

Government of Western Australia

# PERCENT FOR ART SCHEME

Dongara District High School





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Dongara  
District High  
School  
2012

The intricate and vibrantly coloured artworks seen throughout this new school campus are the very successful result of a three-way collaboration between the artists, the school and the architects.

The series of interlocking building shapes present the opportunity for a lively and playful application of brick, metal and fibre reinforced concrete sheets (FRC). Bright, digitally printed images are incorporated in the perforated metal screens and sections of the FRC. These elements provide additional layering and give the school a unique identity, which is expressed through the application of public art.

Artist Jason Hirst worked directly with school students in workshops designed specifically to gather visual information about how they see and experience Dongara and surrounds. Jason took older students on exploratory photography trips while younger students did drawings, each student recording their own individual interpretation of what they love about Dongara.

Graphic designer, Mark Welsh made digital collages from student photographs and drawings, all of which were printed onto Novoplas panels, then embedded into

intricate aluminium shapes. As a result of the teamwork between the architects and the artists, the Novoplas panels cover the entire facades of eight buildings. The function of each building also gave direction to the graphics, so for example, the designs for the Library include images of books, whereas the design for the Administration Block focuses on images of Dongara as a whole.

Brightly coloured aluminium boxes perforated with designs also taken from student work hide unattractive mechanical compounds within the school while contributing to the geometry and civic quality of the overall campus design.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artists:	Jason Hirst and Mark Welsh
Title:	Space and Direction
Architect:	Bateman Architects
Art Coordinator:	3Dimensional Design and Maggie Baxter
Photography:	Jason Hirst
Client:	Department of Education
Project Manager:	John Mackenzie



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Finance