



May 11, 2009

Dear Parents,

I'm pleased to be able to share with you some concept plans that we have submitted for approval for the Building the Education Revolution. I have been in touch with the School Board who has recommended that we distribute the plans to our families so that you are aware of our initial ideas. My only concern is that these 'concept' plans are interpreted as our final designs. This is not the case and a lot of work needs to be done in order to progress these plans.

However, I'm really thrilled with the way that our architects have interpreted our educational brief, a document that sets out clearly that St. Monica's aims to be a 21st century school and provide our students, teachers and families with a contemporary, stimulating, learning environment. Our other goal is to minimise the impact of buildings on play space and to create larger recreational spaces. In part, our educational brief described our vision:

"We seek to re-conceptualise our current library/computer lab so that it becomes a focal aspect of the school. This could mean a whole new resource centre, more centrally located and also recognises that the computer lab is fast becoming an anachronism in a 21st century school.

This would allow us to redevelop the existing small library and computer room spaces in order to provide 3 learning spaces for the Early Years classes. The existing transportable and two older style classrooms (with asbestos eaves) would then be removed providing much needed extra play space for students. Our new facilities should have provision for lift access the first floor as well as the integrated Science/ Italian space which could be built into a mezzanine on the first floor of the Resource Centre. Learning areas should not stop at a door or window, but rather flow out into surrounding area, providing that supervision responsibilities are enabled. Each learning space will be equipped with wireless technology, pods of laptops accessible to students throughout the day.

As a staff we have an expectation that new facilities will lead to improved opportunities and learning outcomes and create an even more inclusive learning environment....."

Last Friday these plans were forwarded as part of complete submission to Catholic Education office for approval. On approval, we will then further develop these plans along with our designated builder (Chappell's) and hopefully commence the project this year. If we are accepted into this round of approvals, the project needs to be finished by January 2011.

The approval process from here is as below.

1. Peer review of Applications
2. Approval by Joint Building Education Revolution Committee
3. South Aust. Commission for Catholic Schools approval
4. Diocese Approval
5. Submit to Commonwealth Govt (DEEWR)
6. Coordinator General Planning Approval
7. Building Rules Approval
8. Approval advice sent to schools

I hope that the following plans give you an idea of our evolving building project ideas. As always, your feedback and thoughts will be most appreciated. Catch me in the yard, drop in, or email to info@stmonica.adl.catholic.edu.au.

These are indeed exciting times!

