

excellence /'eksələns/ n. 1 the state of excelling: surpassing merit or quality. 2 the activity etc. in which a person excels. [ME f. OF excellence or L. excellentia (as EXCE]

IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL
Awards for Excellence
 design heritage environment student

Ipswich Hospital High Dependency Unit

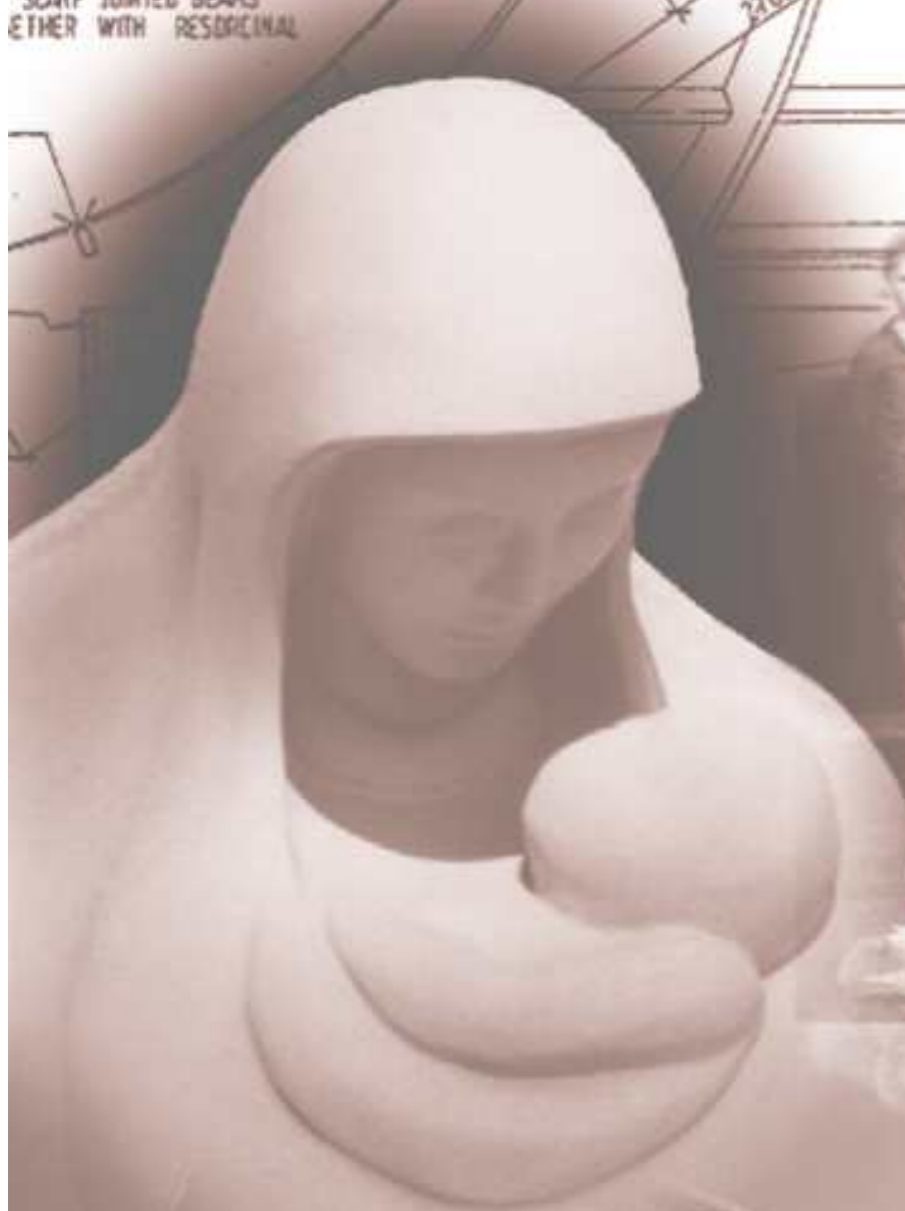
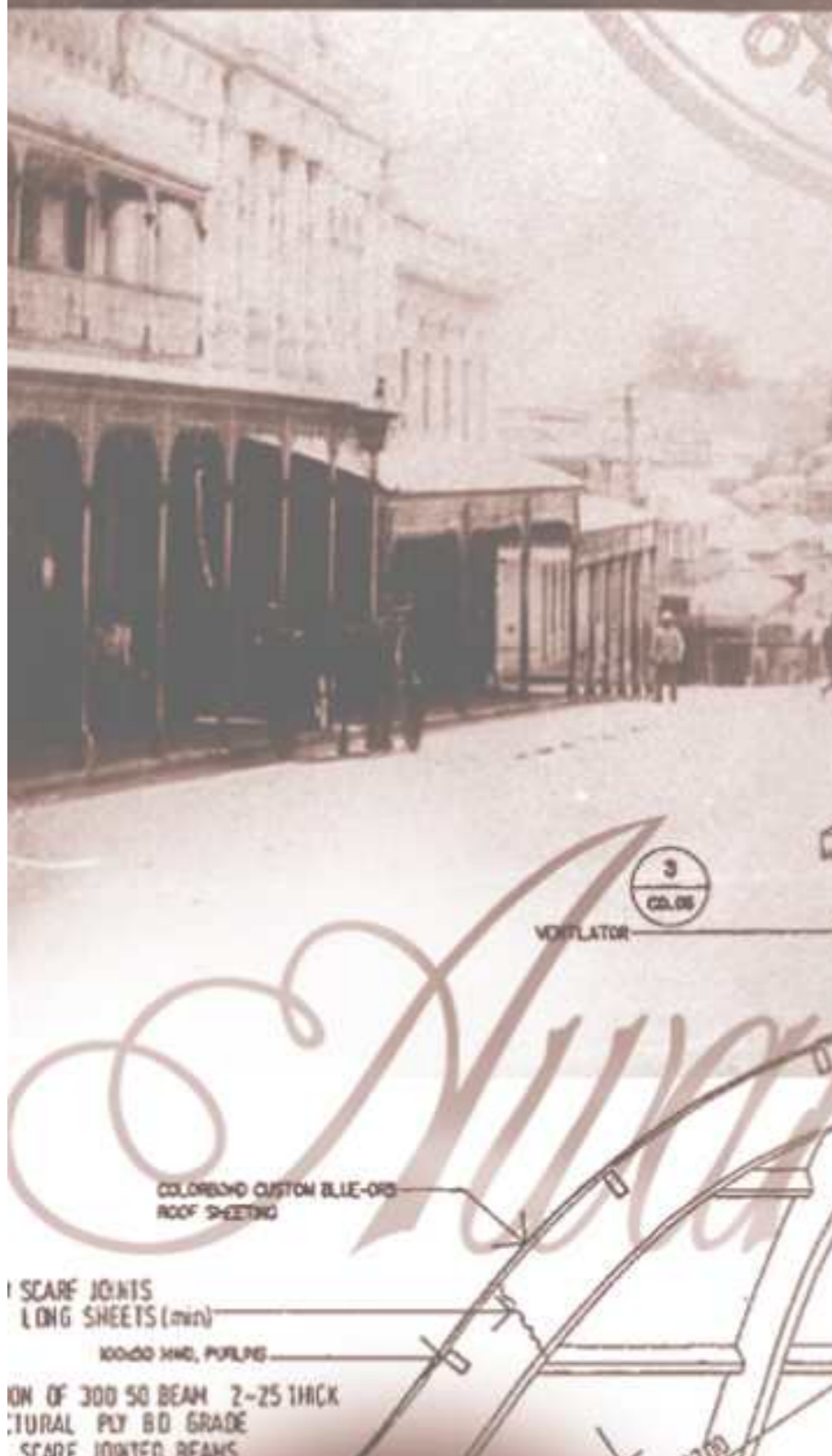
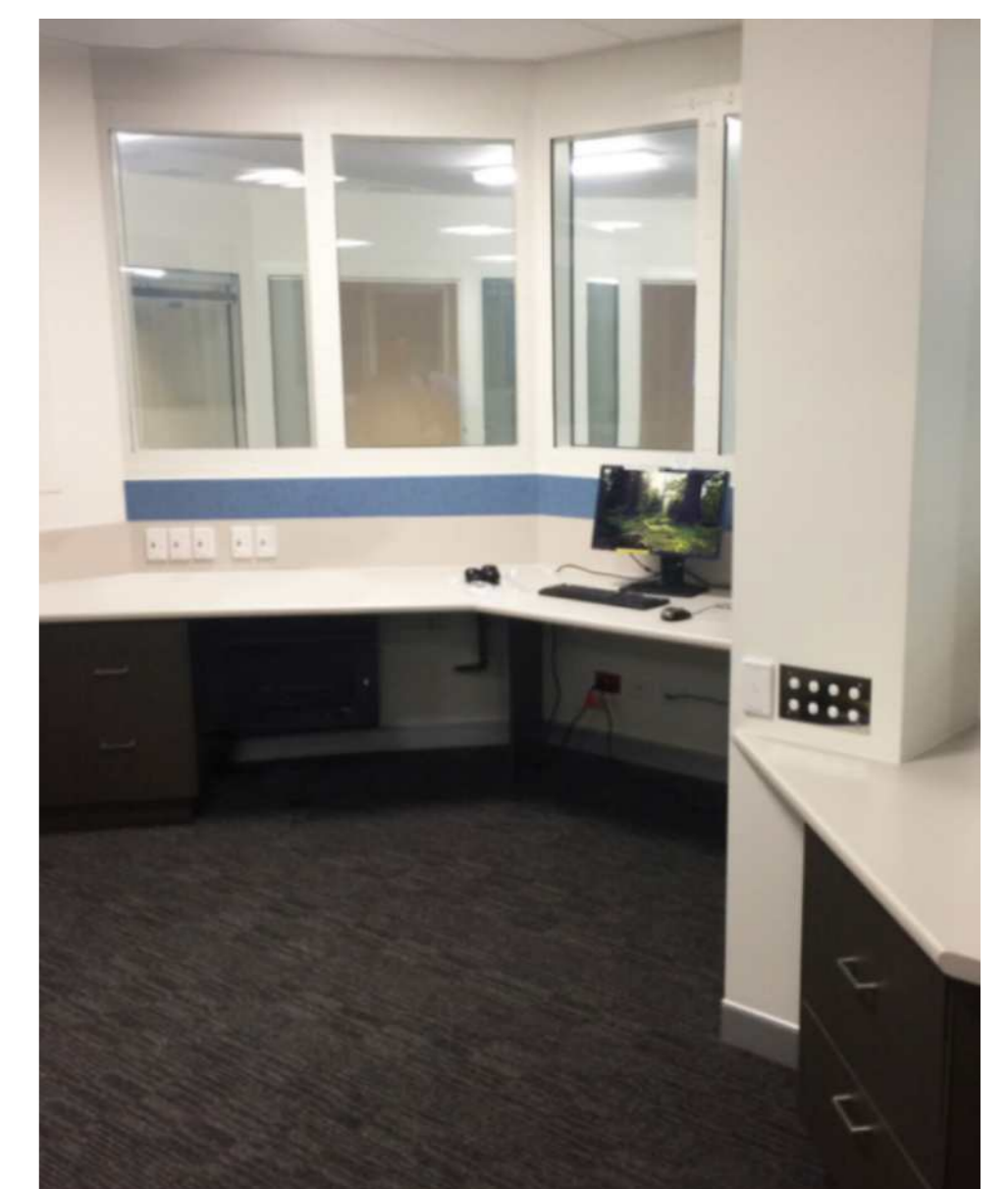
The objective of the project was to modernise the existing High Dependency Unit within the Integrated Mental Health Unit at Ipswich Hospital. This existing High Dependency Unit was an aging facility with a number of operational and maintenance issues and was in need of renovation to not only improve but also enhance the facility.

The intention of the redesign was to create a facility which was not only practical but also meets the current requirements and standards for such a unique application while providing a safe and functional environment for all occupants. Significant emphasis was placed on producing an environment that minimised the clinical, institutionalised sensation which often exists in these types of facilities. This required very close interaction between designer and clinicians resulting in a co-designed environment that is recognised within Queensland Health as the most contemporary and safe treatment environment.

A major concern over the course of the project was producing a design which resulted in a safe facility for all occupants; patients and staff alike. In order to achieve this significant renovation to improve security, safety and functionality within the unit were a strong focus in all design stages. Through the use of increased visual connection, antiligature fittings and fixtures within the space the safety and functionality were significantly improved.

The medical use of the facility came with implications. In order to meet standards and expectations the design includes the following safety features; infection control measures, security surveillance and detection, fire detection and alarms, access control, staff duress systems and new mechanical and electrical systems.

The uniqueness of the project required numerous custom details and fittings throughout the design process. Among these were severe heavy duty hardware, structurally reinforced walls and ceilings as well as impact resistant glazing.



Design

