

Carisbrook School redevelopment

Dunedin

The new Carisbrook School redevelopment emerged as a result of the school merger between the former Caversham, College Street and Carlton Hill primary schools. The merger was initiated by the Ministry of Education over two years ago to make more cost effective use of the schools - two that each had a roll of about 150 pupils and one of about 75.

Located on the former Caversham School site the project involved the conversion of the three existing weatherboard clad Nelson blocks into new modern learning environments along with the construction of a new two storey senior four classroom block and a new single storey six classroom junior block. A new library, administration area and dance studio have also been incorporated into the existing buildings to complement the surrounding new classrooms.

Integrating the new facilities alongside the converted existing buildings provided an opportunity to form a complete modern learning environment that embraced an evolving curriculum, allowing both flexibility and creativity.

Forming the new identity for Carisbrook School and taking into account the emotional and historical community connections to its longstanding predecessors, while challenging, created a number of opportunities to re-define the school as a new modern learning centre, which engages with the community through the conduit of good architecture, colour and master planning.

Redefining the existing Caversham School, while retaining the bulk of the existing school, required a bold defining element that brought both the old and new seamlessly together.

The existing school prior to the redevelopment was clad predominantly with timber weatherboard and was engulfed in a uniformly painted beige palette that was not a reflection of the vibrant personalities within.

The redefining visual element of the school was colour. The colours themselves represent the three schools formed as one. The base colour for each of the existing Nelson blocks is **Resene Sonyx 101 CoolColour** in **Resene San Juan**, a warm 'Carisbrook' blue with a silver pearl edge. The three complementing 'Citrus palette' colours representing each of the three schools are **Resene Daredevil**, **Resene Bitter Lemon** and **Resene Lima**. To complete the look the exterior balustrades and steel trim are finished in **Resene Uracryl 404** colour matched to other joinery for a seamless finish. Collectively the colours generate a visual feast of colour and personality that together, even on the cloudiest of Dunedin days, generates a brighter and refreshing outlook.

The colour palette of each block also materialises as a wayfinding tool clearly defining each part of the whole.

The interior colour scheme unlike the exterior was generally quite neutral using **Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen** in **Resene Merino** to highlight the student's creative artworks, with **Resene Caper** used on learning centre walls and **Resene Dark Rimu** stain with **Resene Qristal Clear** polyurethane on interior trim.

The Carisbrook School Project was built as a two stage project. Stage one involved the redevelopment of one of the Nelson blocks in order to confirm the condition of the existing fabric as a whole so lessons learnt could be accounted for on stage two where two Nelson blocks and the administration block were upgraded.

One significant lesson learnt related to the repaint of the existing Nelson blocks. The existing painted blocks had a number of poorly painted surfaces requiring all the weatherboard to be stripped back to the timber. Completely replacing the weatherboard with new pre-primed weatherboard was found to be more cost effective but still had a significant impact on the value of the project.







Architectural specifier:

Opus Architecture www.opusarch.co.nz

Building contractor:

Stage 1 - Amalgamated Builders www.abl.co.nz;

Stage 2 - Naylor Love www.naylorlove.co.nz

Client: Ministry of Education

Colour selection: Niko Young and Jenna Kinraid

www.opusarch.co.nz

Painting contractor: Decorating Services

www.decoratingservicesltd.co.nz

Photographer: Graham Warman www.grahamwarman.co.nz

