



VELUX®

Sydney landmark gets

80

VELUX SKYLIGHTS



VELUX turns a dark past **INTO A BRIGHT FUTURE**

The old Darlinghurst Gaol was converted in the early 1920s to become the East Sydney Technical College – now the National Art School. The largest building on the site, the gaol workshops, had been empty since 2005 when major renovations started in 2014. VELUX skylights were an integral part of the solution, explain CEO Michael Snelling and COO Sue Procter...

Leaking roof, little light

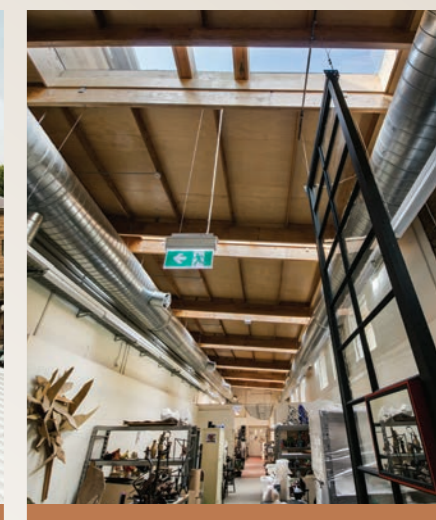
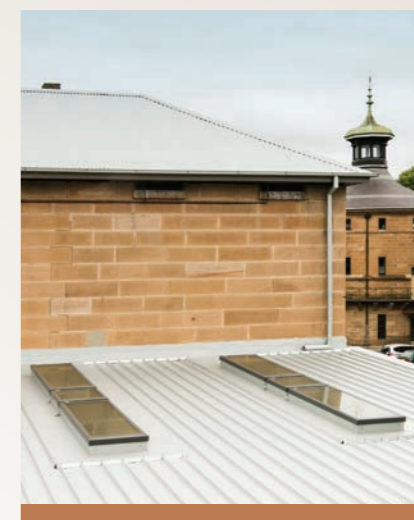
"We are the largest non-university art school in the country and since 2005 the sole occupant of the old Darlinghurst Gaol site," says Michael. "The largest building on the campus – the old gaol workshops – hadn't been in use for almost 10 years when renovations began in 2014. The building was semiderelict with a leaking roof and very little natural light..."

Simple needs

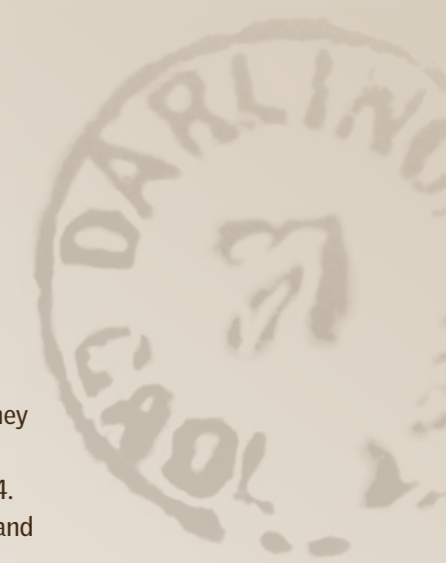
"We were on a tight budget but an art school's needs are quite basic," explains Sue. "We need open spaces, a roof that doesn't leak, and natural light – everything else is an optional extra. So a new roof was a key part of the renovations and 80 VELUX skylights supply the natural light we require. The skylights are in a dark and dingy part of the building – getting natural light in was absolutely paramount."

From gaol workshops to art workshops

"We wanted to convert the old gaol workshops to modern workshops for our art students," Michael continues. "At the southern end, the building was used by a cooking school up until 2005 and the VELUX skylights were installed where the cooking school had its ventilation shafts. Cooking needs ventilation...art needs light..."



< CEO Michael Snelling and COO Sue Procter





Art needs **NATURAL LIGHT**

Architect Barry McGregor has spent 35 years of his career giving new life to old buildings. He has developed a master plan for the conservation of the old Darlinghurst Gaol heritage site and the renovation of the old workshop building was the first major project...

