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Indigenous Centre
Mount Lawley
Breaking new ground with its culturally inclusive design and embodying the University’s commitment to diversity is ECU’s Indigenous Centre, home of Kurongkurl Katitjin*, the School of Indigenous Studies.

The unconventional building’s final form arises from extensive consultation with Kurongkurl Katitjin staff and students, elders and Indigenous community members from metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

It blazes with the colours of the Western Australian landscape and of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal flags. Its landscaping, visible from multiple internal points, reflects the six Noongar seasons.

The three-storey complex contains sculptured pavilions moulded into a single form and is a sophisticated mix of colourful textural walls, steel and glass on a concrete frame. With no front or side entrance, it opens to every compass point in a universal invitation to participate in a journey of learning and cultural understanding.

The site is linked physically and metaphysically by story paths from north, south, east and west which come together at “Our Place” - the metaphorical “centre” of the building.

Noongar words about place and family are etched into the façade. Pictures and stories have been carved into the steel sun-shading screens and mosaic artworks designed by Indigenous WA artists Francine Riche, Primus Ugle, Bianca McNeair and Dolly Walker, and executed in ceramic by Fremantle artist Jenny Dawson, are incorporated into the paving.

The complex brings together ideas about community, earth, culture, folklore and how to create and use a space as a rich learning environment that is truly contextualised yet evokes modern pedagogy.

Officially opened: 30 June 2005

*“Kurongkurl Katitjin” - Noongar for “coming together to learn”.

"INDIGENOUS CENTRE, MOUNT LAWLEY"
INDIGENOUS CENTRE, MOUNT LAWLEY
Student Accommodation
South West Campus
Live-in students on ECU's South West Campus in Bunbury (200kms south of Perth) enjoy apartment-style student housing.

The housing caters for up to 52 students in four three-storey blocks and, in a break with tradition, allocates four units specifically for more mature postgraduate students to cater for lifestyle differences.

The housing’s design recognises the dislocation students can feel in an unfamiliar location by providing an ideal study environment and simultaneously maintaining a “homey” feel. The stylish, contemporary accommodation engenders a sense of community and an enriched university life for residential students.

Taking full advantage of their steeply sloping site, the apartments have a spectacular outlook over their coastal home city to the Indian Ocean beyond.

Building on-campus accommodation was part of ECU's concept of regional commitment and outreach. A special feature of the project was its use of local architects and builders and its sourcing of equipment from local suppliers.

Officially opened: 21 February 2003
“ECU Bunbury Student Housing is proudly located high on a hill, nestled in the natural beauty of local bushland, creating an inviting and attractive dwelling for relaxation and studying for students of all ages.”

YADIRA MIATKE
2ND YEAR SOCIAL WORK STUDENT
SOUTH WEST CAMPUS - BUNBURY
SUSTAINABILITY
Incorporating beauty, functionality and environmentally sustainable design features, the multi-award-winning Science and Health Building marked a turning point in ECU's architectural direction. It began the process of creating an architecturally innovative campus, reflecting the university’s youthful, progressive character and its commitment to sustainability.

Complex because of its contents - laboratories, herbariums, aquariums, cold rooms, lecture and administration spaces - the building, which houses the Schools of Natural Sciences, Exercise, Biomedical and Health Sciences and Computer and Information Science, was designed to reflect the work performed within its walls.

With a façade of precast concrete and glass, the three-storey building boasts impressive passive and active sustainability features, minimising running and maintenance costs. Creating a central courtyard allows natural lighting into all areas of the building and sun shading was calculated so no direct sunlight hits within the glass at any time of the day.

Air conditioning is provided by a chilled water thermal storage tank using off-peak power at night to pre-chill the water which then circulates throughout the entire campus during the day without power draw-downs. A thermal bore plant maintains suitable temperatures in the 24-hour rooms.

Condensate collected from the roof spaces provides a constant supply of de-ionised water for the labs.

Safety features include night purging to maintain 100 per cent fresh air, fume cupboards to dispose of gases, and the siting of activities with the highest population on the lower floors.

Colour explodes in the interior with painted poles designed by artist Andrew Leslie incorporated into the foyer and coloured urn-like columns supporting the stairs.

While highly functional, the building is aesthetically pleasing with a powerful and dramatic presence.

Officially opened: 19 November 2001
SCIENCE AND HEALTH BUILDING, JOONDALUP
Exemplifying ECU's progressive approach to teacher education and education research, the Education Building is designed to create a sense of community - the emphasis is on building reflective communities of teachers and establishing strong links with ECU partners in surrounding schools.

Tagged by its architects as the "origami building", it has been created by "folding" it around its challenging small and triangular site and connecting it to the pre-existing administration section. The building features bright and inviting colours which provide a friendly, welcoming environment, particularly for interaction with the non-university community.

ECU education staff created an entirely new teaching course - the first of its kind in Australia - to take to their new home and many of the building's education and research spaces mould around that concept.

Incorporated into its four floors are a drama theatre, with a dance floor to accommodate drama, music and dance education classes, dual-purpose rooms which can be used for both art and technology design teaching, lecture and case study rooms and student lounges.

Each teaching room features groups of computer centres giving students constant and immediate IT access during group projects, workshops or tutorials.

The Fogarty Learning Centre, which undertakes professional development, research and provides a free community service coaching children with learning disabilities, is also housed in this building. It has been designed with dual functions - to enable students to observe expert teachers at work and to link with the outside community.

**Officially opened: 4 April 2003**
"This is definitely the most alive and usable building I've ever taught in. It works exactly the way we wanted it to work when we designed it. Its colours are very bright, it feels vibrant and energetic. I feel energised when I walk into it."

PROFESSOR JUDITH RIVALLAND
ASSOCIATE DEAN, TEACHING AND LEARNING
AND PROFESSOR IN LANGUAGE AND LITERACY
FACULTY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES