

## *Kingscote Public Library*

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The inspiration for the focus on my Folio emerged from a visit to Kangaroo Island in the summer of 2023. During this trip I was able to appreciate the islands its stunning coastline, diverse flora, and fauna and the relaxed easy-going nature of the locals. As an avid reader, I will often visit the local public library when holidaying in towns around the state, which I how I became aware of the limitations of the existing Kingscote library. It is small, cluttered, and dated, and as a result, falls short of community needs. This led to my creative vision of designing a contemporary concept for a new library on Kangaroo Island.

My design brief is to design a contemporary library facility that addresses and improves on the limitations of the existing space and caters to the local community. My vision is to create a library that not only meets the functional requirements for a community hub but also harmonizes with the natural landscape of Flagstaff Hill on Kangaroo Island. Therefore, this design will include the presentation of an architectural model, detailed floor plans, elevations, and a digital rendering of the children's room included within the library.

As a starting point, I began researching renowned works of architecture and libraries. This research served as a foundation for my idea generation by offering insights into architectural principles, innovative design elements, and successful library layouts. The Brisbane Library in California, designed by Siegel & Strain and Karin Payson, particularly influenced my choice of materials and the integration of the library within its natural surroundings as they incorporated warm colours to connect with the landscape of California. Furthermore, historical libraries, such as the Victorian State Library with their iconic glass-domed ceilings inspired me to reinterpret this feature in a contemporary manner in my library design.

Identifying a new location for my library design was important step in my design process to allow me to expand on the current space. While considering the optimal location for the new library, I recognised that maintaining the central position of the current Kingscote library within the town was an option. However, given the small size of Kingscote, relocating the library further out would not significantly disrupt patrons. Consequently, I chose a location on Seacliff Road behind Flagstaff Hill. This site offers convenient access to the town while offering breathtaking views of the natural landscape and the ocean.

Through my idea generation I explored a wide range of potential solutions for the new library. As outlined in my design brief, I needed to ensure that the design harmonised with the natural landscape. I aimed to include large floor to ceiling windows, and sky lights within my designs to utilise the natural environment and encourage patrons to observe and interact with the environment. This connection to nature can improve psychological wellbeing, reducing stress and promoting relaxation, creating an inviting and effective space for learning, research, and community engagement serving as a welcoming and inclusive hub for knowledge. Additionally, this made the space feel bigger which is one of the limitations for the current library.

In refining my exterior design, the main feature of the library is the grand, curved window and frosted dome veranda overlooking a garden. Using forest red gum for the exterior cladding ties in the library with the environment. Through the use of local materials, it truly makes the library a community project. My final design also incorporated, and art mural commissioned to be painted by Caroline Taylor will feature local flora and fauna to show the deep connection the landscape has on the Kangaroo Island community.

Through my research, I identified inclusivity and accessibility as an important element for consideration in my floor plans. Each of my designs featured a single-floor layout that is wheelchair-accessible, as well as quite private rooms to ensure that the space is welcoming for everyone. I created individual zones within my floorplans for both individual study and collaborative work, as well as a dedicated space to cater to children's needs, aiming to foster a love for reading and learning while also offering a space for children to build relationships. The children's room has been designed with a nautical theme, referencing the three lighthouses dotted around Kangaroo Island. Through the local references in the children's room, I created a familiar environment that promotes learning and problem solving through imaginary play.

As a tactile learner, I opted to create a 1:50 scale architectural model of my library design. I first created a prototype of my model using skills I developed during Year 11 Design. This allowed me to identify skills that I needed to refine or develop. The inclusion of curved walls and a dome in my design created some challenges. I was able to learn how to use the laser cutter to accurately cut wood in a curved design which would be interlocked to create the dome. Additionally, I learnt how to score the foam core board to create a seamless curve to my model walls.

I have encountered various challenges. Learning to navigate SketchUp was my biggest challenge, as I had to learn many new skills to create an accurate interior model of the children's library. I overcame this hurdle by exhibiting patience, the assistance of YouTube tutorials and guidance from my teacher. Another significant challenge emerged during the creation of the dome for my scale model. Heating plastic to create the appearance of curved glass was unsuccessful, which led me to explore alternative materials. My final design uses tracing paper for the dome creating a frosted glass appearance which I prefer over the original design.

I am proud of my final presentation for the Visual Arts exhibition. I am confident that it effectively highlights my skills and passion for design. I have successfully met the requirements of my design brief while aligning with my personal values of creating a fun, vibrant and inclusive space for all. I believe that this Practical has aided me in developing skills which will benefit me, as I intend to pursue a future in interior design at the University of South Australia, specifically focusing on designing spaces tailored for children's play and learning.