Two stories become three

"During the renovations in the 1920s, the 110m long sandstone building had been converted from three to two stories. The art school needed floor space so one of the requirements was to convert the building back to three stories. Another requirement was a design that allowed students to move artwork freely around."

Heritage and budget challenges

"Work on a heritage site is always exciting, I love to find ways to make old and new coexist. In this case we had to do it on a very tight budget – a concept not foreign to young developing artists – so the building is rough and ready in places. The exterior walls, some dating back to 1822-1824, are partly exposed and raw steel, timber and plywood add to a highly functional design."

Natural light by VELUX

"Art needs natural light and there certainly wasn't a lot of that in the old gaol workshops. The solution was right above us: installing VELUX skylights where the old kitchen ventilation shafts were would satisfy our need for natural light."



Architect Barry McGregor designed the renovation of the old gaol workshops in association with Daryl Jackson Robin Dyke Architects.



LIGHT TO CREATE...





VELUX - a high tech element **IN A HISTORIC BUILDING**

The oldest part of the building – the Darlinghurst Road wall – was built in 1822-24 and the building dates from 1862-1880. How does a 21st century high tech product like VELUX skylights suit an old heritage site? Architect Barry McGregor explains...

VELUX brings the room to life

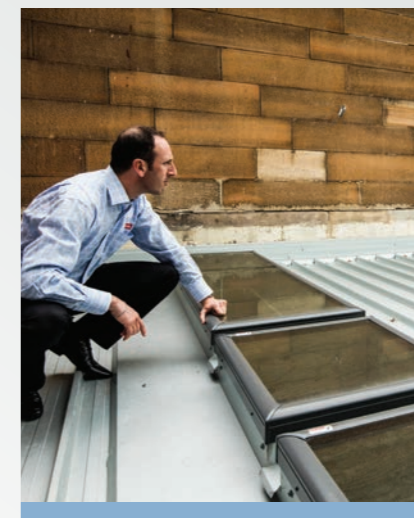
"The idea of the renovation was not to restore the old building, it was to give it new life as an art school. To that end the VELUX skylights were absolutely critical. Without them the building would rely almost entirely on artificial light. Natural light brings the room to life – blue skies, the glimpse of a tree, a ray of sunshine...letting the outside in adds a spark of inspiration."

No compromise

"I specified VELUX outright. I didn't want tenderers to shop around, knowing that we would end up with a lower grade product. We would – and did – accept other savings but we wouldn't compromise on the skylights. VELUX skylights are tested under extreme conditions and their longevity can be trusted. I expect them to still be there 50 years from now."

Energy savings

"Some see VELUX as a luxury statement, I see it as a high tech architectural component. VELUX skylights provide free daylight – most of the time the lights are off – and their thermal properties help keep heating and cooling costs down. Visually they add height to the room and make it more interesting. They are great value."



The Rayner Hoff project space is designed for art creation, projects, exhibitions and social gatherings.



BEHIND
THE GATES OF HELL...



BEHIND THE GATES OF HELL...



Construction of the Darlinghurst Gaol commenced in 1822 but the first prisoners weren't moved from Sydney Gaol until 1841. It served as a prison until 1914, when the facility was taken over by the Department of Defence. After major renovations in 1922, Sydney Technical College – including the art department – moved in, and in 1935 the name National Art School first appears in a handbook. In 1976 the site was classified by the National Trust and since 2005 the National Art School has been the sole occupant.

The Darlinghurst Gaol has been home to some of the most notorious criminals in Australia's history. 76 people lost their lives at the end of a rope in its 73-year history as a prison – many more never recovered from the physical and mental abuse they suffered. Welcome behind the gates of hell...

