

Why Has the Building Been Designed This Way?

The dark blade on the outside of the auditorium is a thermal chimney. It absorbs the heat of the sun and warm air rises inside the blade. The air comes out of the vents at the top, whilst also pulling air out from the auditorium in warm weather.

Providing the doors are closed to the foyer, air comes in through the floor grilles from the cooler basement area, keeping the temperature down in the auditorium. Storm water tanks in the basement also help to keep the air cool.

At night time in summer, fans push cool air through the basement and the auditorium to cool down the walls and floor ready for the day.



By careful use, this system avoids the need for costly air-conditioning and is a natural, eco-friendly system. It follows principles used in buildings in the Middle East for hundreds of years.

The worship auditorium has been designed to focus onto the cross behind the platform. This is naturally lit from above and from the side. Daylight has been carefully directed, using windows and rooflights to avoid the projection screens whilst giving good level of natural light. Views to the outside are provided to the West.

The foyer can act as an overflow seating area when needed. As you enter the building the foyer focuses towards the reception window and the cafe beyond offers hospitality to all, with a view out from the deck. The kitchen is located to serve both the foyer cafe and the function room beyond, which will allow 125 people to gather for a meal.

The west wall has vertical louvres to control overheating from the afternoon sun in summer, whilst at the same time allowing distant views out across Chimside Park.

Downstairs is a meeting room and bus garage together with access to the lower car park.

This is a sustainably designed building. The hot water system uses solar panels on the roof and the toilets use stormwater for flushing. It is well insulated and has double glazing. A small rooftop weather station assists in controlling heating and cooling.

