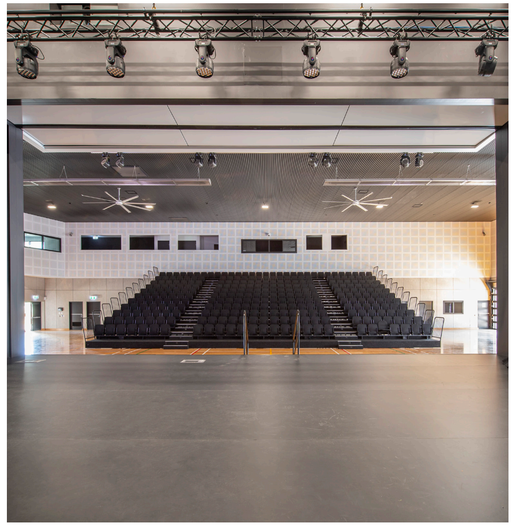
Callaghan Senior College Creative & Performing Arts Facility

Jesmond, NSW

Client: Schools Infrastructure NSW
Budget: Approx $12 million
Role: Principal Design Consultant
Type: Secondary Education
Completed: 2020

The proposed new Multi-purpose Hall and CAPA facility creates a clear street presence for the school and local community, while also connecting the existing campus to the new buildings via external landscaped courtyard connections. Utilizing the topography of the site, the building is arranged over two stories, allowing for a softened separation between the school facilities and the more public facilities that can be shared with the local community. The schedule of areas designated by the EFSG, has been optimized to reflect the future-focused learning and technically rich facilities appropriate for a senior college motivated to provide vocational skills and industry-equipped graduates as described in the school's educational principals.

CAPA facilities have been fashioned into Learning Neighbourhoods (Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Dance and Music), organized around a centralized circulation path and Learning Street. This Learning Street is supervised by a Staff landing area, allowing direct supervision and interaction between the teachers and students; creating an accessibility and ownership for the school. The Performing Arts' Black Box Theatre serves as the stage for the Multi-Purpose Hall, with the intent to maximize the efficiency of the technical facilities and floor area. The Visual Arts Neighbourhood is located directly adjacent to upper courtyard allowing for overflow into the shared spaces, while maintaining access to adjacent shared digital facilities such as Music, Photography and Video Recording studios. Visual connections and overlooking are the motivators for this facility to nurture the already established CAPA community; while shared outdoor spaces and individual learning zones allow the building to be accessible by staff and the community alike.