

**POWERHOUSE ULTIMO RENEWAL
DESIGN**

FEBRUARY 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

Infrastructure NSW and the Powerhouse pay respect to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which Powerhouse Ultimo stands.

We recognise their continuous connection to this place. We honour the clans, nations, families that have always been connected to this Site, and respect the diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that now call this place home. We recognise Aboriginal connections to this place as a cultural continuum -resilient, resistant, and responsive to emerging and receding industries. This has always been a place of story, ceremony and gathering, it is our responsibility that this continues to be a place for the broader community and reflects their stories.

An Acknowledgement of Country is a responsibility, behaviour, and action. The Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal is intended to be an Acknowledgement of Country in practice.

The Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal will reinvigorate one of Australia's most revered museums

It will deliver new and refurbished exhibition spaces and expanded public domain, connecting Powerhouse Ultimo to the Sydney CBD, The Goods Line and adjacent cultural precincts.

The renewed Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo will continue to deliver an applied sciences and applied arts program, presenting exhibitions that showcase the Powerhouse collection, international exclusive exhibitions, and programs that support the applied arts, applied sciences and creative industries.

Powerhouse Ultimo will be a precinct that actively contributes to the night-time and visitor economies through the delivery of a world-class museum.

The winning design was selected in December 2022, following a national Design Competition. Detailed planning for this design is now underway.

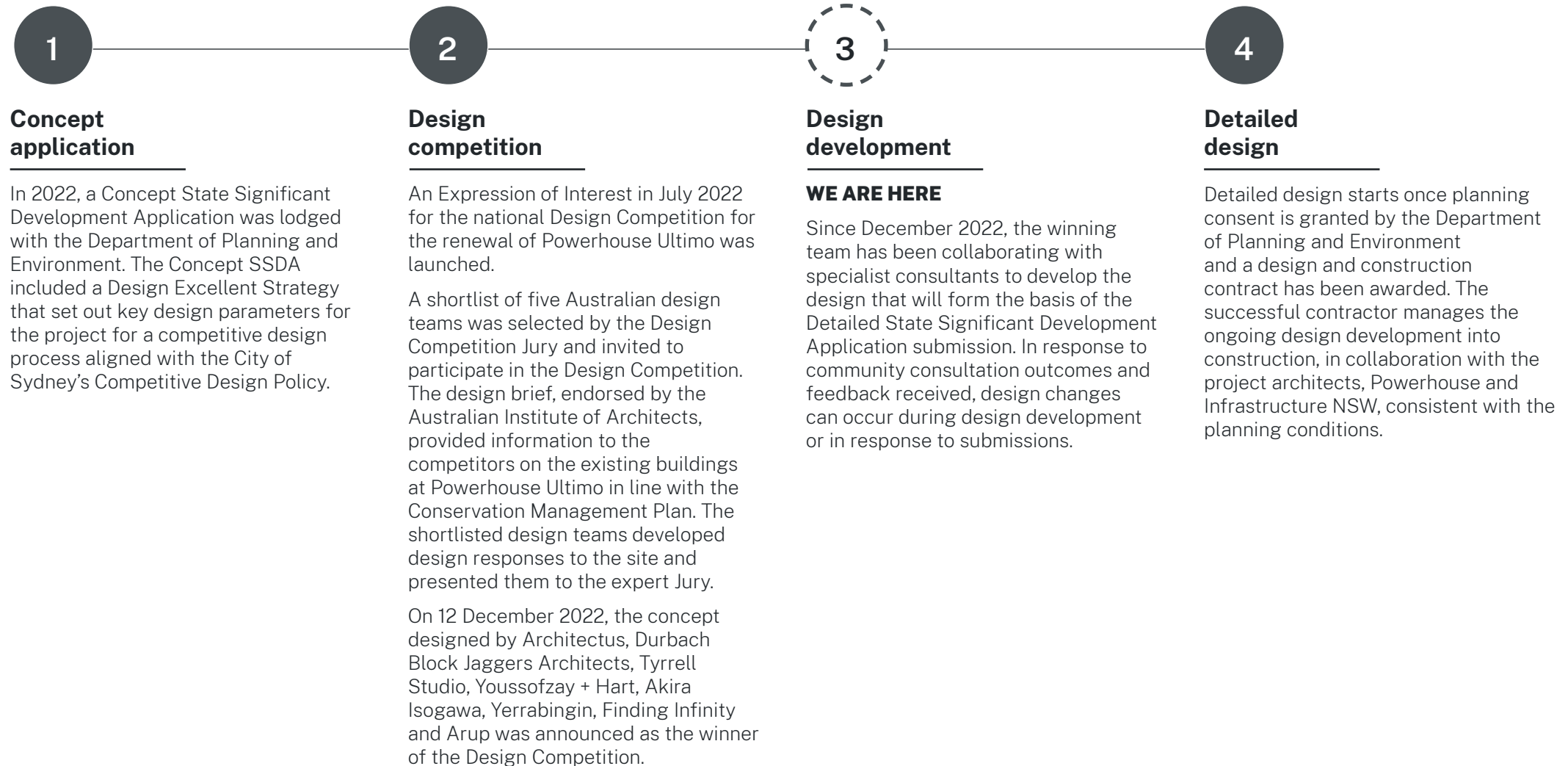
This factsheet explores the design of the Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal.



