

# ART'S NEW HOME

The Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) comprises the construction of a new 5-storey building with four L-shaped plates each of different heights that make up the building's vertical façades. The new building houses the museum, as well as the Visitor Centre, and the Kaiela Arts Gallery and studio for Aboriginal art and artists. Inclusive of event spaces, and rooftop viewing deck, the project will also serve as a cultural landmark for the community.

**The Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) is an exciting new contemporary art destination and community hub for locals and visitors alike.**

Kane Constructions were appointed as the main contractor in early 2019 under a lump sum documented contract with piling, formwork, post tensioning, secondary steel framing and the envelope façade design and construct elements included.

The new 5,300m<sup>2</sup> museum building comprises 5-stories and includes several SAM gallery spaces in addition to administration areas, a Visitor Centre, art museum shop, café, a multi-purpose event space and the Kaiela Art Gallery and Studio which will present Indigenous art and support local Indigenous artists.

Situated on the south-east corner of Shepparton's Victoria Park Lake, the museum is integrated into its park setting with the main loading dock and services covered by a grassed 'Art Hill' which also provides an external amphitheatre and public recreation area.

A concrete construction, the external façade comprised of four metallic plates mounted to a steel frame which allows the

façade to float free of the main structure with recessed glazing between the plates.

Each plate has a different finish allowing the building to respond to its lakeside context in different ways. The southern approach features a low sheen zinc finish, the Wyndham Street frontage features matt soft charcoal, the park elevation features a metallic mid-grey and the river frontage showcases an ochre-red Corten steel.

The simplicity and clarity of the external form is continued internally with polished concrete floors, floating timber stairs and Corten perforated panels. "The simplicity of the materials really gave us nowhere to hide," said Brandon Finucane, Project Manager. "The devil is in the details on this project and everything had to be finished perfectly. Kane set a high benchmark, made sure everyone was aware of the required standard and followed up with close supervision."

The museum also had to be built to the highest standards of air tightness and environmental controls given the sensitive nature of the artworks to be housed inside. The project is targeting a 5 Star Green Star rating with the Green Building Council of Australia. Green Star is Australia's premier quality mark

for sustainably designed, constructed and operated buildings.

During 2020 one major challenge for the construction was COVID-19. "The pandemic was definitely a challenge but we were able to keep on going throughout," said Brandon. "We followed all the government guidance and maintained COVID controls onsite. Procurement of materials was a challenge particularly for overseas supplied items, glazing, façade elements and FF&E."

"We managed to keep on track and I'm proud of the whole team for pulling through," Brandon said. "I'm proud of the quality of the final product and that we have been able to provide a great new facility for Shepparton locals and visitors to enjoy."

Kane's commitment to nurturing talent and supporting their people was evident in

the positive and collaborative relationship maintained by all parties working onsite during a challenging time to deliver a landmark new facility.

Kane have a proud history of serving regional Victorian communities and their first major project, the West Gippsland Art Centre in Warragul, was completed in 1982 and remains a centrepiece for the local community today.

Founded in Melbourne in 1973, Kane has grown into a multi-award winning commercial construction company with over 2,000 successfully completed projects across all industry sectors. They operate throughout the east coast of Australia and overseas from offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Canberra.

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**MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Kane Constructions**  
**ARCHITECT : Denton Corker Marshall**  
**ENGINEER : ARUP**  
**CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$45 million**