Faithfully
Greg

View looking from North East Road (Front) Gates



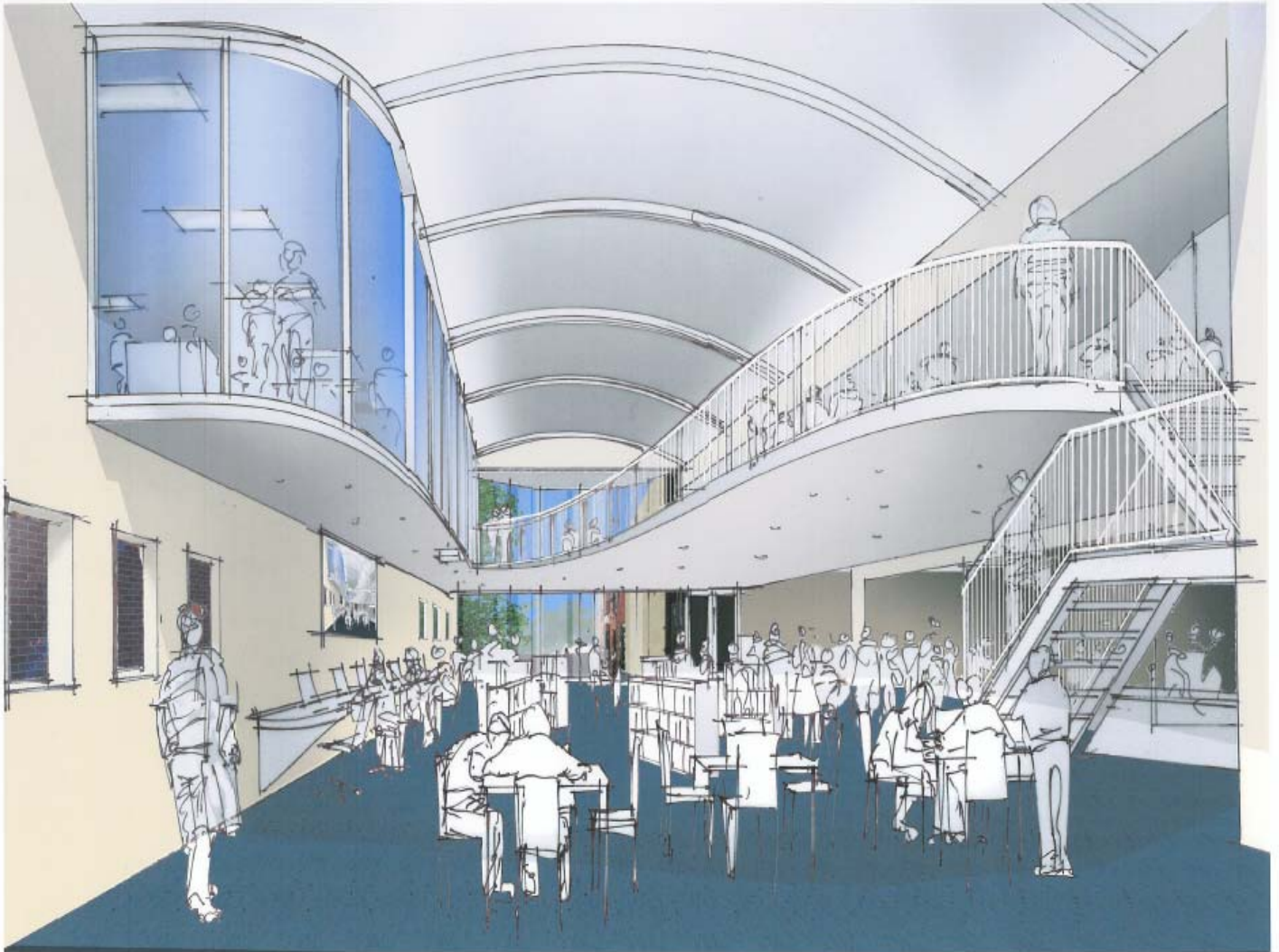
SAINT MONICA'S PARISH SCHOOL

PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY

Kirkbride Boyce Architects 

74 Fullarton Road, Norwood SA 5067

View from rear of Resource Centre looking towards North East Road

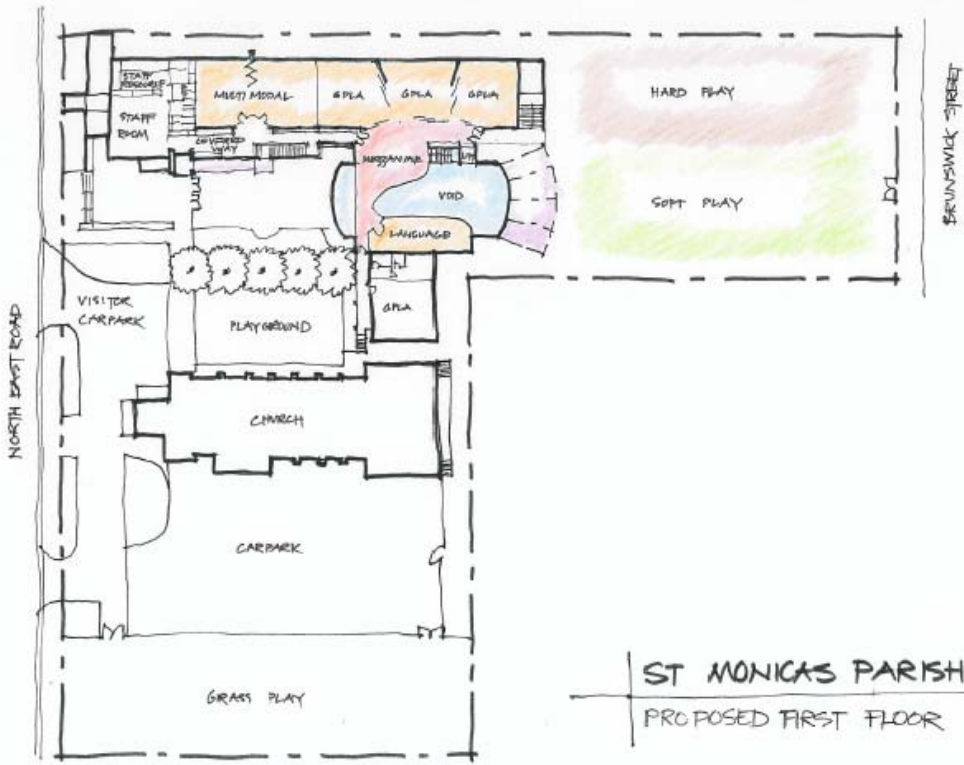


SAINT MONICA'S PARISH SCHOOL

PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY INTERIOR

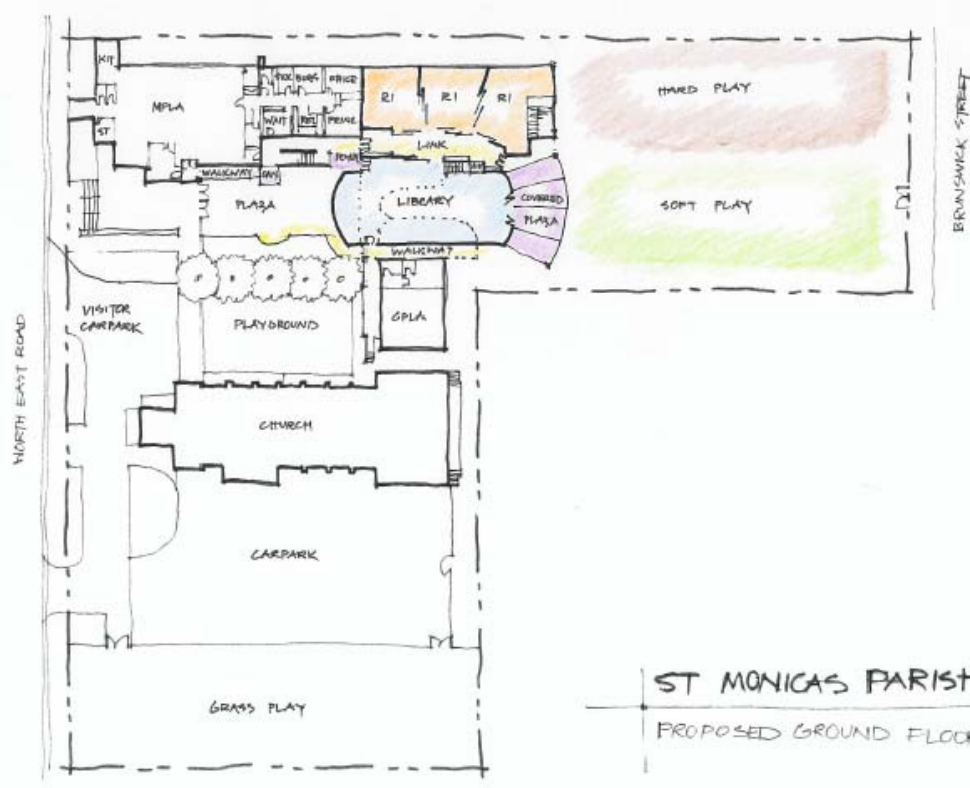
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ST MONICAS PARISH SCHOOL
 PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR 1:500

Kirkbride Boyce Architects
 74 Fullarton Road, Norwood SA 5067



ST MONICAS PARISH SCHOOL
 PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR 1:500

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