



Case Study 38

Sydney Institute, Ultimo College, Building E

Ultimo NSW

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Think Brick Australia
PO Box 751, Willoughby NSW 2068
(1/156 Mowbray Road, Willoughby)
Tel (02) 8962 9500 Fax (02) 9958 5941
info@thinkbrick.com.au
www.thinkbrick.com.au

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Building owner: Department of Education and Training – Sydney Institute

Client: Department of Commerce

Architect: Perumal Pedavoli Architects

Builder: Hansen Yuncken

Bricklayer: Conrina Constructions

Photography by Craig Cranko

Links:

www.sit.nsw.edu.au

www.pp-a.com.au

www.hansenyuncken.com.au

Sydney's Technological Museum, said to be the world's first, opened in 1893. With the opening of the Powerhouse Museum 90 years later, it became Building C of the Ultimo campus of the Sydney Institute, part of TAFE NSW.

Perumal Pedavoli Architects was given the task of designing a replacement for an adjacent building, a "10-storey concrete bunker." The new seven-storey building houses hospitality, fashion design and floristry functions, and includes seven commercial kitchens and a teaching restaurant.

The choice of terracotta-coloured brickwork respects the heritage context. Linking the new and old brickwork are panels of blue/black bricks. The new brickwork is a cladding to a conventional concrete structure. "TAFE buildings generally don't have a massive budget for facades and the colleges focus on low maintenance," explains project architect Meredith Quinlan. "That's why they frequently specify bricks."

Despite appearances, the terracotta brickwork is the same colour, the perception of difference being caused by alternating bands of smooth and textured bricks. The off-white mortar is mostly flush finished. However two courses of horizontal joints are raked every six courses, creating a further illusion of banding. Further modulating the facade are bands of soldier bricks at window heads and cant header bricks at sills (with the bevel above).

Building E was due to be occupied as *Hod* went to press.

(Clockwise from top left) Blue/black bricks allow the new building to make a gradual transition to its veteran neighbour. The major brickwork is a single colour, the banding reflecting a difference in surface texture. The new building replaces a 1960's Brutalist "concrete bunker."

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