

By Brett Seakins

If you have a recent project and would like it to be considered for Slice, please email vic@architecture.com.au

Norlane Community Housing
DesignInc

The two storey Norlane Community Housing integrates with its setting through attention to hierarchy and transitions between public and private spaces. Community interaction is supported by providing shared amenities while maintaining clearly defined private spaces. A sense of street address is created via shared pedestrian zones, entry porches and a clearly defined edge between street and residence. Sustainable design solutions have been fully integrated into the building and landscape design. From passive design fundamentals, such as maximising winter sun and cross ventilation, to solar hot water panels. A strong emphasis has been placed on the social dimension of sustainability with the introduction of landscaped public open space, porches and shared services and amenity.



Photographer David Weirzbowski

South Rd Moorabbin
Hayball

Hayball worked with MAB Corporation, Port Phillip Housing Association (PPHA) and Pellicano Builders to intensify an existing council car park in Moorabbin's activity centre, providing 55 one-bedroom and 20 two-bedroom affordable apartments. Made feasible by the Nation Building stimulus program, the council car parking was retained to the ground floor and residential accommodation and parking was provided above. The repeated floor plans are given variety by the composition of balconies and windows. Living spaces take advantage of solar orientation, views and protective recessed balconies give robust expression to the road and railway façades. A communal courtyard creates opportunities for social interaction while projecting balconies above provide a fine grain expression and allow interaction between residents at upper levels. The street facade is enriched by an integrated artwork by SMLWRLD.



Photographer Peter Clarke

Pearcedale Parade Community Housing, Broadmeadows
CHT Architects

Designed for Yarra Community Housing, this multi-storey development offers affordable housing for different user groups, including single men, single women and families. Eighty-four apartments are spread across two separate, yet linked buildings, which offer both integration and secure separation within an urban environment. The development evokes a sense of identity for residents through its detailed architectural elements. The 'families' building is brick and robust, referencing the family unit with a garden and playground that serve as a backyard. The 'singles' building displays a more playful architectural language, reflecting the residents' individuality. This development provides residents with both a home and a community. Through its use of colour and form, the development creates a language that projects something of the residents' identities to the community.



Photographer Emma Cross



Photographer Peter Bennetts

Hi-Pod
BKK and Peter Elliott Architects

This project proposes a strategy for the regeneration of accommodation within an existing hi-rise social housing tower block in Footscray. Increased living area and vastly improved environmental performance of the facade are quantifiable improvements, but the project aspires to achieve much more than this. The brief for this project required the construction methodology to enable residents to remain in occupation during construction. Minimal disruption achieved through minimal on site activity. Therefore, a pre-fabricated, lightweight, timber framed structure was developed with cad-cam technology that enabled the structural components to be efficiently cut and assembled offsite. Ultimately, the time taken to embed the addition into the facade was less than four hours from pick up at a factory in Collingwood to installation.



Photographer John Gollings

Drill Hall
MGS Architects

Located on the north edge of the city, the redevelopment of the existing Drill Hall in Therry Street as a community hub and affordable housing, seeks to establish a new vibrant focus for community life while ensuring a valued heritage asset remains a central part of Melbourne's life. The project is a refurbishment of the existing historic building to accommodate childcare, community services and meeting spaces. The redevelopment also includes the original Drill Hall, which now accommodates a function space for 400 guests, as well as the addition of a new medium rise residential tower containing 59 apartments. The project represents best practice in adaptive reuse of heritage buildings and is designed on the basis of lower resource use and lower-costs occupancy per household.



Photographer Rhiannon Slatter

Wellington Street Collingwood
Rothe Lowman

Part of the Federal Government's Nation Building initiative, 95 Wellington Street Collingwood, comprises of 86 apartments across six storeys. The modular design is made up of three different components: a timber breaking up the facade to create a dynamic, contemporary composition; materials selected for their ability to assist the speed of construction within specified budgetary requirements; adaptable layouts incorporated to accommodate disabled residents, while the overall design factors in security for all residents. Balconies have an east or west orientation and an elevated courtyard at the rear of the building, which overlooks an adjacent park. A public art project for inclusion in the base of the building completes the design.