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ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS / PRODUCTS / TECHNOLOGY / ART / INTERVIEWS

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## Installation Art Meets Architecture

Phillip K Smith's Lucid Stead

**Peace on Earth:** Le Corbusier's Notre Dame du Haut / **Cultureitecture:** Renzo Piano's Kimbell Art Museum extension / **Architectural Navigator:** BC Architects & Studios - Library in Muyinga / **Lippman Partnership & Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners** 8 Chifley Sydney / **Aspect Studios** Jack Evans Boat Harbour / **Liminal Architecture** Bridgewater LINC (Learning Information Network Centre) & Child+Family Centre / **Woodhead with INDYK Architects & Nicholas Graham (G+A)** QT Sydney Hotel / **Chris Elliott Architecture** Seacliff House / **ArtsWrap:** 2013 Archaid Images Architectural Photography Awards / **Last Word:** Meet Paul Berkemeier

## LIMINAL ARCHITECTURE

### BRIDGEWATER LINC (LEARNING AND INFORMATION NETWORK CENTRE) AND CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE

architectural+interior review

# 428

#### ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE

Liminal Architecture

#### PROJECT

Bridgewater LINC (Learning and Information Network Centre) and Child and Family Centre

#### PRACTICE PROFILE

Liminal Architecture has over 25 years' experience in the successful delivery of education and public projects, from strategic master planning to new and recycled buildings. Liminal is driven by collaborative exchange. This holistic approach lies at the core of our design philosophy ensuring clients are the end beneficiaries of engaging design solutions.

#### AWARDS

National Architecture Awards shortlisting  
Australian Institute of Architects, Tasmanian Chapter – The Alan C Walker award for Public Architecture, 2013

#### PROJECT ARCHITECTS

Liminal Architecture

#### PROJECT TEAM

Landscape – Inspiring Place  
Services Engineers – JMG  
Structural Engineers – Gandy & Roberts  
Building Surveyor – Lee Tyers  
Quantity Surveyor – Stehel

#### BUILDER

Vos Construction and Joinery Pty Ltd

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Jonathan Wherrett



#### A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Bridgewater's new community centre provides information, training, and support services to the entire community

A bush tucker garden is the central focus of the outdoor space

It is rare that a public building can be accurately described as welcoming.

Yet Bridgewater's new LINC and Child and Family Centre is just that.

Commissioned by the Department of Education, Tasmania and created by Liminal Architecture, the project brings together Service Tasmania, LINC (Learning and Information Network

Centre) and the tagari lia Child and Family Centre in a single integrated building, in order to provide information, training and support services to the entire Bridgewater community.

The decision to house the three service providers in one space came from a desire to harness the potential for synergies in the provision of services.

LINC, formerly the Tasmanian Library Service, is a statewide network providing access to library services, research and information, adult literacy support, community learning, online access, and archive and heritage services. Service Tasmania provides one stop access to government transactions, services and information. Child and

The building follows the curves of the land





Airy interiors take advantage of natural light



Children learn and play in a safe environment



'Cottage brown' bricks lend a homely atmosphere



Family Centres (CFCs) are places where families with children up to 5 years old birth can access a range of education and health services. CFCs aim to improve the health and education of these children by supporting parents and enhancing accessibility of services to the local community. By bringing these service providers under one roof, the people of Bridgewater have a central communal point to meet and interact in a public space.

Although the Centre retains the scale and presence of a public building, the architects created its warm, homely atmosphere through the use of familiar materials and a domestic colour palette. The airy interior takes advantage of natural light; the building and external areas are arranged to capture the sun, while skylights illuminate internalised spaces. The Centre sits comfortably in its surrounds; subservient to topography, it follows the curves of the

land, taking advantage of critical views. Appropriately, children and the community are the focus of this centre. The landscaping encourages curiosity and play, with organic lines and contrasting colours and surface textures. Garden beds enclose the play space, while scattered trees lend visual interest and provide respite from the hot Australian sun. A 'bush tucker' garden, designed in consultation with the Aboriginal community, is a central

feature of the outdoor space. Indeed, community consultation was an integral part of the design process; the residents of Bridgewater, represented by a Local Enabling Group, were involved in all aspects of decision making, right down to choosing the 'Cottage Brown' colour of brick. One of the greatest challenges for the architects was managing the balance between public and private; although the Centre is a public space,

there was a need for privacy and security for the service providers. They overcame this difficulty by subtly making a distinction between the open and controlled aspects of the program. Controlled functions, such as staff areas or training rooms, are enclosed by masonry volumes, while continuing to connect with the landscape through framed openings. The areas between the controlled zones are public, with an open connection to the landscape. This connection is accentuated by the colour palette, with the finish of the floor plane referencing the adjoining grasslands.

Sustainability was a priority for the architects and the community they served; environmental concerns were addressed through form, materiality, and servicing. Detailing reduces thermal bridging and high levels of insulation were installed to protect against the harsh Tasmanian winter. Low emission, natural materials and finishes were installed, with efficient

fixtures subtly incorporated into the design. Operable windows around the building perimeter allow cross flow of air, and purging is enabled through operable roof vents which draw air through the building, harnessing prevailing winds. Water is stored for reuse through rainwater harvesting, while high efficiency gas hydronic heating systems and low energy light fittings further indicate the Centre's commitment to sustainability.

The solidity and permanence that typify a public building can be seen in the architects' choice of materials. The durability of the Tasmanian timber used for door framing and joinery, and the virtually maintenance free external skin of the building, is evidence of a view to longevity. Bridging the gap between public and private, civic and suburban, manmade structures and the natural environment, Liminal Architecture have created a centre which will bring together the Bridgewater community long into the future. +



Open and controlled functions are interconnected

#### PRODUCTS

**Walls** K&D brick **Roof** Lysaght Colorbond Trimdek Hi Ten profiled sheet metal from Raymark **Windows** Ulrich 400 series aluminium from Glass Supplies **Doors** Ullrich Huntingdale aluminium glazed from Glass Suppliers; solid Tas Oak timber framed from Fenton Doors **External timber battens** Celery Top Pine from Britton Timbers **Joinery** Custom built with Laminex laminates and panels by Vos Joinery **Wall insulation** CSR Bradford Enviroseal Wall Wrap and CSR Bradford R2 wall batts