Design process

Design development for the renewal of Powerhouse Ultimo is an iterative process and will continue to be detailed and refined into the construction phase.

The stages of the design process are:



Architecture

This design is an exemplar of adaptive heritage reuse which will deliver new and expanded spaces enabling the Powerhouse to present more exhibitions showcasing the museum's significant collection, as well as more international exclusive exhibitions and programs that support the applied sciences, applied arts and creative industries.

The winning scheme presents a distinct museum experience—unlocking the precinct with intuitive circulation, the addition of new exhibition spaces alongside the immense scale of the heritage Boiler House and Turbine Hall, and a new public square at The Goods Line.

The design includes a new building on Harris Street creating a precinct that presents an assembly of buildings, each representing a similar use of materials, respective of heritage and the standards of an internationally recognised museum of applied arts and applied sciences.



Competition jury

Wendy Lewin LFRAIA, Chair

Alison Page, Associate Dean
Faculty of Design, Architecture and
Building, UTS

Annette Pitman, Chief Executive
Create NSW

Lisa Havilah, Chief Executive
Powerhouse

Abbie Galvin LFRAIA, NSW
Government Architect

Peter Poulet LFRAIA, Central
District Commissioner, Greater
Sydney Cities Commission

Jury recommendation

Following a two-stage national design competition, the Powerhouse Ultimo Design Competition Jury selected the design team of Architectus, Durbach Block Jagers Architects, Tyrrell Studio, Youssofzay + Hart, Akira Isogawa and Yerrabingin as the Design Competition Winner.



Jury statement

The winning scheme is underpinned by a compelling and coherent vision for the renewal of the Powerhouse Ultimo site and the broader precinct. The design approach centres on making subtle moves appropriate to the site – at times via gentle intervention and repair, at others through ambitious moves that enable the site to be ‘unlocked’ to provide a distinctive and highly functional museum experience. The proposal supports the Powerhouse vision of generous public connectivity and access through and within the site, and its materiality and scale respond sensitively to the surrounding Ultimo context.

Designing and connecting with Country strongly informed the conceptual development of the project and is meaningfully embedded in all aspects of the architectural, functional, landscape and urban response. This proposal composes a family of strong masonry buildings which, through the exploration of form and detail over time, reflect and respect the heritage, ethos and future of this innovative institution.

Project objectives

Key objectives of the project include:

- Deliver an international standard museum that is complementary to Powerhouse Parramatta, Powerhouse Castle Hill, and Sydney Observatory.
- Provide new and refurbished international standard spaces for museum exhibitions, programs, operations and associated industry and creative uses.
- Integrate a vibrant creative industries precinct that connects with its surrounds and responds to the changing urban environment.
- Deliver a precinct that contributes to the NSW visitor and night-time economies.
- Enable and support the development of the NSW creative industries and improve productivity through sustainable, flexible, and affordable infrastructure that supports colocation and collaboration.
- Provide a connected and integrated interface with surrounding precinct developments, including The Goods Line, Darling Square and Tech Central.

Design team

Durbach Block Jagers Architects are proven design innovators and authors of some of our country's most remarkable buildings.

Architectus brings the best experience and attitude together to design and deliver Australia's most complex precincts and cultural projects.

Tyrrell Studio guides an urban design and landscape architectural response informed by the precinct and by place.

Youssofzay + Hart use their philosophy of creating equitable, accessible and enjoyable spaces for all.

Akira Isogawa is a leading Australian designer and collaborator.

Yerrabingin is coach, advisor and collaborator, embedding approaches to Designing With Country.

Finding Infinity pushes the sustainability agenda to achieve world-leading results.

Arup Venues provide specialist arts and culture design expertise and experience.





Site location

The project is located within the site of the existing Powerhouse Museum, at 500 Harris Street, Ultimo. The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) and winning design concept includes heritage listed buildings Ultimo Power House and the former Post Office, however does not include the Touring Hall (Wran Building).



Close to existing and planned local pedestrian, active transport, public transport and road networks

