

Master Builder of the Year 2017

The winners of the MBAV Excellence in Construction Awards were announced recently, with Master Builder of the Year being won by Kane Constructions for the second consecutive year, this year for their The University of Melbourne Arts West Redevelopment project in Parkville.

This state-of-the-art academic facility, designed by Architectus and ARM Architecture, provides world-class spaces and teaching facilities encompassing six levels of teaching areas and a 150-seat lecture theatre.

Project Manager, Paul Christian, described the project as the 'perfect storm' in terms of challenges; the issues encountered during construction seemed immense at times, yet through perseverance it became a once-in-a-career opportunity.

The building's outer façade is covered with horizontal fins that are profile-cut to reveal 3D images of objects from the university's cultural collection. Step one, using sophisticated software, was to create virtual models of the building and the objects, and then press them together.

The external facade supports the emphasis on object-based learning and consists of the University's cultural collections embedded into profiled steel blades which wrap around the building and are visible at certain angles as people pass by.

The expansive atrium linking the existing 1990s building was formed with the use of a verendeel truss (a giant ladder beam without diagonal bracing), which spans 30 metres.

The win was an exciting culmination for Kane Constructions, with this project winning the following awards:

- 2017 Master Builders Association of Victoria Master Builder of the Year;
- 2017 Master Builders Association of Victoria Excellence in Construction of Commercial Buildings \$30M - \$80M;
- 2017 Australian Institute of Building, Victorian Chapter Professional Excellence Commercial Construction \$25M - \$100M;
- 2017 International Design Academy Golden A Design Award - Interior Space and Exhibition Design Category;
- 2017 Association for Learning Environments Excellence in Education Facilities. ■

