

A Centre for Future Learning

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Robert Lustri is a Registered Architect with postgraduate qualifications in Project Management. With significant experience managing a variety of projects within the public and private sector, Robert has specialised in the provision of professional project management services on multi-million dollar projects.

In August of 2010 the University of South Australia secured \$30 million from the Federal Government's Education Investment Fund towards the \$95 million Participate@UniSA project, including a new Learning Centre valued at over \$80m for the City West campus. The Learning Centre will be a next generation facility designed to enable students and staff to access and acquire world leading knowledge and practice, enhancing services and the student learning experience. With a special focus on a technology-rich environment and flexible learning spaces, the state-of-the-art, Five Greenstar-rated building will allow students to inhabit and work in new kinds of spaces that will convey the University of South Australia's strong commitment to innovation and quality. The Learning Centre design reflects the need to shift our facilities from repositories of books, journals and whiteboards to being flexible configurations of space which encourage students and staff to engage with knowledge and each other. The emphasis of the learning spaces on active, collaborative, peer and social learning reflects a shift from the traditional lecture, tutorial style class rooms to spaces that are active or reflective in their design and function to suit a variety of learning styles. The emphasis of the design is to create areas where students can share, broaden and thereby deepen their knowledge and engagement with the University and each other. As well as Library services and information resources, other key student support services being integrated in the Learning Centre include student administration, careers, counseling, disability services and learning advice. This model follows international trends emerging in flexible learning spaces which have been examined and inform the development of this exciting and innovative project.

Early works for construction commenced on site in October 2011, and the facility is scheduled for occupation early 2014. The endeavor of the University is to realise a building that enhances the student experience by providing a diversity of spaces that share access to natural daylight and views with great equity and provides a strong framework for memorable social, learning and teaching experiences. The presentation explores the journey so far in bringing together people, space, technology, resources and services to achieve these aims, and what may differentiate this centre from other world-class facilities.