

CHANGES ON campus

With the campus master plan well underway, new construction and major refurbishment projects are reshaping the University before our eyes.

Words Rachel Sullivan
Images Chris Stacey

THE LATEST LARGE-SCALE PROJECT WILL SEE BUILDING NAMES AND ROADS RENAMED, NEW SIGNAGE INSTALLED AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, BUILDINGS WILL HAVE A STREET ADDRESS, WITH ROADS AND AVENUES NAMED ACCORDINGLY.

Several former Macquarie students recently returned to their old stomping ground and were amazed by some of the changes that have taken place since they graduated.

Amanda Dodds (née Leverett, B Media, 2006), says she has been amazed by the transformation of the old library into MUSE – short for Macquarie University Spatial Experience.

“The old library had that classic musty smell you associate with old books, and the layout and style of the study desks made it a bit dark and pokey,” she says.

“Even though it’s the same building, MUSE has a completely different vibe – much lighter and brighter, and with so much more life.

“Despite its total makeover, it still pays homage to its past, with some of the old desks incorporated into the design, the old book return chutes still visible from outside, the stained glass windows and of course Jack the Dinosaur in his glass case in the entry foyer.”

Amanda also remembers the old film studios at Building F9C, which now houses the engineering labs.

“Before the days of Building Y3A with its state-of-the-art facilities, we would



Amanda Dodds

David Han

be filming and have to wait for the noise from trucks and planes and even people talking outside to die down so we could continue shooting.

“While F9C hasn’t changed much on the outside, the grassy area across the road where we used to sit to have lunch certainly has: it’s now the Macquarie University Hospital.”

She says the food court also offers a much better choice of food these days.

“Although I do fondly remember the make-your-own sandwich bar, where you had to pay by weight. It probably wasn’t very hygienic, but it was great value for struggling students.

“The old SAM Bar has also been made over as the UBar, but it still feels pretty familiar on the inside, and has the weird murals behind the pool tables.

“Outside, the old metal chairs have been replaced with undercover spaces, wooden benches and spaces with

cushions. There’s also lawn furniture and some artificial grass where students play lawn bowls on Fridays.”

David Han finished his degree in finance and actuarial studies only two years ago, but he says already a lot has changed.

“There have been a lot of renovations, including most of the lecture theatres I used to use – Macquarie Theatre, C5C, and Theatres 2 to 5 in E7B.


“All of the tired, old wooden tables and chairs have now been replaced by contemporary seating, better lights and better audio visual systems.

“Back when I started, lectures weren’t recorded, so you actually had to go them,” David says. “Now they’re all recorded and you can even see where the mouse is pointing on a Powerpoint presentation.

“It makes it so much easier to study or to review things you might not have understood.”

David agrees that with the coming of MUSE and all of the other changes around campus, it feels much livelier.

“The physical change has led to other changes as well,” he says. When I first came here the buildings all seemed to be made of grey, old concrete and had a really tired feel.

“Now there’s lots of colour everywhere, and heaps of variety. At MUSE you can sit on a chair, a bench, the floor or a beanbag to study. It all feels much more dynamic.” 



SPACES TO RELAX

Shaded by the original grove of trees, new seats bring a vibrant splash of colour to the central courtyard.



LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE

The new library is a dynamic place for students to study, with books now retrieved by high-tech robotic cranes from the University's vast collection.



**WORLD-CLASS HOSPITAL,
WORLD-CLASS RESEARCHERS**

Researchers from the new Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences collaborate with the hospital to ensure research discoveries translate more easily to improve patient outcomes.



NEW LOOK FOR E7A

When renovations are complete, Building E7A will be home to four departments from the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

The Macquarie University Alumni Relations Office can give alumni a guided tour of the campus.
E: alumni@mq.edu.au



CALMING THE TRAFFIC

The re-routed road from the Herring Road entrance has reduced traffic entering the University and made the campus more pedestrian friendly.



GOING STRONG

With a new look and feel, Marxines is still one of the best places to catch up on campus.



MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON HEARING LOSS

The world-class Australian Hearing Hub continues to attract leading researchers as well as alumni who benefit from the many services on offer.



MUSE, MACQUARIE'S SOCIAL LEARNING SPACE

The days of hutch-like study desks are a distant memory at MUSE, where students can study while seated on a chair, the floor or even a beanbag.