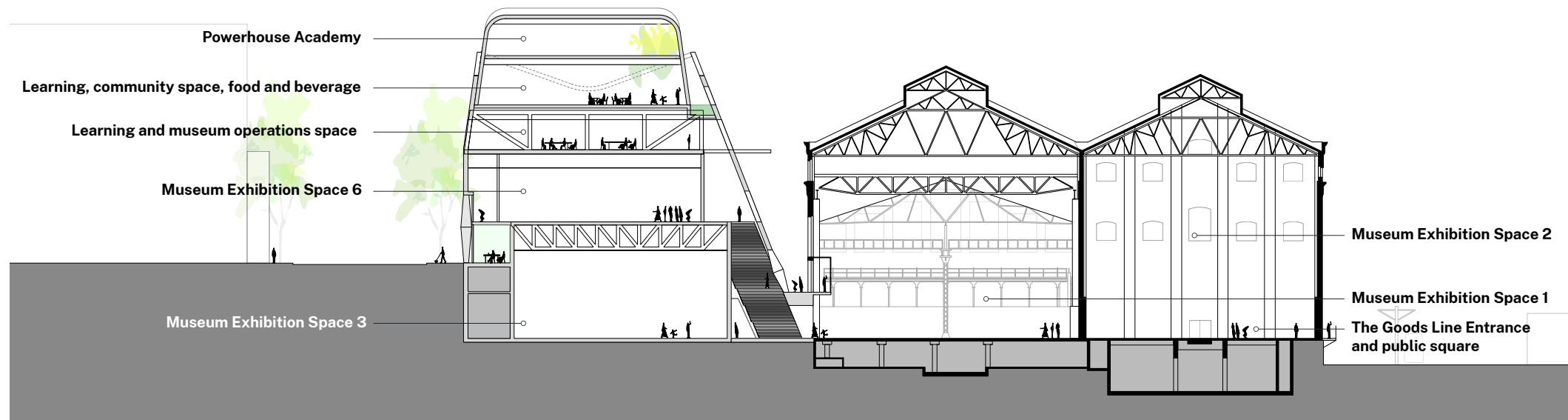
Reorienting to The Goods Line will connect Powerhouse to UTS, the Sydney CBD, and adjacent cultural precincts

Interface between Ultimo, Pyrmont, Haymarket and Darling Harbour

Museum space

Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal will provide over 17,000sqm of exhibition and public space. It will be a dynamic porous and connected precinct that is responsive to the changing city around it. Powerhouse Ultimo will have reimagined existing spaces with complementary new built form and public domain. It will include:

- Exhibition spaces
- Public spaces
- Learning and community spaces
- Museum operational spaces



Design features

The detailed State Significant Development Application seeks approval for:

- Six museum exhibition spaces that will present a changing applied arts and applied sciences program featuring the Powerhouse Collection
- Exhibition spaces will include existing heritage spaces (Boiler House and Turbine Hall) and new museum exhibition spaces
- A new international standard exhibition space for major exhibitions, supporting the NSW visitor economy
- Removal of the Touring Hall (Wran Building)
- Approximately 1,500sqm of learning and community space
- A 1,000 sqm auditorium for the presentation of Powerhouse education programs
- 5,000 sqm of public domain for museum programming, community use and civic events
- New rooftop spaces above the existing Switch House and new building fronting Harris Street for museum programming and community use
- Reorientation of the Powerhouse entrance to The Goods Line
- Activated frontage to Harris Street with the Powerhouse Library and Archive, and Creative Industries tenancies
- Powerhouse Academy providing on site accommodation for regional NSW students to participate in immersive learning programs
- The design centralises the circulation to create a cohesive museum experience
- 2,000 sqm of creative industries space
- Retail, food and beverage spaces.

Level 07

Academy

Level 06

Learning, community spaces and rooftop gardens

Level 05

Staff offices and roof garden

Level 04

Auditorium
Museum Exhibition Space 6

Level 03

Museum Exhibition Space 5
Harris Street Courtyard

Level 02

Museum Exhibition Space 4
Research Archive and Library and Education space

Level 01

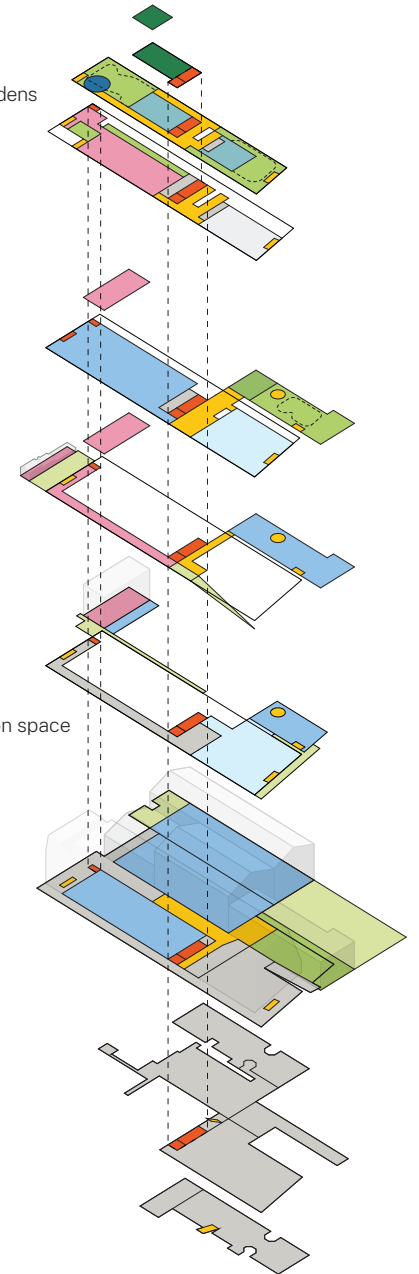
Public Realm
Museum Exhibition Spaces 1, 2 & 3
Concierge
Retail
Loading

