

Fact sheet five

Protecting our heritage and history



As a faith-based institution, ACU is keenly aware of the importance of fostering awareness of and respect for our history and heritage.

Our commitment to preserving streetscapes and the urban character in Fitzroy is shown in the way that we have approached our properties in Brunswick Street. We have retained and upgraded the existing street frontages and restored Cathedral Hall. It is also evident in our treatment of the site adjacent to Cathedral Hall, formerly a derelict service station. ACU remediated issues of contamination of the site and built in its place the St Mary of the Cross Square, freely accessible to the public.

In this new project, our commitment is evident in our plan to conserve and showcase the Mary Glowrey building.

From the beginning our expert architects, Lyons, were mindful of creating an appropriate attitude towards the Mary Glowrey building. The building has a long history, originally the Australian note printing works, and we are committed to bringing out aspects of that building to showcase its form and origins.

Lyons' response is in two principal parts:

The design proposal is to remove the glass entry frontage from the Mary Glowrey building to reinstate its heritage façade on Victoria Parade, combining a new entry within in the new building. This creates a new equal access 'entry sequence' to both buildings and provides better visual access to the more significant heritage architectural features of the Mary Glowrey building when viewed from Victoria Parade and Napier Street.

Lyons also carefully considered the footprint and floor plate of our proposed new building, creating a tapered plan form that reveals a large proportion of the more significant façades that do not directly face Victoria Parade or Napier Street. That means these elements are not buried in a conventional streetscape wall,



Proposed removal of existing glass façade from the Mary Glowrey building

allowing visibility of the corners of each wing of the building.

The history and heritage of the site are an important part of our cultural fabric, and ACU remains committed to protecting and preserving it.

More information

For more information and for updates as the planning process continues, please visit www.acu.edu.au