

West Lakes Paddle Club

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As an elite canoe paddler representing Australia at the 2018 Canoe Marathon World Championships in Portugal, I was extremely driven to combine my passion with an interest in architecture and graphic design. Through my experience at the world championships, the lack of appropriate facilities for elite athletes within the current club building became increasingly obvious. As a young elite athlete with a goal to represent Australia at the 2024 Olympics, improving these facilities is important to my future in the sport.

My aim was to create an innovative and contemporary architectural concept for the West Lakes site that consists of space for boat storage, changing and showering, club meetings and training facilities. Inspiration was to be drawn from the site to ensure that the proposed building is respectful of the natural surroundings. I also aimed to rebrand the club through a new logo and website in an attempt to increase attraction of the public. The logo had to be contemporary, simplistic and timeless so that it could be effectively applied to club advertising and the website. Similarly, the website had to be contemporary and simple to ensure that people of all ages, including those who are less technically able could navigate the site. The completion of a new club logo website was also an extremely important part of my goal to successfully rebrand the club with a professional and modern look that could be prominent throughout the club facilities. The final product presented in the exhibition includes floor plans, elevations, a scaled 3-dimensional model as well as the website and other logo applications.

I had a range of sources of inspiration throughout my design process including the site where the club is currently located on the northern end of West Lakes. As a paddler, I have gained a strong connection with the water and the surrounding natural environment. This enhanced my passion for environmentally friendly and sustainable architecture. Throughout the design process it was therefore important that I took the natural surroundings into consideration to ensure that my design was not at all intrusive on the site. To maximise the functionality of the club and to ensure a pleasurable experience for all visitors, the building site needed to be in close view and access to the water.

Whilst in Portugal for the 2018 Canoe Marathon World Championships I was able to attend the Anish Kapoor exhibition at the Serralves Contemporary Museum. Through viewing the work of Kapoor, a prestigious designer from Mumbai my eyes were opened to a whole new application of materials when constructing architectural models. This was a major influence throughout all of the stages of the design process, but particularly when it came to my final architectural model. This inspired my application of Japanese corrugated paper as timber and flexi foam as tiles onto the façade. Throughout my time in Portugal I also observed and photographed traditional azulejos (tiles). This influenced my application of tiles with a contemporary and site inspired twist. This allows the public to gain a greater visual understanding of how my architectural design interacts with its natural and manmade surroundings.

Inspiration was also taken from architects Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Frank Lloyd Wright and Frank Gehry. Frank Lloyd Wright's application of horizontal and organic elements was a major inspiration for the external appearance and structure of the work of architecture I have designed, specifically the flat roof catering for an interactive rooftop garden space. Very much like Wright, I also adopted a focus on

respecting the surrounding natural environment. Throughout the idea generation process I was influenced by these architects and their works of architecture.

One of the largest challenges I faced throughout the design process was my ability to free up and complete rough sketches of my original concepts. Gehry is known to have followed deconstructivism through the incorporation of fragmented elements of design. This is especially seen through his design for the Bilbao Guggenheim, "...a fantastic dream ship of undulating form in a cloak of *titanium*...". Viewing his works inspired me throughout the idea generation process to get out of my comfort zone. Despite his concepts not displaying any elements of my personal aesthetic it was important that I drew inspiration from him to achieve my best.

Through attending the information session with HASSELL Architects I gained invaluable knowledge around the role of an architect and where this interest could take me professionally. I acquired knowledge around the common digital software program utilised by architects including AutoCad and Revit. This inspired me to create my floor plans and some examples of internal perspectives using digital software programs including homestyler. Further research into HASSELL as an architecture firm also provided information around the concept of green and sustainable architecture.

The construction of my architectural model was one of the most time consuming and challenging elements of my final works of design particularly when ensuring accuracy in drawing up, and cutting. The fencing was fragile to construct, but I found the use flexi foam, foam and foam core provided the diversity of material options I was looking for.

I believe that I have met the requirements set in my design brief through my architectural model, floor plans and elevations. This is displayed through the incorporation of all necessary facilities with disabled access and obvious inspiration from the natural surroundings when creating the façade. Sunlight was taken into account through the site planning process where I strategically positioned the building and windows to ensure that direct sunlight does not enter certain spaces, including the dining area of the restaurant.

I think my target audience of people of all ages would be attracted to the club. This is due to the incorporation of creative and unique features on the club façade, the simple and understandable logo and the easily navigable website. Through meeting this requirement I was able to effectively convey my personal aesthetic. This is displayed through the neat yet unique appearance of my club, logo and website concepts.

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