

# PARRAMATTA LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB

**SUMMARY:** Parramatta is a city on the move and the face of global Sydney. The geographical centre of Sydney and a hub of ideas, culture and commerce. Parramatta is fast becoming a world class centre of excellence in education, health, research and innovation. It is a home to big thinkers, growing families and ambitious people. People who come from across the globe to live, work and play in our thriving global metropolis. Liveability underpins everything we do at Parramatta. Our city is designed to support the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors. A city designed for people, with a brand new beating heart, our Parramatta Library at PHIVE.

The paper will show the basic features of the library and the awards it received for its role, importance and design as a smart and green building.

**KEYWORDS:** Parramatta library, architecture, green building, smart building.



**Fig. 1.** Parramatta Library (exterior)

## Introduction

Parramatta Library and Community Hub, PHIVE, was born to be architectural icon. It started with an international design competition in 2016 to find a civic and community „centrepiece” for Parramatta Square. PHIVE is Parramatta’s new library, community, cultural and civic hub, located in the heart of Parramatta’s Central Business District.<sup>1</sup> It is a space to learn, be inspired and explore something new. A space to connect with the community and find local services. A space to meet, collaborate and do business. And a space to immerse yourself in cultural experiences or enjoy a bite to eat.

## Parramatta Library<sup>2</sup>

„With views overlooking Parramatta Square, a coffee from our café on ground floor and more than 65,000 books to explore, you’ll want to sit, read or study all day!”<sup>3</sup>



**Fig. 2.** Parramatta Library (interior)

Designed as an inclusive and accessible place for everyone to meet, gather, connect, explore, and be inspired, Parramatta Library is one of City of Parramatta’s welcoming community hubs. Parramatta Library

<sup>1</sup> PHIVE, „About PHIVE”, City of Parramatta, <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/phive/about-phive> (accessed March 15, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Parramatta Library, <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/community/library> (accessed March 15, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> PHIVE, „Library”, City of Parramatta, <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/phive/library> (accessed March 15, 2024).

**Fig. 3.** Display in Parramatta Library (Level 1) (Photo: City of Parramatta)



is a 21st-century smart building. Its cutting-edge design and construction have been awarded a 6 Star Green Star rating – the highest rating – as certified by the Green Building Council of Australia.<sup>4</sup> With design principles focussed on environmental performance, this world leading building has a low reliance on traditional heating and cooling methods. Solar collectors on the roof generate power, heating and hot water, while the unique design allows for water harvesting.

Giant louvres respond to weather conditions, such as heat, wind and humidity, and automatically open to fill the building with fresh air and natural light as needed. The system is linked to the Bureau of Meteorology and two local weather sensors to ensure optimal operation.

Parramatta Library also offers healthy, safe spaces for visitors thanks to its unique smart mixed-mode ventilation system. Inside the building, some of Parramatta Library’s smart features include:

- An automated library book-sorting machine
- Self-checkout kiosks and self-return library shelves
- Smart furniture with in-built power and data charging points for visitors
- LED lighting, minimal use of PVC
- Gearless lifts with regenerative drives
- Dual water systems for non-drinking water uses (i.e. flushing and irrigation) to facilitate future connection to a recycled water network

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<sup>4</sup> PHIVE, „Green & Smart”, City of Parramatta, <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/phive/green-smart> (accessed March 15, 2024).

Apart from the books and reading space, Parramatta Library run many programs for the community – 7-days story time for kids and toddlers, sewing sessions, 3D printing, 3D pen workshop, Needle nook, knitting and cross stitch sessions, VR sessions for kids and adults, computer technology classes in English and other languages and English Conversation classes, to name the few.

The City of Parramatta has a new meeting place overlooking Parramatta Square – and it is right here at PHIVE. The new Council Chambers are where the future of our region will be shaped. The purpose-built Council Chambers are crafted from locally sourced timber, and contain state-of-the-art voting technology and live streaming facilities to make Council meetings accessible to all.<sup>5</sup>

## Architecture

Parramatta Library and Community Hub @ PHIVE is an architectural icon, with a bold design by award-winning French architect Manuelle Gautrand, in partnership with Australian architecture firms Lacoste + Stevenson and DesignInc and constructed by Australian group Built. It is bold red roof can be seen peeking through the city towers. It is a truly smart building, with sustainability credentials allowing it to be net zero carbon from day one.<sup>6</sup>

Gautrand is internationally renowned and was the winner of the acclaimed 2017 European Prize for Architecture. Some of her prestigious international designs include Citroën's Flagship Showroom on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, and Louis Vuitton Maison in Seoul, South Korea. PHIVE is Gautrand's first Australian commission.

