

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STATEMENT

The Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust is endeavouring to site a new cemetery on the existing grounds of the Wallacia Golf Course. The CMCT has recognised the need for future provisions to be catered for given the growing multicultural diaspora within Greater Western Sydney. The site presents an opportunity for the CMCT to establish a memorial park, which will be considerate of the natural topographical, archaeological & historical characteristics of the site.

The Wallacia Chapel, Crematorium & Administrative Facilities proposed on Park Rd Wallacia is a development proposed to be at the heart of the new Cemetery. Its design is representational of not only the Client, but also the community of greater Western Sydney. The site is currently home to an 18-hole golf course that is proposed to be reconfigured to facilitate a new cemetery for the Western Sydney region.

The Chapel is to be a congregational place to facilitate remembrance & ritual of passing. A place for multi-denominational & interfaith gatherings to pay respect to a loved one as they transition to the afterlife. The development is a contemporary design and proposes state of the art funerary chapel & associated facilities both nationally & internationally.

The Chapel is designed to nominally seat 75 – 100 people. The Crematorium with Mortuary is located underground beneath the Chapel. Administrative facilities are proposed to be located directly within the new main entry gates off Park Road.

The Chapel's concept is in short based on

1. The continuity of Life

The idea is that life is about being on a journey & death is only a phase of that journey. The Chapel reads as a passage way that the spirit passes through on its way to the next life, with neither a beginning nor an end but formulates an idea of continuity.

2. Minimalism

The idea of minimalism in architecture is about the creation of a stage, a background and an atmosphere for users to inform. Design does not compete with usage and avoids the creation of distractions. The simplicity of the design proposed for the Chapel enables the space to be dressed as required for by the various denominational rituals.

3. Sacred Geometry

Nature (even as far as the most minuscule of particles) is underpinned by geometric patterns that inform a sacred blueprint about how everything aligns, from the Flower of Life to the Fruit of Life to Metatron's Cube. The Chapels design has been informed by the geometry that is generated by the Flower of Life & has been used to set out the proportions of all aspects of the proposed architecture from detailing to macro planning. It has been applied both horizontally and vertically to provide a level of resonance and cohesiveness throughout the design.

The materials palette includes:

Limestone (external paving) / sandblasted white marble (internal walls) / polished marble (internal floors) / antique bronze (features including the altar, fire chalice, furnaces , flower table) / weathered zinc (external roof & wall cladding) / Ironbark wood (joinery / feature external trims)

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