

LIVING LAB

Project delivery: 2017 | External Partners: ASPECT Studios (landscape architect), DesignInc (architects), Irwinconsult, Alchemy Construct, in collaboration with Monash University



Monash Living Lab supports and showcases outstanding research in the area of water sensitive urban design and sustainability, and demonstrates the motivation for transforming grey urban areas into green, liveable and productive spaces. The facility externalises the previously enclosed Kellery Hydraulics Laboratory with the incorporation of living walls, raingarden, green roof, storage tanks and atmospheric sensors - all visibly on display.

Plants visible on the building have been carefully selected to test their capabilities in thermal cooling, greywater, stormwater and rain water treatment, and to measure the quantity of water they need - each with individual dosing and sampling capabilities. Inside, workshops, laboratories and a rooftop greenhouse provide flexible spaces to perform other water quality and biofiltration experiments. It is also an open environment for innovators in the water sector to trial their products.

A series of ground level raingardens demonstrate Water Sensitive Urban Design objectives that help manage storm water impacts in our cities. An array of permeable pavements showcase how these elements look and perform within public spaces. The project showcases the possibilities of implementing living architecture in the broader built environment and its ability to deliver water treatment and reuse, food production, urban cooling functions and compelling urban environments.

Location

17 Alliance Lane, Clayton campus



Awards

2018 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) National Award - Research, Policy and Communication
2018 AILA Victorian Award - Research, Policy and Communication

Images

- 1 'Living scaffolds'. Image by Dianna Snape.
- 2 Established plants and raingarden. Artwork by ASPECT Studios.
- 3 Diverse plants. Image courtesy of Alchemy Construct.