

Government of Western Australia

PERCENT FOR ART SCHEME

Rossmoyne Senior High School Stage 2 Building Project





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2012

Rick Vermey's initial approach to this Percent for Art commission was to preserve a visual memory of the lemon scented gums and coral trees, a scenic vista that has been obscured by the new languages (LOTE) building and cafeteria (Stage 2 addition). The artwork design also evolved in discussion with school representatives, to reflect aspects of the building's purpose, the learning of languages. Vermey's commission has two components - a screen applied to a colonnade adorning the eastern face of the building and designs sandblasted on to the concrete columns forming the colonnade.

The screen is composed in perforated metalwork panels from the artist's photographs of the trees, interspersed with the laurel leaf emblem and school's ethos (aspire, excel and respect) in English, French, Cantonese, Japanese and German. By layering, patterning and repeating the imagery, the inherent message eludes appearing didactic, and when viewed from both front and back, legibility becomes a secondary consideration. The screen becomes a sort of theatrical flat that mediates the relationship between the outside and the inside, concealing and reflecting the immediate surrounds. The use of abstracted language and letter forms also provides a direct relationship with the artwork on the nearby science building.

Vermey has translated positive motivational words into binary codes (0's and 1's) and sandblasted these on to the twenty-one white concrete columns of the colonnade at chest height so the students can engage with them. This artwork also complements the science building artwork; binary codes having a strong connection to mathematics and electronics. Vermey has presented an interactive problem solving challenge to the students to decode, read and understand the hidden meanings of the codes. There is a subtle irony in the juxtapositioning of binary code on the columns, in that binary is the basis of (*ephemeral*) digital information transfer, now and into the future, yet this message is conveyed in an ancient (*solid*) building material, concrete.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artist:	Rick Vermey
Title:	
Screen Artwork:	<i>Vision Screen</i>
Column Artwork:	<i>Codex</i>
Architect:	Brad Quartermaine, T&Z Pty Ltd
Art Coordinator:	Alison Barrett
Photography:	Rick Vermey
Department of Education:	Cliff Carr
Project Delivery Manager:	Deanna Kale



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