The building is sculptural in design, with more than 549 unique tessellated panels in five native flora-inspired colours gracing the building's façade. The roof sits on a series of stacked, fragmented crystalline blocks designed to follow the sun and provide natural light throughout. Giant louvres respond to weather conditions and automatically open to fill the building with fresh air. It is a truly smart building.

The design delivers permeability through the building with the use of voids, linking stairs and transparent materials, to create a welcoming, open and expressive building.

Parramatta is home to a rich Indigenous history, a rapidly growing population, and a diverse mosaic of residents. Parramatta Library &

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<sup>5</sup> PHIVE, „Council Chambers”, City of Parramatta, <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/phive/council-chambers> (accessed March 15, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> ArchDaily, „Manuelle Gautrand, DesignInc, and Lacoste + Stevenson”, <https://www.archdaily.com/785614/manuelle-gautrand-designinc-and-lacoste-plus-stevenson-win-competition-for-5-parramatta-square> (accessed March 20, 2024).

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Community Hub is a central part of the vibrant Parramatta Square precinct, with cafes, restaurants, shopping and incredible public art. Over six levels, PHIVE is a destination for community, culture and services, including:

- The brand-new City of Parramatta Library, with an extensive book collection, digital resources, Heritage Collection, dedicated Children's Library, and study areas;
- Flexible spaces available for hire by businesses and the community, including Active Wellness Studios, Smart Tech Labs, Meeting rooms, Sound Recording Studios, and Maker Spaces. All featuring the latest in technology;
- An exciting program of events and exhibitions;
- Community hub and creative spaces for gathering, creating, studying and connecting;
- City of Parramatta customer contact centre and visitor services;
- The new City of Parramatta Council Chambers, Parramatta's central seat of governance;
- Café with dine-in, grab-and-go and click-and-collect options.

Seamlessly connecting with the original heritage-listed Parramatta Town Hall, PHIVE boasts the striking design and state-of-the-art facilities of a world-class library & community hub, while drawing in the area's rich history.

PHIVE is sympathetically designed to incorporate the neighbouring heritage-listed Parramatta Town Hall, which is opened recently after undergoing intensive refurbishment, creating a modern interface with Parramatta's rich history.

## Awards

Here are some of PHIVE's recent achievements to date.<sup>7</sup> These recognitions are a strong testament to the PHIVE's significance in paving the way for future architecture and community spaces.<sup>8</sup>

- 2016: Winner, International Design Competition, Parramatta City Council, Manuelle Gautrand Architecture, DesignInc, and Lacoste + Stevenson;

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<sup>7</sup> PHIVE, „Awards and recognitions“, City of Parramatta, <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/phive/awards> (accessed March 20, 2024).

<sup>8</sup> City of Parramatta, „City of Parramatta booming as PHIVE takes out top awards“, <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/about-parramatta/news/media-release/city-of-parramatta-booming-as-phive-takes-out-top-awards> (accessed March 20, 2024).

- 2022: Winner, Project of the Year Award, Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue’s Boomtown! 2022 Property & Infrastructure Awards;
- 2023: Winner, inaugural Holdmark Innovation Award, Powerhouse and Holdmark;
- 2023: Shortlisted, Public Library of the Year, The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

The IFLA award recognises new public libraries offering functional architecture, creative IT solutions and that are strengthening local culture. Parramatta Library at PHIVE was one of four global finalists for Public Library of the Year 2023 alongside Public Library Janez Vajkard Valvasor in Slovenia, Shanghai Library East in China and the winner „Gabriel García Márquez Library” in Spain.

Jakob Guillois Lærkes, Chairman of the Jury, said:

„I’m always in awe of the high quality, impressive solutions and innovative features of the new libraries which are entered each year for the Public Library of the Year award. This year’s field was no less impressive. The four nominated libraries all stand out and are each a true gift to their local community”.<sup>9</sup>

At the Australian Institute of Architects (NSW) Awards, PHIVE Parramatta received multiple awards and commendations:

- 2023: Commendation, Public Architecture Award, Australian Institute of Architects (NSW)
- 2023: Commendation, Sustainability Award, Australian Institute of Architects (NSW)
- 2023: Shortlisted, Interior Architecture Award, Australian Institute of Architects (NSW)

Jury citation, Australian Institute of Architects (NSW):

„PHIVE creates a new world-class community, cultural and civic hub for the Parramatta community. The building form and expressive sculptural facade sits comfortably within its highly urban setting of Parramatta plaza, the building scale is appropriately civic”.<sup>10</sup>

2023: Winner, Commercial and Multi-Residential Exterior Category, Dulux Colour Awards

This category recognises the best exterior paint finishes of any commercial, industrial, education facility or multi-residential apartment building.