Level B1

Basement

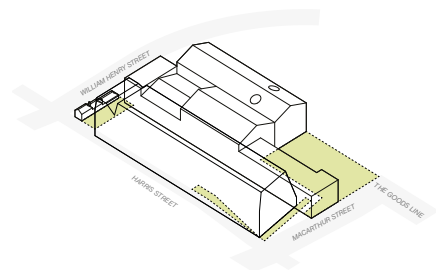
Level B2

Basement

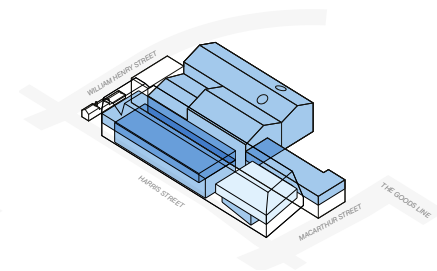


Design features

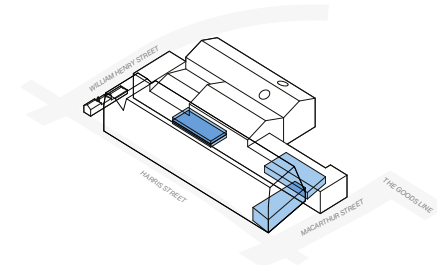
Museum/Precinct entry points



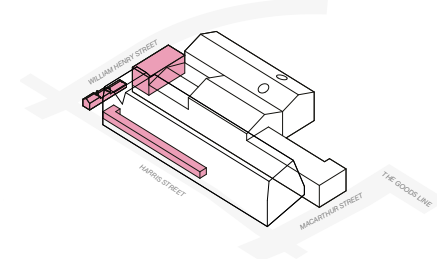
Presentation and auditorium



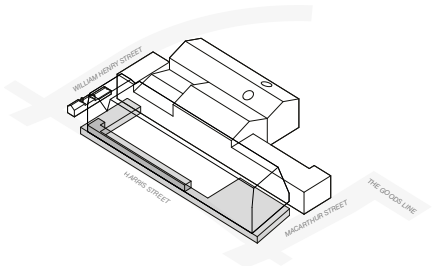
The Academy, education and learning



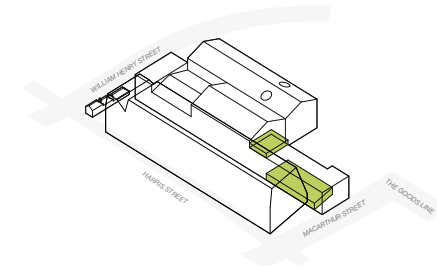
Creative industries



Back of house



Concierge, food and beverage

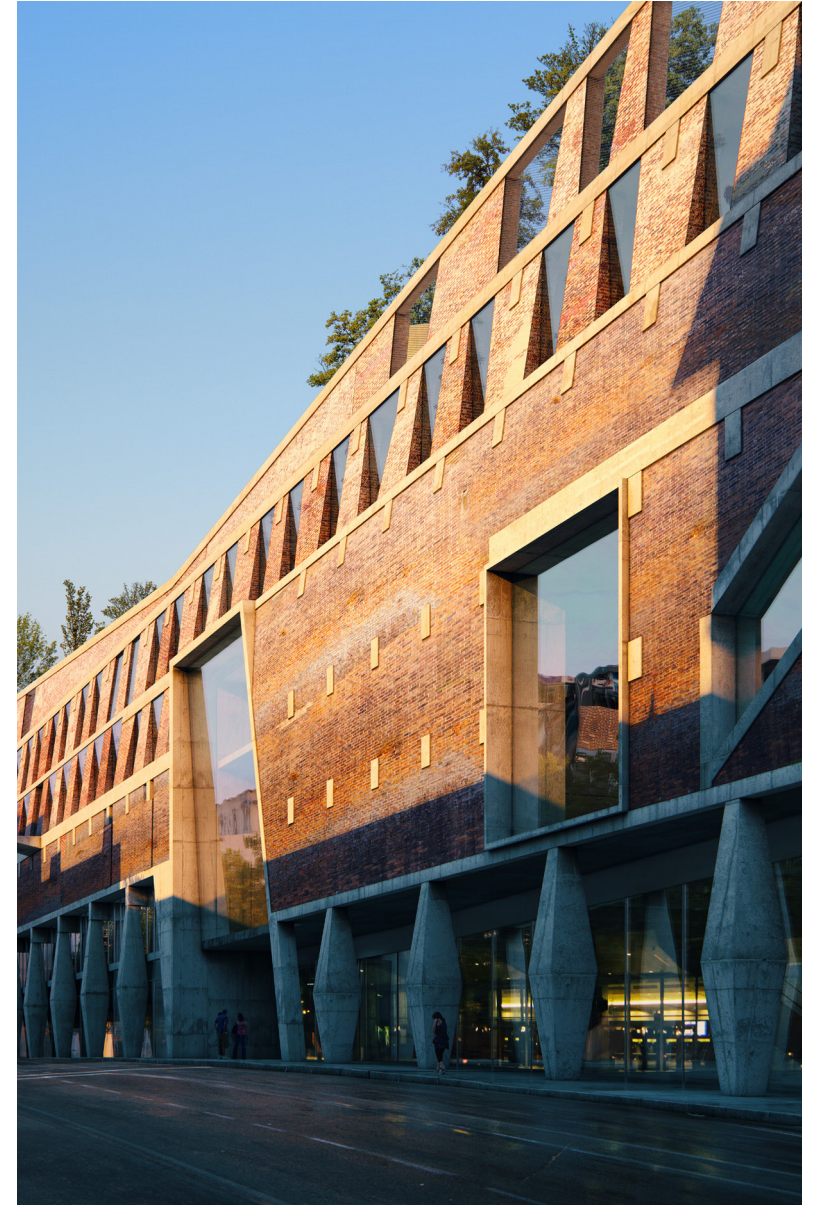


Public spaces

Powerhouse Academy

The new Powerhouse Academy in Ultimo will provide unprecedented access for NSW students to Powerhouse Museum learning and industry programs. Over 10,000 NSW students each year will participate in the Academy program which will provide on-site accommodation to support immersive