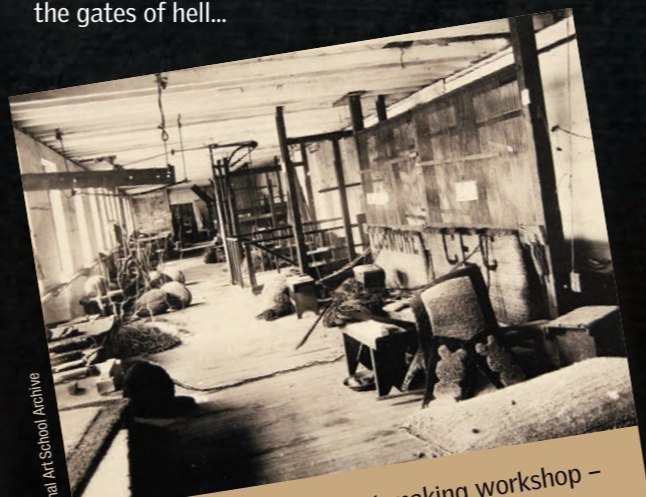


Image credit: National Art School Archive

A look inside the mat making workshop – without VELUX – circa 1880s



Pictures and contents based on the book 'Hope in Hell' by Deborah Beck, published by Allen & Unwin in 2005. Archivist and historian Deborah Beck is a former student and teacher at the National Art School.



Warders in uniform, circa 1890

Image credit: National Art School Archive

Hood used in the NSW gaol system

Prisoners in solitary confinement were allowed out of their cells for one hour a day – but had to wear a hood to prevent any communication.

Image credit: National Art School Archive



Famous inmates:



Image credit: State Library of NSW

HENRY LAWSON, POET

One of Australia's most famous poets, Henry Lawson spent 159 days in Darlinghurst Gaol between 1905 and 1909. Convicted of failing to pay alimony and child desertion, at least seven of his poems were based on his experiences in Darlinghurst. After his death in 1922, he was farewelled with one of the largest state funerals Sydney had ever seen.

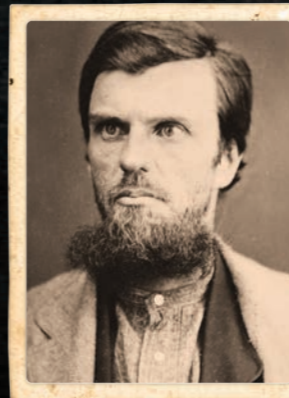


Image credit: State Records NSW

CAPTAIN MOONLITE, BUSHRANGER

Much admired as a lay reader for the Church of England, Andrew George Scott robbed a bank at Mt Egerton north of Melbourne in 1869. Captured in 1872, he was released for good behaviour in 1879. Soon after, he took 35 hostages at a sheep station with a gang of five men and the subsequent gun battle with police left one officer and two gang members dead. Captain Moonlite died on the scaffold at Darlinghurst on 20 January 1880.



Image credit: State Records NSW

LOUISA COLLINS, MURDERER

Louisa Collins was the only woman hanged in the 73 years of the gaol's history. She was convicted of killing her husband with rat poison and hanged on 8 January 1889, aged 40.

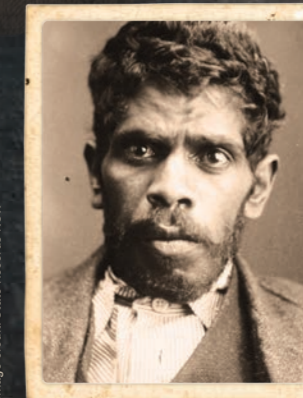


Image credit: State Records NSW

JIMMY GOVERNOR, MURDERER

Racially persecuted and socially rejected for marrying a white girl, Jimmy Governor went on a 14 week rampage of revenge and murder with his brother Joe. After a massive manhunt, Joe was killed and Jimmy taken to Darlinghurst Gaol. Aged 26, Jimmy Governor was hanged on 18 January 1901.



Inside the Darlinghurst Gaol, circa 1880s

Image credit: National Art School Archive



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