

Selected Projects  
Mernda Education & Display Suite  
Mernda, Victoria  
Supple Design





## Mernda Display Suite

Putty Road, Mernda, Victoria for Stockland Property Trust  
Completed 2007

### Project Description

This project is a development of the precast concrete construction system we designed for the Macarthur Gardens Education and Display Suite in NSW.

The challenge was to adapt the system to a quite different context (temperature range, orientation, prevailing winds), accommodate new requirements like a commercial cafe whilst developing and testing the system's robustness and adaptability.

The building is very particularly proportioned and detailed. It is also spatially responsive to the site, with full-height glazing to the northern and southern ends. Along the west edges the zig-zag side walls of alternating panels of concrete and operable glass, create a series of alcoves in a broader perimeter zone. This system reduces the sun penetration into the main space, and along with the overhanging roof creates pocketed elevations that are sheltered from the setting sun. Two pavilions of differing scale help to articulate the overall form. This pair act in counterpoint, providing a 'play of opposites'; concrete/timber; gallery/home; formal/personal – borrowing Utzon's idea of separate buildings pavilions which 'enhance the quality of the landscape'.

This project is featured in the May 2007 issue of Architecture Australia.



Supple Design  
studio profile\_Autumn 2007

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