

PROJECT

Geeveston Child & Family Centre
wayraparattee

CLIENT

Department of Education, Tasmania

PRACTICE PROFILE

Liminal Studio is a Tasmanian owned, interdisciplinary practice integrating design and architecture with parallel disciplines. The Studio's broad reach includes architecture, interiors, performance design, curating, exhibitions, furniture design, print, wayfinding and strategy. Their in-house creative 'think-tank' formally comprises, Liminal Architecture, Liminal Graphics and Liminal Spaces.

AWARDS

2014 Tasmanian Architecture Awards, Award for Public Architecture, 2014 Tasmanian Architecture Awards, Commendation for Interior Architecture, 2014 Australian Interior Design Awards, Award for Best of State Commercial Design Tasmania, 2014 Shortlisted for the Australian Timber Design Awards.

INTERIORS

Liminal Spaces

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Inspiring Place

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Gandy & Roberts

BUILDER

Maveric Builders

MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL & HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS

JMG

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Stehel Consultants

BUILDING SURVEYOR

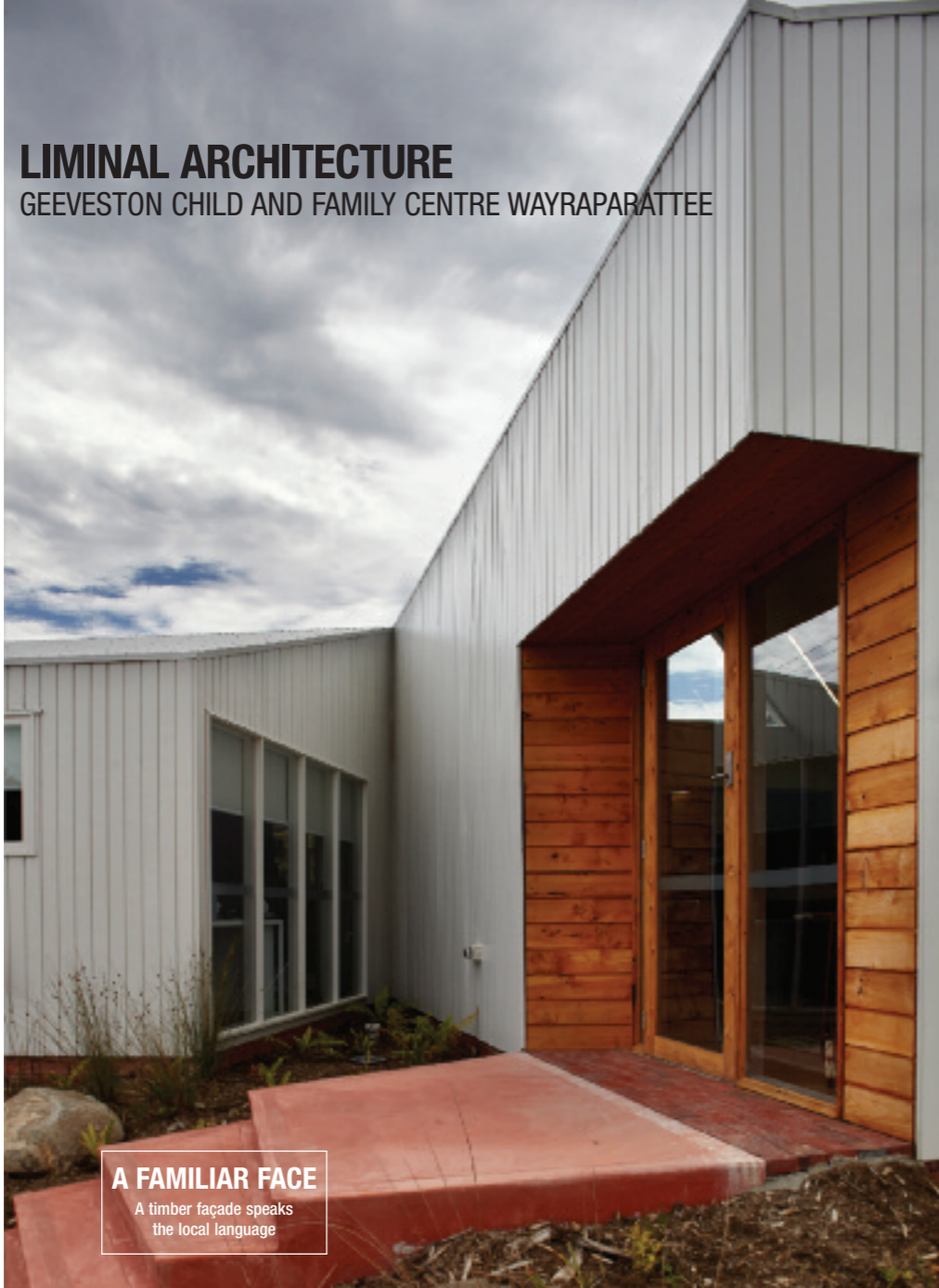
Lee Tyers Building Surveyors

PHOTOGRAPHY

Peter Whyte

LIMINAL ARCHITECTURE

GEEVESTON CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE WAYRAPARATTEE



A FAMILIAR FACE
A timber façade speaks the local language

If it takes a village to raise a child, what happens to the children in a world where the village no longer exists? For those lucky enough to live in the rural Tasmanian township of Geeveston, the new Geeveston Child and Family Centre is stepping in to help. Providing education, health and community services ranging from child health services, parenting programs and play sessions, the building improves access to government services for this remote town. Created by local Tasmanian firm Liminal Architecture, the centre is

set to become a community hub. A refurbishment and extension of a group of 1950s weatherboard buildings, the project is full of character without resorting to kitsch. Employing a neutral material palette of timber and white, Liminal skilfully tweaks architectural conventions to construct a project that is comfortably familiar yet wholly unique. Vernacular elements of gabled roofs and strip lighting are juxtaposed against orthogonal volumes that converge irregularly to subdivide the space within. The ensuing angularity is relieved by the sense of space afforded

