UTS Central

Project commenced 2016

On schedule and on budget for mid-2019 construction completion

UTS Central will create a vibrant student hub in the heart of campus, while adding to the diverse array of teaching, learning and research facilities located at the university's Broadway precinct.

The state-of-the-art glass-encased podium and tower – 17 storeys in all – will give the UTS campus another iconic landmark building while contributing significantly to the amenity of the streetscape along the southern gateway to Sydney's CBD.

Building Snapshot

Gross floor area: 47,000m²

17 floors (including plant) made up of two underground floors, a five-level podium and 10-level tower

Location: Corner of Broadway and Jones Street, Ultimo

Architect: FJMT in association with Lacoste+Stevenson and DJRD

Main works contractor: Richard Crookes Constructions

Sustainability rating: Targeting a 5 Star Green Star Design and As-Built rating certified by the Green Building Council of Australia

Building use: UTS Central will be a new student hub, home to the Library, Reading Room, student centre, food court, informal learning commons and a range of teaching spaces, including a Super Lab and three large collaborative theatres. It will also accommodate the Faculty of Law and research facilities for the Faculty of Engineering and IT.

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Key features: Design

Glass facade: Two separate subcontractors with specialist expertise are producing and installing the striking glass façade. Australian company G James is completing the podium façade, which includes approximately 1100 panels made from 40 different glass types. International facade engineering company Permasteelisa Group is completing the tower closed cavity façade. The company has worked on many renowned international projects, including producing the glass curtain wall on the harbour side of the Sydney Opera House sails.

A twisted tower: Sitting above the 5-level podium is a 10-level tower with a distinctive 'twist'. The building design means that no two floor plans are the same. The tower will accommodate a variety of work and research spaces, including the offices of the Faculty of Law and research facilities for the Faculty of Engineering and IT.

Double helix staircase: An intertwining double helix staircase made from Australian steel and curved glass connects levels 4 to 7. The double ribbon spiral is not only an impressive design feature, but also a reminder of how breakthroughs in science and technology have transformed our world.

The double helix stair

Key features: Learning & Teaching

Library and Reading Room: The Library and Reading Room will span levels 5 to 10. There will be a direct connection to the high-tech Library Retrieval System concealed below Alumni Green, via a dedicated book lift to service the library spaces above. The Reading Room fronts onto Alumni Green and features a dramatic triple-height space topped with a large skylight, creating a light-filled location for quiet work and reading.

The Reading Room

Collaborative theatres: Three state-of-the-art collaborative theatres incorporate innovative design features that facilitate collaborative learning and teaching. Multiple presenter spaces and adaptable furniture will enhance opportunities for active student participation. Flexible data screens will allow split display feeds for group work, as well as whole-of-class presentations. The two largest theatres will hold up to 350 students, while a third will accommodate 198 students.

Hive Super Lab: Housed below ground on level 1, a new Super Lab designed to a PC2-standard will accommodate up to 270 students, with specialist audio-visual facilities allowing seven classes to run simultaneously. The Hive Super Lab, named for its hexagonal design features and buzzing environment, will be a practical, collaborative space, enabling students and researchers from different science disciplines to work side by side.

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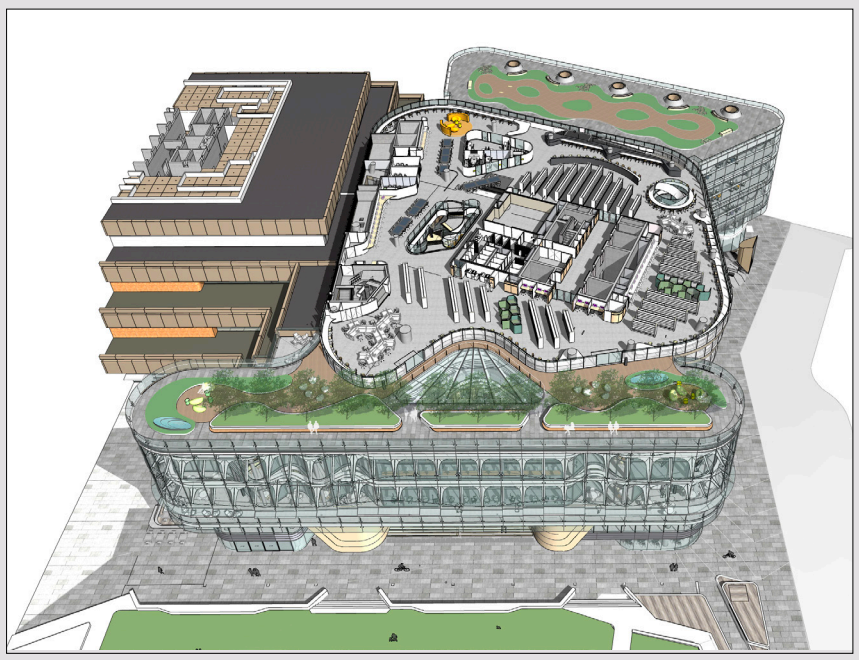
Key features: Social Spaces

Food court: A dedicated food court will provide a range of authentic, affordable and healthy food options, as well as a vibrant space to eat, study and socialise. Located on level 3, with direct access to Alumni Green and internal pedestrian links to the UTS Tower, the food court will feature eight individual outlets including a café/restaurant opening to an outdoor terrace. An additional coffee hub will be located on level 7 outside the library.

The UTS Central food court



Level 8 landscaping design

Terraces and gardens: A large north-facing terrace and smaller south-facing terrace on level 8 will provide outdoor learning commons space with seating and gardens, accessible through the Library. A rooftop landscaped terrace with views onto Darling Harbour will be located on level 17, alongside a potential event and meeting space. Semi-enclosed and naturally ventilated ‘winter garden’ balconies with feature planting will be accessible from levels 9 to 16 on the northern façade.

Student commons: UTS Central will feature multiple environments for individual and group learning, with student commons across seven levels. The variety of work points will include open benches with BYOD infrastructure, general access computers, bean bag pods, and group tables and group study rooms for collaborative learning.

Key features: Building Technology

People counters: Teaching spaces, labs and training rooms will be fitted with people counters, linked to the building management system that controls heating, cooling and ventilation. When spaces are unoccupied, services can be automatically switched off to reduce energy use. Occupation data will also give insight into space utilisation and enhance security operations.

Solar control: Sunlight will be controlled using operable blinds throughout the tower and sunshades on the north-facing façade. Light and heat penetration will be optimised using an algorithm relating to the sun’s position on any particular day of the year.

Open data: Open data protocols will enable future links to smart technologies and systems.

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Key features: Sustainability

Sustainability features will include measures designed to reduce energy and potable water usage in the building.

- A building management system will incorporate timetable information with data from sensors that monitor environmental factors (like room temperature and occupancy) to control lights, heating and cooling.
- Adjustable louvre blinds encapsulated within the facade and linked to the building management system will control the amount of sunlight hitting the glass façade.
- Recycled non-potable water will be used for toilet flushing and irrigation of the building's landscaping, supplied by the nearby Central Park complex.
- A district cooling connection sees chilled water supplied from the Central Park underground Energy Centre to the UTS Central Plant via large insulated chilled water pipes. This will provide cooling to run air-conditioning in UTS Central and up to seven more UTS buildings, along with space, power and maintenance savings.
- The building is targeting a 5 Star Green Star Rating with the Green Building Council of Australia.