

Justice Architecture

The Caloundra Courthouse



Prominently located on a quiet feeder road just off the main entry into Caloundra City, the Caloundra Courthouse & Watch house complex provides the regional hub with an exciting entry statement.

As the Sunshine Coast is an exciting, fashionable area, with a constantly evolving architectural style, Guymer Bailey Architects carefully overlaid traditional coastal architectural materials and detailing over a commercial fabric and a building of commercial scale. By doing this the complex reflects the character of Queensland's coastal style in a method suitable for a public building of this scale and importance.



The Courthouse consists of Magistrates Courts and chambers, mediation facilities, registry counters, and spacious public waiting areas. The Watchhouse is a highly secure building that contains cells, holding cells, search rooms, secure officer control areas and amenities.

A strong feature of the contemporary justice system is accessibility. This building aims to weave the concept of accessibility through all aspects of the design, from the open and airy spaciousness of the waiting areas and courtrooms, through to the construction detailing. Of note is the clever utilisation of natural light into the courtrooms from the roadway, and from the internal landscaped courtyards. All of this assists to remove the typically intimidating courthouse experience.



Contrasted against the accessibility of the Courthouse is the internalized nature of the Watchhouse, turning inwards from the public in both a physical and visual sense. In many ways the building reflects Guymer Bailey's focus on environmentally sensitive architecture and it is incorporated into this building in an exciting, and sometimes playful manner. In this case we worked closely with an artist in the development of the "Arrow of Justice" - a large, pivoting shard which collects water off the central box gutter, and when full spectacularly dumps the water into a collection area from which it is recycled.

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