programs that connect young people with leaders across design and creative industries. This program will be developed in partnership with the Museum's Foundation University Partner – the University of Technology Sydney and the NSW Department of Education.

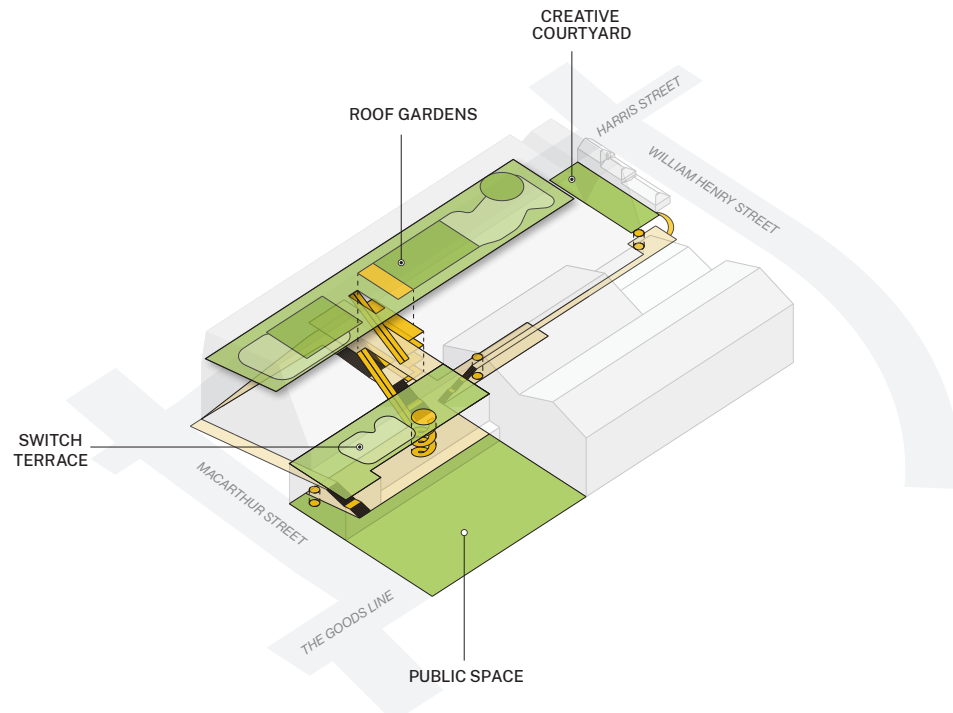
Through these partnerships the Academy will create new pathways for young people into the design and creative industries by providing direct access to industry and tertiary leaders, demonstrating the opportunities that a career in this sector provides.



Public spaces

Rooftop terraces

New and publicly accessible rooftop terraces.



Creative industry spaces

Spaces for the creative industries are embedded throughout the museum and will be located both in the new building and the existing heritage listed North Annex.

