



Case Study 18

International Building E3A, Macquarie University

North Ryde 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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Client: Macquarie University
Architect: DEM
Construction: Haskins Contractors
(in liquidation)
Bricklayer: Napoli
Photographer: Jackie Dean

Anticlockwise from top:

Panels of cream bricks add visual variety. Look closely for the red brick 'dots' (one-and-a-half bricks by three courses), a subtle decoration.

Face brickwork in the full-height circulation area creates a transition between internal and external spaces.

The deep reveals (about 470 mm from brick face to the inside face of plasterboard) add surface richness and aid sun control, albeit with shading on the north and east facades.

The mottled brown brickwork is relieved by recessed bands of cream at floor levels, mimicking the exposed slab edges of older campus buildings.

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From its earliest days, Macquarie University has employed a master plan as the basis for building stock decisions. To achieve an aesthetic harmony while minimising maintenance, the plan prescribed concrete and dark-coloured brick as the preferred facade materials for major campus buildings.

Some off-form concrete buildings did not weather well over the years, so brickwork became the preferred facade material. Since then the university has accepted lighter brickwork and a broader colour palette to enliven buildings. The master plan requirement for flush mortar joints has been maintained.

The International Building was built in response to demand from overseas students to study in Australia. It is essentially a three storey, reinforced concrete-framed building, which has deep, non-loadbearing brick veneer walls externally to meet university master plan requirements. Consideration was given to the depth of the masonry walls to provide assistance with sun control and improved thermal performance while enriching the facades.

The brickwork has been given vitality through such devices as recessed string courses, banding, contrasting sills and brick 'dots'. A varied masonry colour palette has also been employed.



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The main body of the brickwork is a dark chocolate mottle colour, with banding and patterning in red and cream bricks, sitting on a base of 'blue' brickwork. Face brickwork has also been carried into the main public area, providing a transition between internal and external spaces.

Building design for E3A took into account accommodation requirements of the university's International Office, which facilitates overseas students entering directly into university studies, and the major tenant, Sydney Institute of Business and Technology (SIBT), which provides facilities predominantly for overseas students to study intensively for entrance into mainstream university courses.

The plan form adopted is an L shape, with administrative functions for the user groups in one wing, teaching areas for SIBT in the other, and major entrances in a full height public space between the two.

Practical completion for the International Building E3A was granted in June 2001. A further stage is currently under construction and will provide a counterpoint to the existing building.

Read more about the development of the Macquarie University campus at www.brickbydesign.com ; follow the Case Studies links.

