



## MELBOURNE ZOO Water Recycling Plant Building

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The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens Parkville has seen some dramatic changes over recent years which now includes an innovative water recycling project, implemented to resolve a long term waste discharge problem and to improve water conservation practices.

The water recycling plant building has been designed as a working exhibit and is a compact 12 metre square translucent cube clad in 16mm Clear Danpalon Multicell polycarbonate.

Justin Mallia of Peter Elliott Architecture + Urban Design describes the project as “a modest building with very particular functions, driven by the engineering requirements”. The challenge was to “create an interesting architecture from limited means to both house and show the working of the plant. The architecture came after the engineering for the specific footprint and volume of the building were already established by the design of the plant. The concept for the building was to create a light filled box sitting on a robust base made from systemised steel and polycarbonate components. Colour and light has been used to enliven and heighten various components of the building”.

At night, the building glows like a shimmering lantern revealing the skeletal silhouette of the working interior.



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