UQ Centre Entry - St Lucia Campus

Consideration

Planning Cell members including the Head of School of Architecture agreed that the entry to the Lecture Theatre 220 at the UQ Centre is a poorly designed entrance to the main lecture space. The confusing entrance fails to communicate that a 460 seat lecture theatre lies beyond, with heavy solid doors, inadequate signage and limited access to amenities further reinforcing the poor design.

This entrance to the lecture theatre is heavily used with this set to further increase through a seating upgrade planned at the Christmas break, which will see the capacity raise from 460 to 500+. With lectures, scheduled 8 hours, every day, combined with an hourly change over, the need to visually announce the theatre and provide for large changeover student crowds is particularly important.

Description

This project seeks to address a number of access, visibility and queuing issues surrounding the entrance plaza from Campbell Place. Most lecture spaces on campus provide some level of lobby space for students to await upcoming lectures, however the UQ Centre theatre space has only a concrete external area joined to an unprotected footpath immediately adjacent to the existing door. This entrance is particularly stark and provides poor amenity for waiting students. Furthermore, the entry doors themselves give no indication that this is a primary access and the immediate area is not conducive as a waiting area. Central Teaching seeks to address these issues by making the space more appealing by:

- Addressing the appearance and amenity of the entry with new glazed doors, new wing walls to provide screening to a toilet area and provide better wayfinding and digital signage.
- Providing additional covered area by extending the existing awning to provide shelter as its westerly aspect is exposed to the sun for a large part of the day throughout the year.
- Providing new and additional seating to waiting students.
- Renovating existing planter beds with new plantings to increase shade and encourage the use of planter box edges as seats.