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MAGAZINE

Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility:

Ballarat, Australia

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Ballarat Regional Soccer 1

Ballarat, Australia

By: Adana Harding



The design concept for Ballart Regional Soccer Facility (BRSF) emerged as a response to clients brief to provide a stadium for world-class soccer. Located in the regional setting of Ballarat, Australia, BRSF provides leading edge sporting and social facilities for elite A level as well as international level games. Designed as a series of stages that form part of a Master plan for the site, Stage 1 includes the BRSF building, a 2 star FIFA rated turf playing pitch and synthetic training ground.



Facility

Photos provided by:
k20 Architecture



Sustainable design innovations were intrinsically linked to the design of Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility. Passive solar design features include high-level extended eaves to reduce heat load on the building, double-glazing throughout and high levels of insulation. The west façade is protected from solar gain through ventilated façade and reduced glazing. The roof was designed for solar photovoltaic collector installation and for rainwater collection for use in toilets. Natural ventilation is maximized via the inclusion of thermal chimneys providing stack effect cooling and natural ventilation to change rooms, and mixed mode heating and cooling through an under floor air-plenum to the first floor. k20 Architecture sourced recycled and local timber to assist with carbon sequestration, resulting in a reduced carbon footprint.

The project was designed in stages to provide an economic sustainable approach for construction to suit Client funding and provide a facility that generates an income for the club and Council for independent operation. Important stakeholder/community consultation was also undertaken to inform the design, promoting social sustainability through improved amenity and multipurpose function spaces for the Club and community use.

A high level of environmentally sustainable materials and fittings were incorporated and include low energy light fittings, reduced water use fittings and operation, low VOC paint, durable finishes for lower maintenance and longevity, carpet with 40% recycled content and end of life recyclability.

Locally sourced and manufactured materials and components achieve approximately 80% of local content outcomes. The grandstand seating is made of recycled plastic while the timber is used from shading to external glazing. The grand stand was manufactured using off the shelf pre-built concrete construction planks.

The project achieved an exemplar rating using the Sustainable Tools for Environmental Performance Strategy (STEPS) scorecard.

With Ballarat's rich cultural heritage in mind, the concept of the Eureka Stockade wall emerged as the leading design principle and enabled the facility to be built in segments and in stages as various funding streams became available over time. The Eureka rebellion, which is often referred to as the 'Eureka Stockade', is a key event in the development of Australian democracy and Australian identity. The Battle of the Eureka Stockade was fought between miners and the Colonial forces of Australia on 3 December 1854 and named for the stockade structure erected by miners during the conflict. The stockade itself was a makeshift wooden barricade enclosing about an acre of the goldfields.

In contrast to the hastily constructed barricade, the stockade wall by k20 Architecture is designed to embrace the community and protect the building's program and playing field from the



prevailing winds and harsh western sun. The wall emerges from the landscape and is made up of equal proportions of grey ironbark, spotted gum and stringy bark. Its curvilinear form in plan is the starting point for the stadium which contains the grand stand with 500 seated capacity, conference and catering facility for 200 people, external viewing decks and players change rooms, media rooms, and sports administration facilities.

In addition to the distinct and rugged outline of the Stockade wall, the BRSF building is characterized by distinct sectional cuts to the North and South accentuated by bold black skeletal forms and flashes of red in the eaves, the team colours of the host team the Ballarat Red Devils. The entry to the building allows a visitor to see into the heart of the club with the clubs honour wall and function rooms visible via the double height glazed entry.

Additionally, the facility has been designed to enhance the spectator's experience and bring the viewer closer to the playing pitch. The coach's boxes are also designed to be


“The facility has been designed to enhance the spectator's experience and bring the viewer closer to the playing pitch.”



transparent with the grand stand elevated above the ground level to create a direct viewing line to the playing surface. The internal function rooms and catering facility also has important social and economic benefits to the club and broader community.

The facility is unique in that it has been designed specifically for the soccer community of regional Victoria. As a result, k20 Architecture was able to customize the design to emulate the experience of a world standard soccer stadium. This is illustrated in MK_ADM_12_Media Release Form/Marketing/Media Kit & PR the alignment of the primary player's race to the centre line of the

playing pitch, which enables players of all ages and standards to experience key aspects of playing on the "big stage".

Although it continues to evolve, with a master plan for future development still "in play", the completion of Stage One of the BRSF provides a world-class home for soccer in the region. This was highlighted by its selection from a pool of national sports facilities to host Bahrain's national soccer team in the 2015 Asian Cup. The building plays an important role in creating a link to the past with its Stockade wall whilst providing a valuable stimulus to the cultural, economic and social sustainability of the community. 



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