

“We could never have completed such a project in such a short time without the full cooperation and assistance that we received from Wilkore,” said the Project Manager from the City of Whittlesea, Aaron Cowan.

The City of Whittlesea contracted Wilkore to construct the Laurimar Community and Activity Centre. The distinctive multi-functional facility is home to a kindergarten, office space, two maternal health centres, counselor consultation rooms, a dance studio and meeting areas for community use. The aesthetics of the building are nothing less than striking, which in conjunction with the seamlessly integrated sustainable design elements, make this building a great example of where form meets function.

The building has a built-in weather station that controls automated louvres. During summer when the outside temperature drops below a certain point, the louvres will open to allow cool air into the main foyer area which has been partially constructed using thermal mass bricks that retain the cold and act as a passive form of cooling. In winter these bricks will do the opposite, retaining the heat to keep warmth in the building. The building has multiple water tanks and catchment areas. Even the kindergarten students have two small external water tanks for their water play. Incorporating the various ESD features required Wilkore to be adaptable and careful in their planning.

Wilkore worked very closely with Croxon Ramsay and the City of Whittlesea to ensure that the design complemented the building features. Wilkore constructed all parts of the building, from the maternal health nurse facilities with built-in measuring tables, to the installation of the automated louvres, and the earthworks for the multi-textured outdoor play area. The time frame for delivery of this project was tight from the offset with a fixed deadline of the beginning of the 2011 school year, just six months after construction started in August 2010. This deadline was seriously threatened by one of the wettest spring and summer seasons on record, with six weeks of rain. But thanks to Wilkore’s experience and organisation, they were able to bring the project back onto schedule.

CLIENT

City of Whittlesea

PROJECT VALUE

\$5.4M

COMPLETION DATE

April 2011

LOCATION

Laurimar, VIC

PROJECT MANAGER

Rob Birchall

SITE MANAGER

Brett Jackson

REFEREE

Aaron Cowan, City of Whittlesea

