

Mount Alexander College by Kosloff Architecture

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Words by Vaishnavi Nayel Talawadekar • Photography by Derek Swalwell



Mount Alexander College has had many lives. Founded in 1858 as Flemington National School and rechristened twice since, the secondary school has been reimagined once again by Kosloff Architecture in response to a surge in enrolments. The new building, spread across five levels and 5,150 square metres, interacts with the surroundings through learning environments that keep nature close.

The school's compact, inner-city site served as the point of departure for the design, which was developed vertically rather than horizontally to minimise the impact on outdoor space. The architectural program was rooted in a three-pronged approach, with context and scale, engagement and connectivity, and connection to nature serving as the lodestars for the blueprint.

The architectural reconceptualisation was spurred by a substantial rise in enrolments, which are predicted to double in the next three years. In a bid to accommodate the school's deeply tailored and continually evolving curriculum, Kosloff Architecture borrowed from the landscape, designing indoor and outdoor realms that facilitate teaching and

learning on either side of the threshold. A particular case in point is the rooftop basketball court. Such interventions, as Julian Kosloff, principal at Kosloff Architecture, notes, "have resulted in a net increase in usable outdoor space for the school".

The design, developed in close consultation with staff, students and the school community, is composed of spaces and resources specifically geared towards the arts, performance, digital systems and technology, sciences, administration and general classroom learning. Classrooms are arranged around the perimeter of the building to maximise natural light. They are outfitted with audio and video equipment, wet spaces and power infrastructure to support a wide range of functions.

"The building has been designed to not only be infinitely adaptable in the near future, but also in the long term. Its open floor plates and robust external materiality mean that it can continue to evolve over many decades to suit a multiplicity of uses," concludes Julian.



Coburg and Moreland Stations by Wood Marsh Architecture

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Words by Aaron Chapman • Photography by Peter Clarke

Coburg and Moreland Stations by Wood Marsh Architecture are civic architectural responses that celebrate the history of railways while upgrading infrastructure and improving amenities to better serve the local community.

The two Melbourne stations combine contemporary design with nods to the formal language of more classical architecture found in the area. From the street, passers-by are met with decorative features and hexagonal precast facade elements that animate with changing light throughout the day. At Coburg Station, this dynamic appearance is complemented by the elevations at the east and west, with arched windows that resemble those found at Melbourne's Flinders Street Station and the National Gallery of Victoria. These civic gestures generate an abundance of natural light for the double-height arrival sequence in both stations, establishing a welcoming, concourse-

like atmosphere for commuters, where their transit is further guided by split-level staircases and colour-coded architectural details.

These stations form part of the Bell to Moreland Level Crossing Removal Project and reimagine how transportation infrastructure can provide new opportunities for connection. Each station, individual in its design, collectively links the local community with greater Melbourne, providing safe access and recreational amenity through cycling and walking pathways, exercise and sports facilities, playgrounds, parklands and gathering spaces. This aspect of the new elevated railway was carried out in collaboration with landscape architecture firm Tract.

The stations offer more than just public infrastructure, referencing the historical architectural components of local and international railways and demonstrating how they can add value, vibrancy and culture to a suburban landscape.