the creation of a new civic heart for Fremantle.

**DESIGN STATEMENT**

This design proposal is defined by the creation of a new civic heart for Fremantle.

At its centre is a space for the people of Fremantle: the City Lawn. A green space which provides a place for gathering, and is partially sheltered by a welcoming verandah.

The ‘City Lawn’ slopes up gently from High St extending the public space deep into the site and allowing it to support the passive enjoyment of Kings Square – somewhere to lunch with your friends, catch up on your email while lying on the grass or have coffee while the children play chase. The lawn also supports more active functions, providing an informal amphitheatre for street performances and council events.

A generous terrace is positioned at the top of this inclined plane of lawn – this terrace is protected by a large verandah providing an ‘Urban Room’ that is a valuable and usable outdoor space. Adjacent the terrace, and within the building lies a singular building element: the elliptical sandstone space.

The building is conceived as a series of sandstone formations rising up to support a delicate glass prism. White planar masonry forms hover above the streets and define shelter to the people of Fremantle. The architecture is clear and coherent, while the dynamic spatial links are complex and varied. The sandstone references the key historical buildings of Fremantle. The white planar masonry alludes to the colour of the ocean liners that frequent the port city.

Urban room / Public space as extension of St. John’s Triangle

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Materially, the building is conceived as a series of sandstone formations rising up to support a delicate glass prism. White planar masonry forms hover above the streets and define shelter to the people of Fremantle. The architecture is clear and coherent, while the dynamic spatial links are complex and varied. The sandstone references the key historical buildings of Fremantle. The white planar masonry alludes to the colour of the ocean liners that frequent the port city.

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**ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**

This proposed design will be an exemplar for Environmentally Sustainable Design. As the Green Star tool provides rating tools for both Office Buildings and Public Buildings, the design has been analysed under both tools. In both cases, the proposed design achieves a 5-star Green Star rating with 10% additional points. To achieve these points, the design proposes using innovative technologies such as those indicated in the section above.

The results of the Green Star assessment using the Office Buildings Tool are outlined below:

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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Green Star Rating</th>
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<td>Water</td>
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<td>Emissions</td>
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While the Green Star tool is both best practice and the Australian industry standard for achieving a level of environmental sustainability, the proposal is also focused on the more holistically passive elements of environmental design. The orientation of the building makes full use of the benefits of passive solar design while the verandah roof provides shading to cater for the strong summer sun and protection from south westerly winds. The narrow floor plates and double height spaces through central public space also allow for possible natural cross ventilation.

The design achieves its environmental credentials through best practice, tried and tested innovative technologies and an understanding of Fremantle’s climatic conditions. Together these approaches create a cost-effective design which will be economic to maintain.
Strategically located cafes provide life to Kings Square and William St, while the main entry of the building activates Newman Court.
the library is a contemplative retreat from the vibrant streets above...
The offices are contained within a series of adaptable floor plates, with rationally designed cores to ensure future flexibility of the office spaces....
the building is conceived as a series of sandstone formations rising up to support a delicate glass prism. White planar masonry forms hover above the streets and define the large verandah...
the verandah is well protected from the elements, providing an ‘Urban Room’ that is a valuable and usable outdoor space...
The design seeks to re-establish the qualities of Kings Square by reinforcing the height datum of the Town Hall.

At its centre is a space for the people of Fremantle... a new civic heart.
LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The proposal integrates the different existing buildings and landscape elements into a singular environment of distinct character and identity.

Linear stone paving unifies the surface treatment of the whole square ensuring durability and low maintenance. Within this paving layout, a band of traditional cobble stones marks the axis of the historic High Street.

The existing Moreton Bay Fig Trees have been integrated into large stone frames that define the different spaces of the square.

A raised sculptural stone garden provides an ample and shaded sitting area below the canopies of the trees west of the church.

In the area closer to Queen Street, a long water mirror amplifies St. John’s Church’s presence with its reflection and defines a more contemplative space.

The sloping civic lawn of the Urban Room further engages the municipal building and the public square, blurring the boundaries between interior and exterior spaces.

The project proposes to transform King’s Square into a vibrant and iconic center for the city of Fremantle, offering distinct and flexible spaces where civic life can thrive – a memorable gathering destination to meet and celebrate outdoor life.