

Case Study

Universities & Education / Environmental Research



Wildbase & Administration Building Massey University



2018 Winner
Western
Architecture Award

Completion Date: 2017

Location: Palmerston North

Services: Specialist Laboratory Architect

Awards: NZIA Western Architecture Award
2018

As part of a wider proposed Veterinary Complex development the Wildbase and Administration Building is a new three level building that provides centralised facilities for the School of Veterinary Science administration staff and a new hospital and support spaces for the Wildbase group. The project was a joint venture with Studio Pacific Architecture and has created a clear public face for the school with a new main entry foyer and an internal street that links new and existing spaces.

The building provides a main reception, common room and office accommodation on the upper two floors for 170 people. The ground floor hospital is New Zealand's only dedicated wildlife hospital providing care and treatment of native wildlife including birds, reptiles and marine animals. The Wildbase Hospital has been designed to best-practice principles to allow for improved care of our native animals and totals 310m² of the 2,300m² building.





From the entry foyer a secure internal corridor runs through the centre of the hospital area. Spaces to care for animals include the main treatment room, wards, an intensive care unit, isolation room, surgery theatre, private patient treatment room, display ward, feed kitchen and laundry with supporting write-up and store rooms.

A natural work flow between spaces has been provided with external windows placed to suit room function for natural light and privacy. The rooms nearer to the entry lobby are able to be viewed by the public from outside while security doors restrict hospital access. The write-up hub is able to view up and down the corridor to monitor activity. Interior glazing enables vision between spaces, particularly to the surgery theatre to enhance learning opportunities. Throughout the hospital attention has been given to temperature control and acoustics so the animals are not stressed in the temporarily captive environment and that room functions and background services plant noise does not disrupt others.

The hospital is split into three cleaning zones with dedicated cleaning cupboards so that the surgery is not contaminated by other general areas and that the private patients consultation and treatment room can operate as a separate unit. Cleanable and durable surfaces are employed throughout, including using paints that are antimicrobial. Drains and mechanical air ventilation grilles have additional mesh covers to ensure any smaller, or flying, wildlife is not able to escape.

Specific solutions were provided to enable the Wildbase clinical functions to be successful in nurturing our native (or non-domestic) creatures.