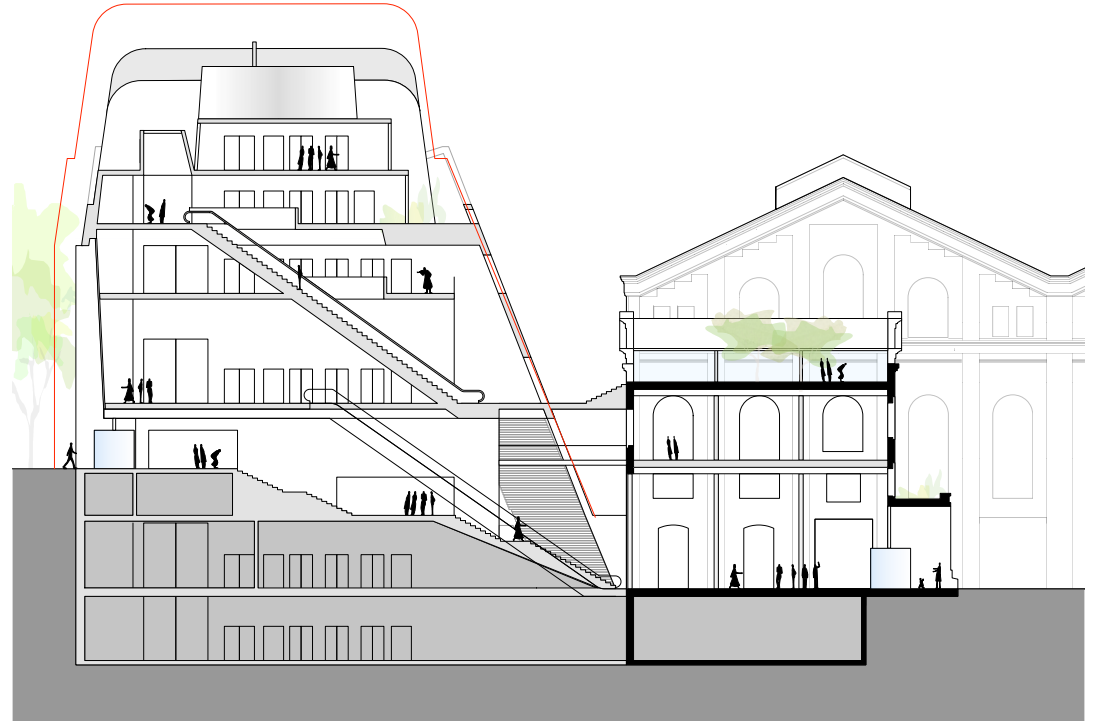


Luke Sales and Anna Plunkett of Romance Was Born, Powerhouse NSW Creative Industries Residents. Image: Daniel Boud

Public spaces

The Goods Line

