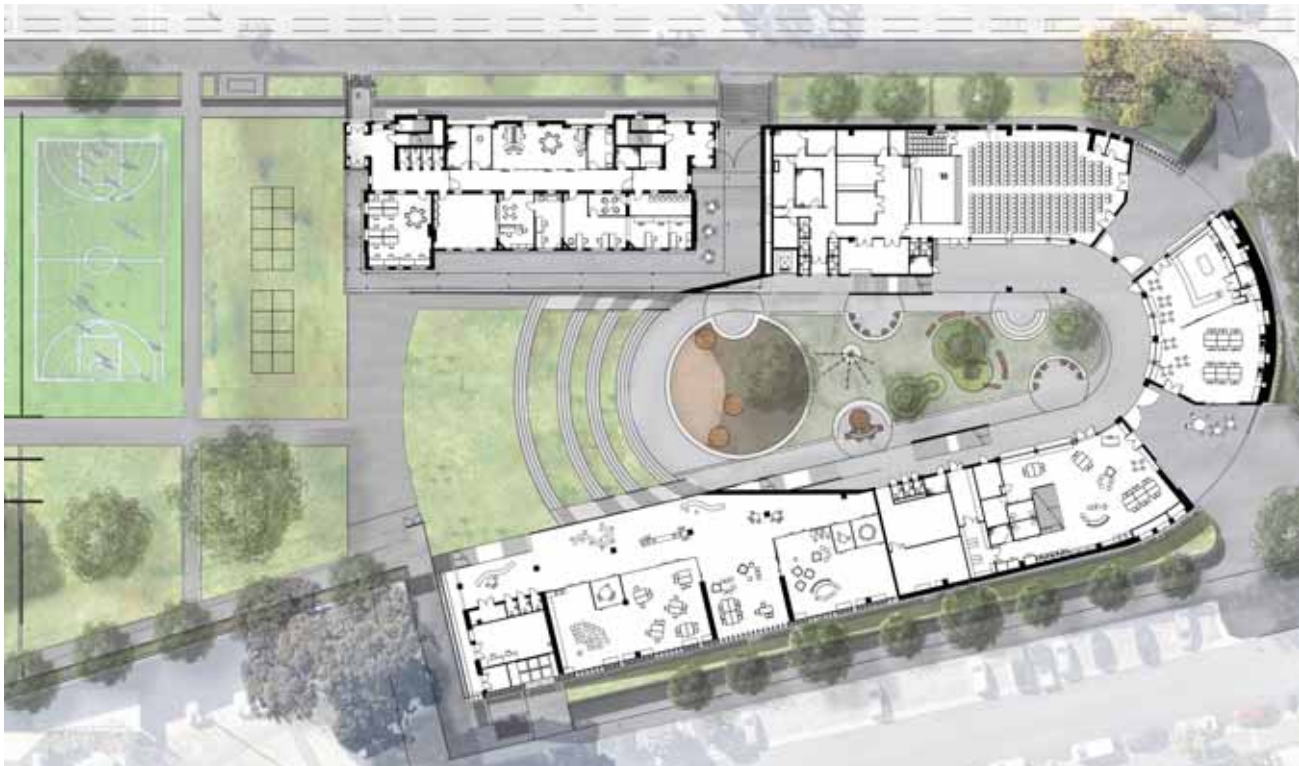
This space has been designed to afford both structured play opportunities as well as active and passive learning spaces which complement uses in the adjacent internal learning environment. All spaces include opportunities for multiple instances for social interaction and gatherings of various sizes to occur. Play opportunities include larger scaled play equipment such as slides and climbing nets located within areas of mulch, paired with nature play elements such as large boulders, mounds and timber balancing beams within zones of artificial turf. Pockets of planting accommodate a variety of low maintenance native understorey planting with tree species including palms *Livistona Australis* and *Crepe Myrtles* used for shade.

A level change of approximately 4m at the western edge of the courtyard provides the opportunity for a large amphitheatre. The

amphitheatre consists of concrete steps with generous artificial turf landings and is designed as a space for informal play and learning as well as accommodating formal school assemblies. Shade trees dotted across the amphitheatre offer shade for children below.

Further west, at the top of the amphitheatre larger expanses of pavement allow for bike parking and small ball games while a fenced multipurpose sports court on the western boundary of the Primary School accommodates more structured active recreation to occur. A small lawn area with periphery planting provide further greening within this area and allows for additional shade trees around the western boundary. A fence with flexible fold back gates along this boundary allows the playground to bleed into the adjacent shared open space during lunch times.

A landscaped roof on top of the new primary school building provides additional social and learning spaces. Landscaping to these areas includes raised planter beds for the cultivation of herbs, vegetables and small fruiting trees as well as clusters of bench seating. A small additional plays pace offers a sand pit with mounds of softfall.



Landscape Plan - Parramatta Primary School

Open Shared Space

A shared space is located between the western edge of Parramatta Public School and Smith Street. The design of this space is fairly informal and unprogrammed and dominated by open areas of turf. It is intended that this space be for shared lunch time used by both Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School during staggered lunch breaks.

A path connection through the site links Smith Street to Macquarie Street and the western gates of the Primary School. Larger areas of turf in this zone allows for mainly active uses to occur while three retained mature trees provided shaded seating areas for more passive uses. Two fenced multipurpose sports courts are accommodated along Macquarie Street adjacent to the Primary School, and are for the use of the High School.

The heritage Old School House Building on the corner of Smith and Macquarie Streets stands in the corner of the Open Shared Space, surrounded by beds of decorative planting, sympathetic to the era of its construction. An area of hard surface outside of the heritage building offers space for informal gatherings and learning.

An extended area for a more generous public footpath has been provided at the corner of Smith and Macquarie Streets. The path leads users around the Old School House buildings between a group of existing Brushbox trees planted at this corner.



Landscape Plan - Shared Open Space

Existing Trees

The landscape design for Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School includes the retention of a number of trees throughout the site. The retention of these trees has been determined by a number of factors including:

- Location in proximity to proposed buildings
- Environmental / landscape significance as determined by the arborist
- General condition and species
- Size

These trees will be retained and protected in accordance with the requirements set out by the Arboricultural Impact Assessment - Parramatta Public School and Arthur Phillip High School prepared by Footprint Green dated 22nd April 2016, including adherence to the tree protection zones and measures during construction to ensure the long term preservation of these trees.

Replacement Planting

A palette consisting of predominantly native trees with a mix of native and exotic understorey planting has been composed for each zone within the precinct. The species have been selected first and foremost for their hardiness and ability to withstand the various climatic conditions throughout the site.

A mix of deciduous and evergreen trees provide summer shade while allowing opportunities winter sun to penetrate through to the playground certain locations. Understorey planting has been selected to allow for seasonal colour as well as hardiness and low water tolerance.

Specialised planting palettes for specific learning areas such as the roof of the public school include fruiting and edible planting used as part of the learning experience.

ASPECT Studios

26.04.2016