

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

The \$125M Wallace Wurth Redevelopment involves a 10,000sqm expansion and refurbishment of the existing Wallace Wurth building at UNSW's Kensington campus to provide increased research and teaching spaces for the next generation of biomedical scientists.

CLIENT : UNSW
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Lend Lease
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$125 million
COMPLETION DATE : April 2014
ARCHITECT : Lahznimmo in association with Wilson Architects
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER : TTW
SURVEYOR : CMS Surveyors



The UNSW's Wallace Wurth redevelopment project has revitalised the teaching, learning and research spaces for more than 1250 students and 750 research personnel within the university's Faculty of Medicine. Completed in April and with a construction budget of \$125m, the 23,000sqm building provides a combination of teaching and research facilities, supporting vital advances in the research, knowledge and understanding of medical science.

"It took a 50-year-old building and has given it a new 50-year lease of life and just about doubled it in size as well," UNSW Senior Project Manager Geoffrey Leeson said.

"There are seven floors. We have two floors for undergraduate teaching, five floors of research and one floor for research support services.

"It's consolidated most of the teaching activities in the building where previously they were scattered around. It is very much state-of-the-art teaching facilities including the latest style of collaborative learning spaces. "The research laboratories are now very flexibly laid out, so if research groups expand or contract in size they can move within the larger laboratory space.

"It has also enabled a much more flexible use of shared services as well as increased interaction between scientists and researchers as a result of the collaborative spaces outside of these laboratories. "This is very important for scientists and researchers to be able to meet up, have discussions and share knowledge

and resources that can lead to that light bulb moment. We now have very-well designed collaborative spaces for this purpose."

As well as fostering co-operation, the redevelopment has opened up the building, bringing natural light into the environment.

"Architecturally, it is a very bright and airy building. It has a lot of natural light for a building of its size. One of the features is the glazed roof atrium, which also brings plenty of natural light into the building," Geoffrey said.

"It is also connected to the adjacent buildings on all levels, promoting cross-faculty collaboration. Quite a few science students are taught in the Medical Faculty so it brings science students into the Faculty of Medicine building."

Over the three-year life of the project (the first stage of the project — the construction of the new east wing was completed in May 2013), 2000 construction workers were inducted into the construction site. The redevelopment also meant a few movements for students and personnel.

"It's been very challenging from that point of view," Geoffrey said, adding that occupancy had to initially contract into the existing building during the redevelopment works. When students and personnel were then able to move into the new building, the existing building then had to undergo refurbishment works. "There has been quite a bit of interruption during the past three years. However, the students and staff are now thriving in their new environment."

The Wallace Wurth redevelopment project has also ensured the UNSW will continue to be an internationally recognised leader in the expanding field of biomedical research and teaching.

Together with the Lowy Cancer Research Centre and the UNSW Biological Sciences Building, the Wallace Wurth redevelopment (which also houses the Kirby Institute and its research programs), has formed a biomedical research precinct within the university's upper campus.

"There's a quote from the Dean of UNSW Medicine, Professor Peter Smith who said "The revitalised Wallace Wurth building will be the cornerstone of our medical research and teaching strength for decades to come," Geoffrey adds. "That pretty well sums it up."

For more information regarding the UNSW Wallace Wurth building redevelopment project contact Geoffrey Leeson, gleeson@unsw.edu.au or visit www.facilities.unsw.edu.au



BIG INTERIORS, SUPREME RESULTS

Bigway Interiors is no stranger to fitting out large and complex buildings such as the revitalised 23,000m² Wallace Wurth Building at the University of NSW.

The company has a long track record working on universities, medical centres, commercial buildings and other extensive developments throughout its long history and its collaborative working partnership with Lend Lease.

“We did the complete fitout (for the building),” Bigway Interiors Managing Director Joseph Matic said. “We also did some joinery, ceilings, doors, glazing – the entire site.”

The company’s reputation for quality craftsmanship and delivering projects to the highest standard is evident throughout its work on the UNSW Wallace Wurth Building.

What’s more, its record of accomplishment in fitting out redeveloped and new buildings ensured that any challenges thrown up on the job were easily handled.

“Challenges are normal to us, it’s an everyday occurrence,” Joseph added. “In normal terms there were challenges, because it was a refurbishment in a new building and a base building fitout. It (was a) picture of many different things, it’s a complex.”

Bigway Interiors is currently working on a number of projects, including a fitout for a building at the Royal Northshore Hospital and another research institute centre at the University of Technology Sydney.

In addition to the Wallace Wurth Building, the company has carried out many other fitout projects for the UNSW as well as other commercial buildings.

“We have a number (of projects) with a variety of work involved. We are all specialists (at Bigway Interiors), we’re a great company in that respect – we have worked on a lot of great projects.”

Founded in 1987 by Joseph, who started in the industry in 1984, Bigway Interiors Pty

Ltd has grown to become a leading provider of interior fitouts and refurbishments. The company prides itself on its efficient, cost-effective and personalised service as well as quality workmanship.

Bigway Interiors provides a range of working environments, be it commercial office fitouts and refurbishments, specialised temporary displays, retail spaces, domestic joinery or any other interior construction. The company can also design packages and services to cater to individual client needs.

Its extensive knowledge of the construction industry and contracting means Bigway Interiors can carry out a project from design right through to construction. Its specialised project management teams include onsite supervisors, production teams, in-house joinery manufacturers and partitioning teams.

An assigned Project Manager provides a single point of contact from the very beginning and ensures projects are carried out to a program’s time and budget, while also ensuring the highest quality standards. For particularly large projects, Bigway Interiors may provide a full-time onsite supervisor to report directly to the Project Manager.

In addition, Bigway Interiors’ commitment to workplace health and safety, has seen it establish and continually review extensive safety policies and management systems, which are implemented on every project.

Bigway Interiors also continues to enjoy a long partnership with Lend Lease that has seen it work with the construction company over many years on a number of projects, including the newly completed Wallace Wurth Building.

“We have a long association with Lend Lease and have collaborated on a lot of successful projects,” Joseph said. “Lend Lease is a major contractor for Bigway Interiors and we have a long history of success for both parties.”

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