A new entrance to the museum and public space at the northern end of The Goods Line, creating a major new public square.

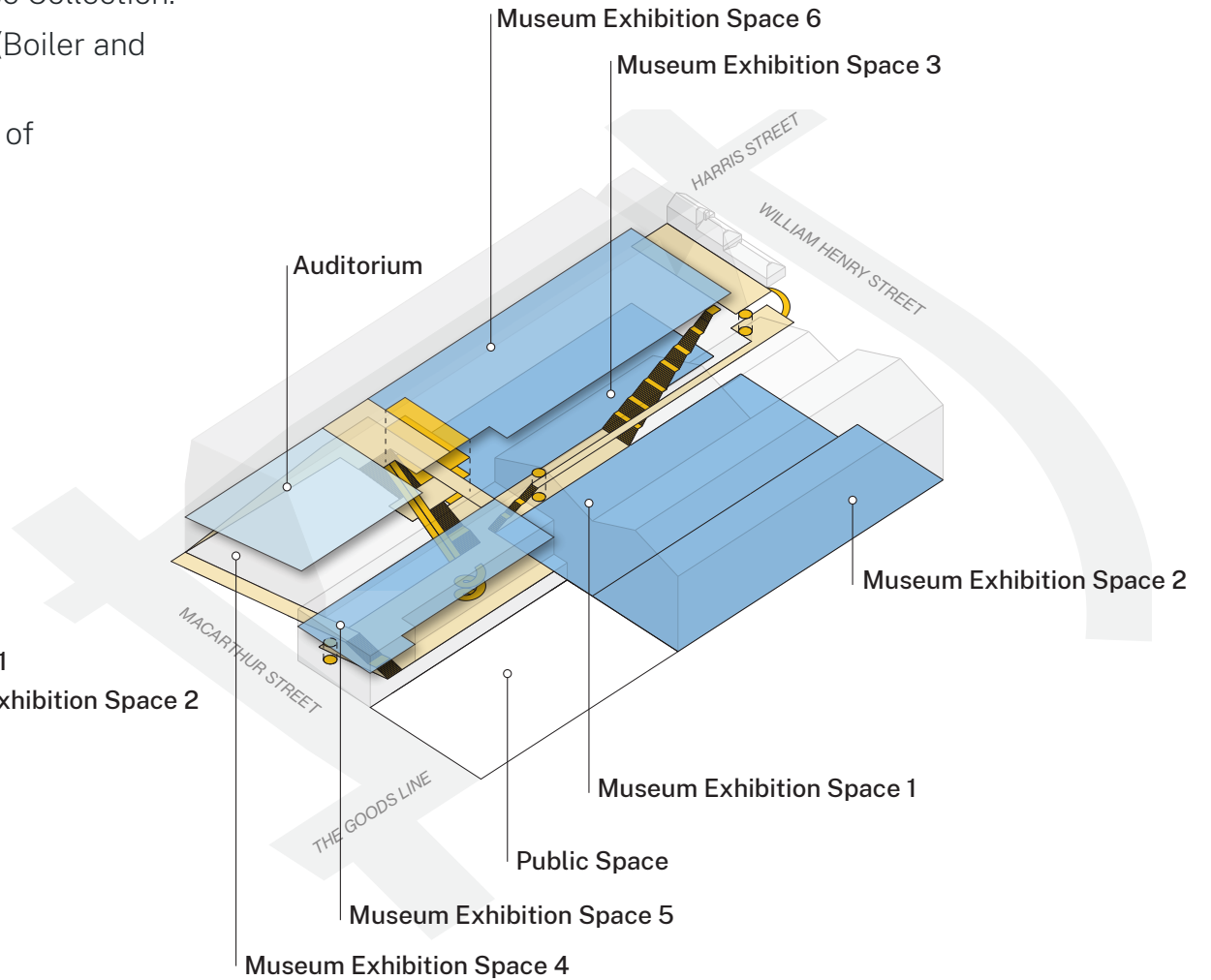
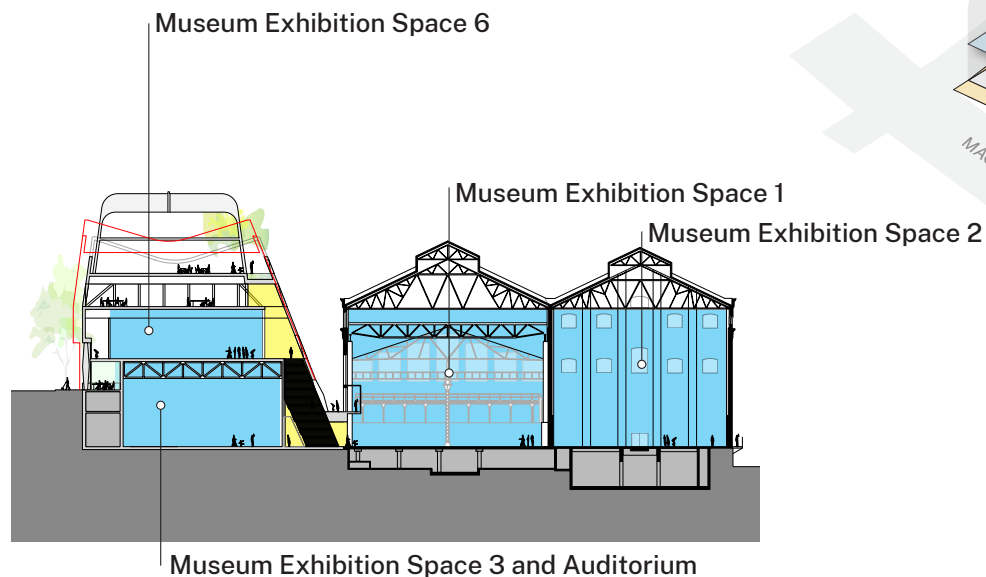


