



Indigenous leadership central to design of new college

 The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) is excited to announce that its new National First Nations College (NFNC) will be designed by Greenaway Architects, Warren and Mahoney, and OCULUS.

Professor Robynne Quiggin, UTS Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement) said Indigenous voices were central to the entire design competition process, in keeping with the University's philosophy of Indigenous self-determination.

Accordingly, key elements of the design competition brief were prepared by an Indigenous Australian architect; each of the six shortlisted teams appointed an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander architect or suitably qualified designer as Cultural Design Lead who met with local Indigenous knowledge holders for an on-site Welcome Ceremony and an opportunity share to local cultural knowledge.

"The College aims to create an

environment where students – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – can thrive and celebrate Indigenous identity and culture, while setting a new benchmark for excellence in Indigenous education and research," Professor Quiggin said.

Cultural Design Lead of the winning team, Jefa Greenaway of Greenaway Architects, a descendant of the Wailwan and Kamilaroi peoples of northwest NSW, said the College will become a global exemplar of how we think about a college specifically aligned to the needs of First Nations people.

"We're building on the deep legacy of Indigenous knowledge in order to come up with a new model of what a First Nations college is in the 21st century," said Mr Greenaway.

"We've sought to really infuse the legacy and history of Indigenous people, trailblazers, warriors who have come before, so we're not starting from a clean slate. We're acknowledging not only the deeper history, but also the more recent histories

around Aboriginal activism and the College's proximity to places like Redfern, which were very much an incubator for Indigenous activism and civil rights," he said.

The National First Nations College will be built on Gadigal land at Harris Street, Ultimo.

As well as being home to students, the building will showcase contemporary Indigenous art, film, performance and storytelling, and strongly acknowledge Traditional Custodians and local communities.

Intended inclusions:

- Accommodation for 250+ students with a mixture of units
- Internal community spaces and neighbourhood amenities
- The Arts Centre, including public arts and performance spaces
- Precinct heart to accommodate informal gatherings, cultural events and smoking ceremonies
- Student art studio, media and music room
- Multi-purpose room, quiet study



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areas, meeting rooms, offices and student support spaces

- Communal kitchens and dining
- Extensive native gardens and landscape features.

Architectural Design Lead, Simon Topliss of Warren and Mahoney, said:

"We are privileged to be working on this project, which brings Traditional Custodian insight to the forefront through a bold and contextual design response.

The design expresses Indigenous culture through its form and

function, and supports a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island leaders to build culture, community and pride," said Mr Topliss.

Bob Earl, from OCULUS, has been selected as Landscape Design Lead.

"Our team's deep collaboration was always embedded in Country and committed to a people focused approach setting out to enrich the student experience and celebrate the power of Country in a contemporary urban context," said Mr Earl.



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