

DESIGNING SPACES FOR LEARNING

ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPLANNING

Iona Presentation College, WA
2016-2018

NoTosh Team:
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Perth's Iona Presentation College partnered with NoTosh to set it on course for a powerful transition in the way it envisions teaching and learning, the role that its school community plays in designing the future of learning, and just how significant iterative changes in their physical learning space can be. All of this has led to the development of a Masterplan for space design that genuinely reflects what's possible in this school's next 20 years.

We helped senior leadership at Iona Presentation College to form an in-house team of learning and design leaders, who have immersed themselves in challenging "the way things have always been" at this highly reputed local school. NoTosh curated a set of powerful experiences, working side-by-side with the school's teachers and architectural practice EIW.

We focussed on a range of learning contexts and questioned everything about the way students experienced them, and the spaces in which the action happens. Music rooms, libraries, science labs, the cafeteria, humanities, maths, and business classrooms: every area of the curriculum, space and teaching methodology was explored through new lenses.

Individuals had to adapt not only their own mindset, but also had to set about challenging and changing the entire school community's understanding of what might be next practice in teaching and learning.

The close relationship between educators and students at the school made it possible for leaders and staff to work together to gather a range of data to inform their ideas, conduct interviews and push one another to reach the next level in thinking, offering provocations and helpful feedback as ideas began to emerge. By immersing themselves into a deeper understanding of their current strengths, demands and obstacles through the NoTosh Design Thinking process, the group began to prototype and quickly test what great teaching and learning could mean for them, and the spaces needed for that.



Throughout the design thinking process, our partnership with architect EIW made a noticeable difference to the insights and understanding gained for the formal masterplan, that will shape physical environments at the school for decades to come.

While most schools ask for an architect when they think they've already worked out the spaces they need, but having EIW intently follow and contribute to the journey at Iona College has nurtured different perspectives to those one might have expected. The ability to incorporate a clear and early vision of learning has created a more solid understanding of what is truly needed within the space. It has also made visible the purposeful changes needed to see great teaching and learning emerge before concrete is poured and ribbons are cut.

The majority of face-to-face work took place on site at the school, with a pivotal away-day at Curtin University. NoTosh's facilitation provided an opportunity to work outside the constraints of familiar classroom walls, find new inspirations and freedom in thinking by engaging with a new and unknown space. The Iona team saw their progress, development and ideas in a new light, and the day instilled a new wave of momentum to bring about the changes they had been working on.

Loaded with the key next versions of their prototypes, the team at Iona Presentation College are well on their way to implementing change across the school, developing new and useful spaces for learning and creativity, and most of all continuing to provide their students with the tools and space to grasp every opportunity given to them.

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Let's start talking.
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