Exhibition spaces

Six museum exhibition spaces will present a changing applied arts and applied sciences program featuring the Powerhouse Collection.

Exhibition spaces will include existing heritage spaces (Boiler and Turbine) and new museum exhibition spaces.

A new auditorium will also be used for the presentation of Powerhouse programs.

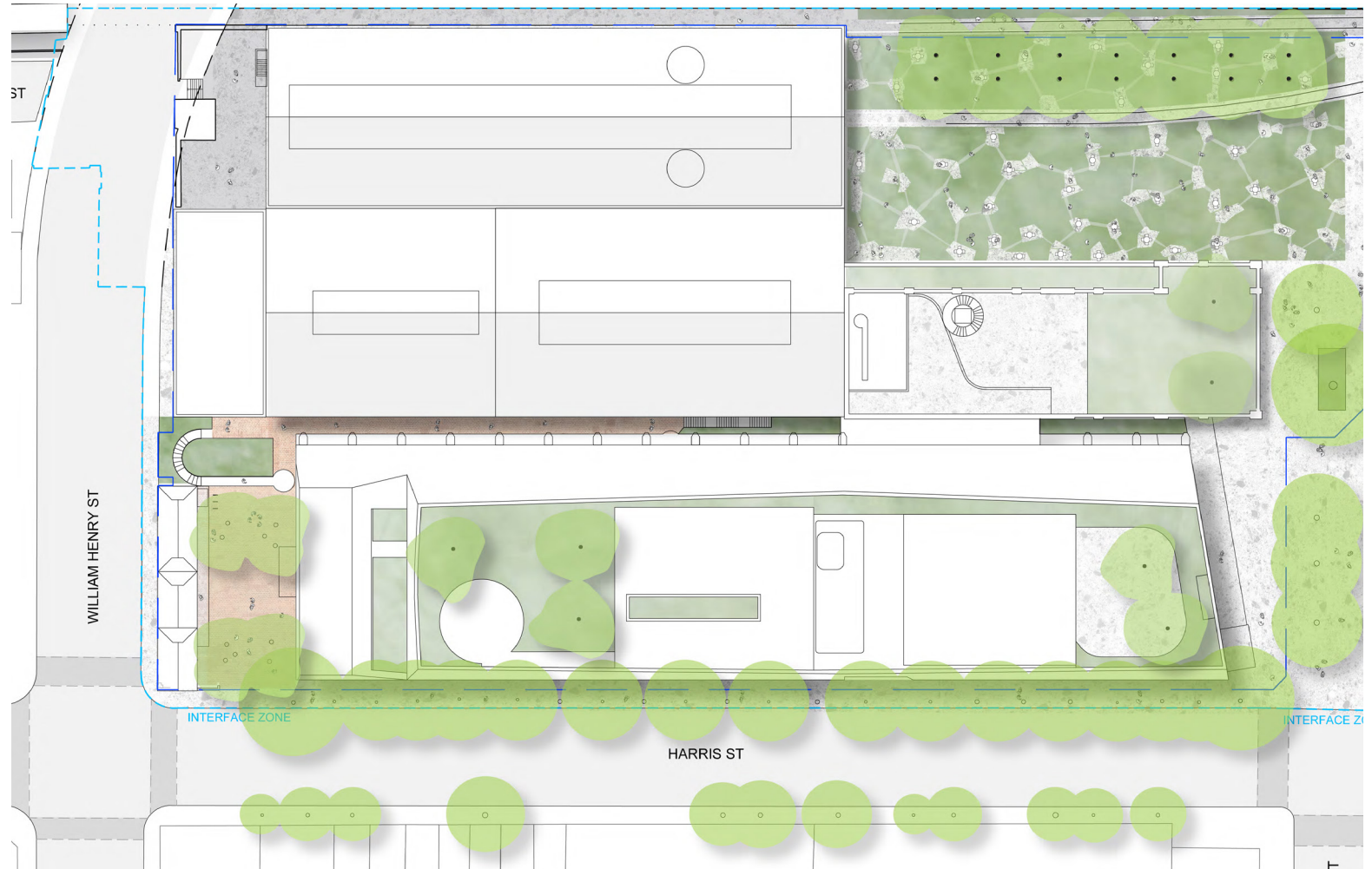


Landscape design

The public realm concept includes a new major public square at the northern end of The Goods Line. This space is landscaped with a mix of open grassland framed by the heritage buildings and a grove of Angongera trees.

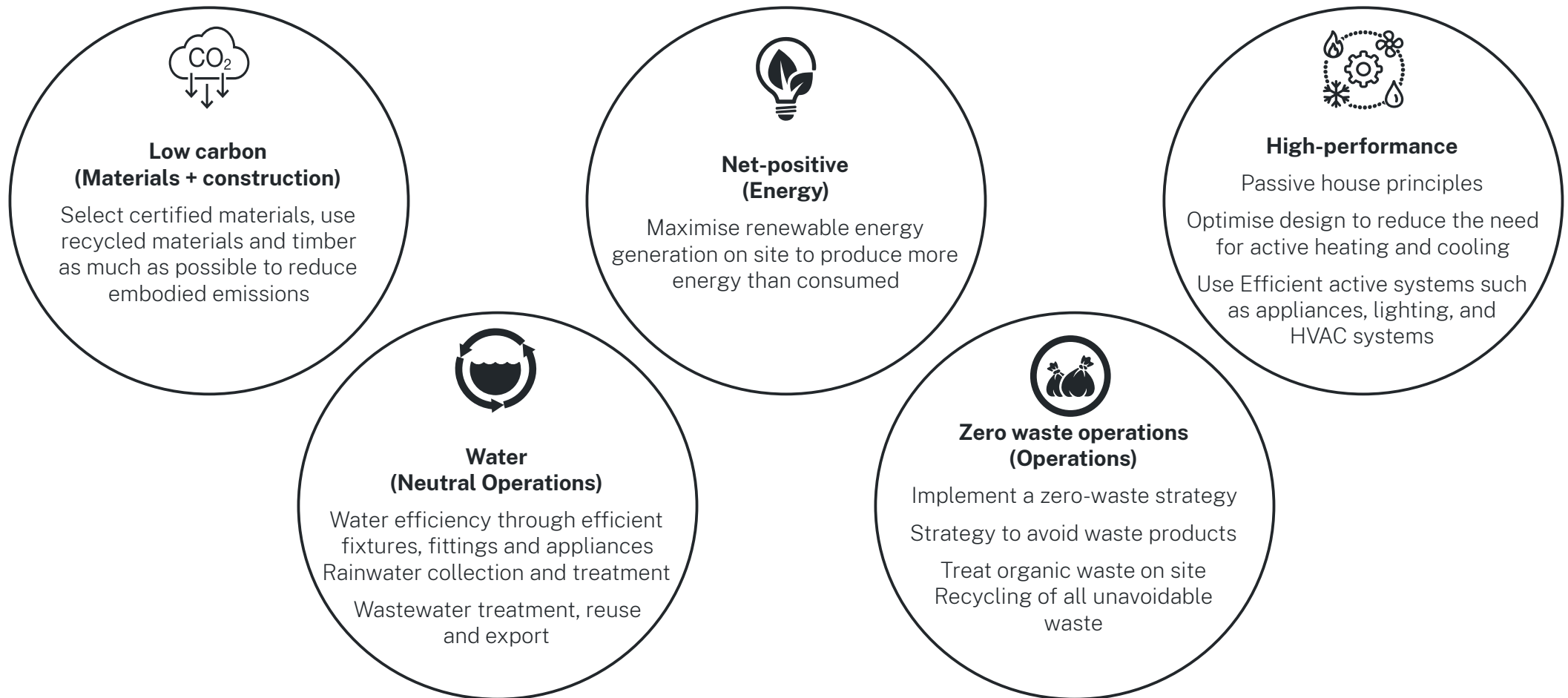
The space will accommodate a range of Powerhouse programs and events whilst also offering a place to gather and relax.

Another significant addition to the public realm is the Creative Courtyard, fronting Harris Street between the new built form and the Post Office. This courtyard will offer a place of respite whilst also serving as a space that can be used for smaller events and gatherings.



Sustainability

Part of Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal's sustainability approach is guided by targeting a minimum 5 Star Green Star rating with an aspiration to achieve a 6 star rating. This will be achieved by:



An Environmentally Sustainable Design Strategy has been developed for the project to realise these aspirations and includes ongoing consultation with Green Building Council of Australia.

