

## Design Statement

North Kellyville Public School

As requested we have reviewed the plans and elevations of the proposed North Kellyville Public School and make the following comments regarding the design of the external façade.

The building comprises a two-storey rectangular form, with regular a grid, providing a strong identity. The façade cladding presents as a tight skin over a framework of expressed columns providing a clear understanding of the logical structure of the building.

On the upper level, strip windows run the length of the façade to provide good light and ventilation, and are book-ended at the corners. On the lower level the regular spaced columns anchor the building to the ground. On this level the building is much less regular, stepping down with the ground plane and opening up at the entry and to the playing fields in the west.

Contextually the building is within a residential suburb of two and three storey residences, and therefore the form doesn't replicate the surrounding area but instead creates its own identity as a stand-alone building. Large setbacks and landscaping soften the interface with the dwellings, yet allow it to read as a significant landmark building within the community.

The initial impression is of simplicity and repetition, however there is also a complexity of detail, and layering of the various elements as a series of parallel planes, which gives a richness and depth to the facade. The columns are set back from the façade cladding, with sunshade elements set back behind the columns. The windows are further recessed behind the sunshades, being almost a metre behind the cladding, providing significant articulation to the facade. It is proposed that the cladding which forms the skin of the building is in a light colour, with multicoloured sunshade elements to provide interest, and elements such as the entry and hall in bright colours to assist with wayfinding.

Internally the spaces are free flowing, with a central courtyard space which breaks out through the façade in a number of places, bringing the inside out. The entry is defined by a free standing irregular shaped canopy which references the courtyard spaces hidden within the building.

The building makes clear references to Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye, with the rectangular shape, expressed columns, strip windows and free form internal plan. The outside of the building demonstrates his interest in the precision of architecture, presenting as a building that is clearly a school, yet with a playfulness through the use of colour and irregular shapes.

We consider the external design to be an entirely appropriate language for a school for primary students. The regular column spacing, and uniformity of the upper level, gives an order to the façade, however the treatment of the façade on the lower level, the way it is broken down to create a more human scale, and through use of colour, is welcoming and avoids an institutional feel.