

# cool garden | warm garden growing up rooftop design competition



project team:  
hansen partnership

## project description:

Discovering new perspectives of the built and natural environments, and acquiring knowledge through experimentation are the inspiration behind our design for Monash University Corporate Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. The imperatives of climate change demand a more sustainable urban fabric. In turn the recycling and rediscovery of forgotten spaces, materials and technology combined with 'having new eyes' and seeing things in a different light can forge a new path and harness opportunities to reclaim and engage.

The rooftop of the Monash University Corporate Centre, at 14-15 storeys above street level, offers an inimitable vantage point within the eastern precinct of the Melbourne Central Activities District to experience views to Mount Dandenong, cityscape panoramas and Yarra River glimpses. At this height, one experiences a different perspective within the city. It is an experience which is both enchanting and at times overwhelming due to the dramatic scale variance.

Our design concept promotes 'greening' of the Monash University Corporate Centre rooftop both in terms of soft landscaping and a range of ESD features. It takes visitors/occupants on a theoretical journey of discovery from the cooler, enclosed, temperate spaces to warmer, exposed, sunlit spaces reflecting the spectrum of climatic variations. With a variety of planting and green synthetic treatments the roof will be transformed into a green space that provides for retreat and observatory prospect within the city scape.

Within the different experiences and spaces of the rooftop garden there are opportunities for experimentation which will advance collective and individual knowledge and understanding. This includes the research garden and micro-weather station forming part of the Melbourne University research garden which will be supplemented by new innovations. The coolgarden safe represents the merging of landscape design with an iconic low-tech refrigerator, the Coolgardie Safe, to address building energy usage in air conditioning whilst the solar pergola incorporates the latest technology developed by Monash University researchers.

The design fosters a sense of community with flexibly programming, open gathering spaces, and a range of secluded and contemplative spaces. It will become a new focal point of formal and informal activities for the building occupants and their visitors. It frames key observation and vantage points with a design treatment that establishes a sense of connection with external green spaces.

*"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."*  
Marcel Proust



urban planning urban design landscape architecture

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