

“

This project brings new levels of connectivity, organisational flexibility, spatial quality and environmental performance to justice buildings in NSW.

Steve Coster

The light well and the bamboo feature lend an organic softness to the whole building.

Kerrie Patterson

”



Parramatta Justice Building, Sydney Bates Smart

One of three buildings located in the new legal supercentre at Parramatta, the Justice Building achieves a civic presence driven by the need for justice to be dispensed swiftly – and now, in style. The design projects a progressive image of the legal fraternity, both inside and out, with a mix of open public space and flexible secure office zones spread throughout the 10-storey, almost 25,000-square-metre complex. The design shakes up the public service's reputation for dreary workplace settings, using warm and neutral materials and colours to create a lively feel. It opens up the whole legal judicial environment to something that's "no longer just corridors and closed doors", says panel member Steve Coster.

Visitors to the lower two levels, which house "shopfront" legal functions such as the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, are greeted in the foyer by a two-storey public artwork by Australian artist Gary Carsely. The art depicts the nearby parklands. For workers, the aim was to create a collaborative, dynamic and flexible fit-out, which is assisted by having amenities such as lifts and toilets located to the side rather than at the core. An atrium running the full height of the building is set against bamboo plantings. It allows natural light to penetrate and vertically reinforces the notion of community and connectedness. Meeting pods have been cantilevered off the floor plate into the atrium, allowing users to experience the vertical depth of the space. Each floor has two naturally ventilated breakout areas, which are used as social spaces.

The building has been designed to achieve a 5-star green rating and the interior has already been granted that status. Green features include shading the sunniest sides of the building and a chilled beam cooling system.

■ Above: Artist Gary Carsely's digitally produced artwork dominates the lobby. Left: Meeting pods have been cantilevered into the atrium.