

SUSTAINABILITY  
ADVANCEMENT/  
PUBLIC DESIGN  
WINNER

DESIGNER:  
BROOKING  
DESIGN  
ARCHITECTS

# JSRACS KINDERGARTEN

BEECHBORO CAMPUS

**Project**

John Septimus  
Roe Anglican  
Community School  
JSRACS Kindergarten –  
Beechboro Campus  
483 Beechboro Road  
Beechboro WA 8063

**Design practice**

Brooking Design Architects  
117 South Terrace  
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**Project team**

Tom Brooking, Leah  
Pisconeri, Des Villanias,  
Javad Sayedi, Maria  
Mantavon

**Photography**

Heather Robbins

**Design statement**

The brief was to design an eco-principle-driven, purpose-built kindergarten building for sixty children within a tight budget of \$2600 per square metre. The brief was to create relaxed teaching environments that would benefit the pre-school age group, and which used materials and finishes with inherently simple and nurturing qualities. Passive and active design solutions have been brought together through the use of energy-efficient and sustainable materials and finishes. The primary structural timber armature follows a simple plan, morphing in three-dimensional form to marry perfectly with the interior space, expressed through the geometry of the teaching areas. Internal surfaces are clad in urea-formaldehyde-free plywood, while thermally rated skylights, positioned at ceiling level amid the coloured acoustic ceiling panels, flood the teaching spaces with soft natural light. The design of cabinetry as puzzle pieces is a visual metaphor expressed in form, creating a play zone, storage facility and room dividers to separate the teaching spaces. Using a balance between active muted colour tones and natural timber, the overall ambience of the space is playful, warm and nurturing.

**Jury comment / Public Design**

Conceived within a sustainable framework, this kindergarten features a large-scale structural grid that is the defining interior motif for the project. Internally the timber grid is lined with plywood panels, which creates a negative space into which linear lighting elements have been inserted. The grid is enlivened with squares of colour interspersed with skylights, giving both playfulness and acoustic balance to the spaces. Colour, which lines selective walls and joinery, adds an element of joy, while playfulness comes in the form of large-scale jigsaw pieces which act as both storage elements and mobile room dividers.

**Jury comment / Sustainability Advancement**

This project demonstrates a clear commitment to sustainability and its practical application. The project's attention to material selection, benign finishes, energy efficiency, natural light and double glazing all highlight a coherent suite of environmental features intelligently addressed through good design.

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