

MOONEE PONDS WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTERVIEW WITH AMELIA CLONEY OF BSPN ARCHITECTURE



Amelia Cloney is a project architect in the specialist education team at BSPN Architecture, who has been working on the designs for Moonee Ponds West Primary School's project to upgrade our Infant School, library, and playground.

Tell us about BSPN Architecture

We're an architecture and interior design practice that takes projects from concept design to construction and project completion.

We focus on taking an 'all of site approach'. Stepping back, doing a site analysis and then a master plan, enables us to repurpose and revitalise underutilised spaces. This ensures any new additions to the site are sympathetic to, and work harmoniously with, existing buildings.

What are some of the unique elements of this project?

The Hall Building is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, and this is partially due to its intact nature which can be attributed to the careful guardianship of the school community over the generations.

There are beautiful original features throughout the building, but most impressively the internal hall space featuring stain-glass windows with native birds, a timber lined ceiling, and Honour Board commemorating past students who served in World War I.

What are the challenges and opportunities working with heritage buildings?

There are restrictions to the degree of alteration to the heritage fabric. However, we've been inspired by the existing building and spaces to create a flexible 21st century learning environment.

For example, the Hall Building has a beautiful central gathering space. Today's schools usually include breakout spaces for collaboration and team teaching, and this space was almost ready-made.

Our interiors design choices have also been inspired by the heritage fabric, the native bird and landscape scenes depicted in the stained-glass windows have formed a core reference point.



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