Practitioner's Statement

Southern Sharks training facilities

Brody Gray

With technology in not only sport but also sustainable living ever increasing in leaps and bounds, it was an aim of mine to create a state of the art AFL training Facility in Tasmania for the Southern Sharks. The brief included that the building required some connection to the team's identity and modern features for today's society along with the consideration of sustainable elements. The function of the facility had to accommodate for fan interaction but also allowing privacy for the players.

I firstly brainstormed the type of rooms that I could think of that were in AFL training facilities. This then lead to me emailing every AFL club asking to obtain floor plans of their facilities to get an indication about what to include into the facility. Sadly, only one club passed on information that was very useful in what to include into the facility. I researched the variety of initiatives in obtaining a sustainable facility that considered renewable energy as well. I sketched some plans, developed and refined interior and exterior spaces with the focus on human movement/traffic, security and sporting considerations. I started working to scale (originally 1:500) to design a building with the positioning, shape and size of each room heavily influenced by the purpose of neighbouring rooms. After refining the floor plans and considering exterior spaces for all that use the facility I moved into the construction phase of a 3D model constructed out of a combination of materials.

The shape and colour palette of the design is very important. The shape of the building is a very simplified outline of a shark's fin (teams identity) with curved and flowing lines that hug the football field. The colour palette incorporates the team's colours.

The building is broken up into 4 key sections: Far left is the fans interaction area with a café and merchandise store, then the middle is the football department with offices, auditorium, pool, etc., then the right is the administration facilities and lastly the bottom right of the building is an indoor training area. The use of corrugated steel around the building in a horizontal direction is to create continuous flow around the exterior and to emphasize how large the facilities are. The energy efficient elements included throughout the model are the solar panels on the roof and the cells throughout the path. It is equipped with a large roof space area to collect rainwater to be stored underground and used to water the oval.

Overall I am very pleased with the end result of the architectural model, as all of the elements have combined together with appropriate levels of interactivity and convenience for all stakeholders. The element that I am most pleased with is the light towers and when they are turned on the sense of realism they provide towards the facility. Subsequently, I am very proud of the finished result of the model and the hurdles I have overcome to produce a quality scale architectural model.