by the kitchen's double-height ceiling. Interiors have been optimised for families and young children. Daylight floods the prime positioned social gathering spaces, while an open dining area, lounge and kitchen form a domestic social hub. The building allows for passive supervision of infants during play or learning sessions, which take place on bright carpets against a soothing white backdrop. The interior is amply lit by floor-to-ceiling windows, which connect the interior to its context. Comfortable and inviting, the Centre's rustic aesthetic encourages interaction.



MAKING THE OLD NEW
The centre is an extension and refurbishment of a collection of 1950s weatherboard houses



THE HEARTH

An open kitchen sits at the heart of the building, emphasising the centre's domestic tone



As with all their work, Liminal approached the structure with an eye to the long term sustainability of the project. By retaining much of the layout, materials and infrastructure of the pre-existing buildings, the architects were able to minimise environmental disruption. Locally sourced materials minimised transportation costs, reducing the building's carbon footprint. The extensive use of solid timber for walls, floors and joinery minimises the use of joinery and lining options, which emit volatile organic compounds (VOC). Finishes

were selected based on their environmental credentials, ease of maintenance, low VOC emissions and suitability for children.

As the former headquarters of the local forestry industry, the centre's site is entwined with the township's history. Respectful of the site's heritage, Liminal sought to maintain the existing sense of identity. Blonde timber and textile tag pulls on drawers reference traditional apple crates, in homage to Geeveston's past and present associations with the

apple and forestry industry. The Celery Top Pine and Tasmanian Oak used in the centre is entirely locally sourced, with a rough hewn warmth that emulates Tasmania's wooded landscape.

Appropriately, the centre was developed in collaboration with the community. A consultative design process included public workshops as well as a Local Enabling Group (LEG) who were heavily involved in all aspects of decision making from site selection to materials and finishes. With their design process, their inclusion of local materials and influences, and their appreciation of the interactions between people and space, Liminal have created a true community centre. +

PRODUCTS

Walls and roof Tas Oak F17 Framing – K&D

Windows Custom Celery Top Pine and Western Red Cedar timber window frames – Made by Halton

Joinery Phillips Saw Mill **Clear floor finish** – Livos Kunos 2445 Natural Oil Sealer – Livos Australia

