

# New Ultimo Pyrmont Public School

## Landscape Design Statement

<b>Project No.</b>	P16-077
<b>Project Name</b>	New Ultimo Pyrmont Public School
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The landscape design for the New Ultimo Pyrmont Public School has been inspired by the landform of the site and a desire by the school community to give the students a connection to nature in this highly urbanised area of the city.

The landscape design and vegetation is a reflection of the site landform and how it would correlate in nature. Our approach has been to maximise vegetation without compromising play space, safety or teacher surveillance of the children.

There are four playground areas within the school that are largely enclosed by building or structure, but mostly open to the sky (with the exception of the COLA area). There is a playground for each terrace of the school building that steps up with the slope of the land. The vegetation and the design of the landscape responds to the microclimatic conditions within each of these playgrounds.

A 'DNA linking chain' connects all four levels, this linking chain (or path) in essence operates with several functions, it is a running track with distance markers, and exercise stations placed at approximately 15 metre intervals, it also connects outdoor learning and breakout spaces. This path may also be inlaid with student art and tell a story of the school's local environment and connection to indigenous culture.

The lower playground which is in the "valley" of the school site will be the most shaded playground and has the advantage of being able to access deep natural soils. Rainforest type planting that grows well in shady conditions has been selected for this playground. Palms and ferns will line the wall as it would at the base of a cliff in nature. The sand pit is reminiscent of a creek bed and provides a play opportunity that is very different from the other levels.

The Australian Native Garden has access to deep soil and has been planted with native trees, a central copse of Eucalypts will provide a canopy and shade. Mulch beds with native groundcovers and understorey planting provide textured surfaces and soft play areas as well as allowing water and air into the root systems of the trees.

The other play grounds maximise play space with a variety of activities included. These activities will be both passive and active and cater for a wide range in age groups.

The upper level is the Market Garden, a productive garden with fruits and herbs that can be harvested by the school students. These beds can evolve with the seasons providing both summer and winter interest.

**Signed** Mark Stolz  
For DesignInc Pty Ltd