

NEW PROJECT RELEASE

NEW AJ+C-DESIGNED TENNIS CENTRE OPENS IN GAME, SET AND MATCH FOR BLACKTOWN

26 August 2016

The latest in a series of sporting facilities designed by award-winning firm Allen Jack+Cottier (AJ+C) is to be opened in Western Sydney – allowing the ‘sporting city’ of Blacktown to compete for and host major regional tennis tournaments for the first time.

Launched tomorrow, the facilities include extensions to the existing Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope (doubling its indoor courts from two to four and creating additional services), a new two-storey tennis centre and 16 outdoor courts, including a centre court with permanent seating for more than 360 spectators.

The innovative facilities are the latest in a series of award-winning sports halls designed over the past decade by AJ+C. Others include the Abbotsleigh Multi-purpose Assembly and Sports Hall and Sports Field, the Milson Island Indoor Sports Hall, Berry Sports and Recreation Centre, and the Lake Ainsworth Sports Hall. The Abbotsleigh project is one of only six sports buildings around the world currently shortlisted to win a World Architecture Festival Award, to be announced in Berlin in November.

The Blacktown tennis centre is also the latest in a number of AJ+C projects designed to meet the current and future needs of those living and working in the Blacktown City Council area, with those previously completed including Blacktown Soccer and the Fairfield Community Centre.

AJ+C Director John Whittingham said: “I am really pleased with the results of this project. The existing outstanding community facility already provides an incredible range of functions including library, aquatic centre and a range of sport and recreation facilities. The challenge for AJ+C Architects was to incorporate Tennis into the existing facility and to enhance those functions to cater for more diverse uses. A Tennis Centre capable of running regional scale events like Pro Tour tournaments achieves this.

“Tennis Australia strongly supported our client Blacktown Council with their ambitions to create ‘a sporting city’. Thanks to a dedicated client and stakeholder group, we were able to develop a strong understanding of how this new facility integrates and compliments the existing Leisure Centre. This inspired us to find a way for the new Tennis Centre to forge its own architectural identity on the site, without interrupting the commanding character of the original building.”

Commenting on the design, Blacktown Mayor Stephen Bali said: “I was extremely keen, as was my predecessor, to have a full centre court. The way AJ+C has delivered this, with the building looking on to it and featuring a series of ‘corporate boxes’ overlooking it, gives the space a fantastic ambience. The way this area then flows through to the existing and new facilities make this the jewel in the crown for the city’s sporting assets.”

CHAIRMAN

Keith E Cottier AM

PRINCIPALS & NOMINATED
ARCHITECTS (NSW)

Michael Heenan 5264
Peter Ireland 6661

CEO

Michael Heenan

HEAD OFFICE – SYDNEY

79 Myrtle Street
Chippendale NSW 2008
AUSTRALIA
tel +61 2 9311 8222
fax +61 2 9311 8200

www.architectsajc.com

ALLEN JACK+COTTIER
Architects Pty Ltd
ABN 53 003 782 250

Design

AJ+C was commissioned to create a regional Tennis Centre, designing extensions to the existing leisure centre to double the number of indoor courts, along with a new tennis centre administration building, 16 outdoor courts, ground level car parking and access road - all of which should complement a range of existing sporting and community facilities on an 11hectare site at the eastern corner of Stanhope Parkway and Sentry Drive.

Already in place were the Cox Richardson-designed leisure centre (housing an indoor aquatic centre, gymnasium, crèche, stadium with two indoor basketball courts, and ancillary spaces), and the Suters-designed Dennis Johnson Library, added in 2008 along with a range of refurbishments and extensions to existing facilities. In designing the leisure centre extension, AJ+C has respectfully referenced the building's existing architectural language, replicating the two, vault-roofed bays housing original courts when creating two new indoor courts along the building's eastern elevation. The proportions of the extension, materials and finishes are designed to match those of the existing building, allowing the extension to appear an integral part of the original. New ancillary and storage spaces are also incorporated into the stadium extension to provide for a wider range of uses and up to 2400 building occupants. The new L-shaped, two-storey tennis centre is positioned to the east of the aquatic centre, with one wing connecting into the extended stadium while the other faces east to overlook the tennis courts, providing a reception, foyer, pro shop, tournament office, professional suites, offices, club room, viewing deck and amenities dedicated to the operation of the new tennis centre. Sixteen new external tennis courts, including a show court with permanent seating for 366, and surrounding spaces to accommodate temporary stadium seating for major events complete the work.

Photography: Prue Ruscoe

For more information and access to images, please contact:

Trisha Croaker
T: 0408 756 789
E: trish.croaker@gmail.com

Dhani D'Arcy, AJ+C
T: (612) 93118205
E: dhani.d'arcy@architectsajc.com