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<sup>9</sup> Library Technology Guides, “The Biblioteca Gabriel García Márquez in Barcelona Spain named Public Library of the Year 2023”, <https://librarytechnology.org/document/29163> (accessed March 20, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> DesignInc, „PHIVE Parramatta is a Winner”, <https://www.designinc.com.au/insights/phive-parramatta-is-a-winner> (accessed March 20, 2024).

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What the judges said:

„PHIVE is a civic standout whose mark is made equally by its comprehensive services and striking architectural addition to the built landscape. The multi-storey structure’s vibrant external envelope comprises hundreds of powder-coated folds, which open successively to the west and the east, to the adjacent public square and the sky. Shading the interior from the sun’s heat while also allowing natural light in, the pattern of solid and open elements is eye-catching for the spectrum of red and tangerine hues that colour its geometric filigree. This vivid exoskeleton creates a dazzling play across the vast, curved sweep of the roof. It is an outstanding concept, boldly executed, and an invaluable contribution to the typology and context”<sup>11</sup>

- 2023: Shortlisted, Excellence in Sustainability, The Urban Developer
- Nominated by Built, the Urban Developer Awards, in association with Trilogy Funds, recognises standout property industry performers from across Australasia;
- 2024: Winner of *ALIA’s Library Design Award* for the category of *Large Public Library* for the Parramatta Library at PHIVE.

Jane Cowell President, ALIA, stated by way of congratulation:

„It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend my sincerest congratulations to you on being selected as the winner of ALIA’s Library Design Award for the category of Large Public Library. This esteemed recognition is a testament to the extraordinary talent, innovative vision, and exceptional dedication to libraries from the Parramatta Library team.

Your design stood out among a competitive field of submissions, showcasing a deep understanding of the intricate balance between functionality and aesthetics that defines exceptional library spaces. Your ability to create environments that inspire, engage, and enrich the communities they serve is truly commendable.

Your winning design exemplifies the transformative power of architecture to shape experiences and foster a sense of belonging and discovery. By reimagining the traditional concept of a library, Parramatta Library has created a space that transcends its physical boundaries, becoming a vibrant hub for learning, collaboration, and cultural exchange”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Dulux, „Dulux Colour Awards 2023”, <https://www.dulux.com.au/specifier/services-and-programs/dulux-colour-awards/2023/winners/commercial-and-multi-residential-exterior/> (accessed March 29, 2024).

<sup>12</sup> Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), „Announcing the winners of the 2024 ALIA Library Design Awards”, [https://alia.org.au/Web/Web/News/Articles/2024-May-2024/Library\\_Design\\_Winners\\_2024.aspx](https://alia.org.au/Web/Web/News/Articles/2024-May-2024/Library_Design_Winners_2024.aspx) (accessed March 29, 2024).

## Conclusion

Parramatta Library at PHIVE is a welcoming space for everyone. A place where the community can connect, collaborate and create. It is a shining example of the fascinating mosaic that is Parramatta. It is a place of belonging that encourages curiosity, shares knowledge and drives innovation. It opens up a world of opportunity and possibilities. Parramatta Library and PHIVE proudly stands as a testament to our past, a celebration of the present, and beacon for our future.

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# **БИБЛИОТЕКА КАО СРЕДИШТЕ ЗАЈЕДНИЦЕ У ПАРАМАТИ**

**САЖЕТАК:** Парамата је град у покрету и лице глобалног Сиднеја. Географски центар Сиднеја и центар идеја, културе и трговине. Парамата убрзано постаје центар изврсности светског ранга у образовању, здравству, истраживању и иновацијама. То је дом великих мислилаца, растућих породица и амбициозних људи који долазе из целог света да живе, раде и играју се у нашој напредној глобалној метрополи. Погодности за живот су основа свега што радимо у Парамати. Наш град је дизајниран да подржи здравље и добробит становника и посетилаца. Град дизајниран за људе, са потпуно новим срцем које куца – нашом Библиотеком Парамата у RHIVE -у.

У раду ће бити приказане основне карактеристике библиотеке и награде које је добила за улогу, значај и дизајн као паметне и зелене зграде.

**КЉУЧНЕ РЕЧИ:** Библиотека Парамата, архитектура, зелена зграда, паметна зграда.

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