



Bio21 Institute David Penington Building

- Parkville VIC
- The University of Melbourne
- 22,000m² | \$120M | 2006

Awards

- 2006 Public Building Award, Property Council of Australia (Victoria)
- 2006 Rider Hunt Award, Property Council of Australia (National)
- 2005 Lab of the Year Award, Science Industry of Australia
- 2005 Marion Mahony Interior Architecture Award, Australian Institute of Architects (Victoria)

Redefining research and laboratory design, Bio21's David Penington Building takes the metaphor of the cell and its nucleus, as its architectural expression, interpreting it throughout so the form, literally follows function. Bringing together the University of Melbourne, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and the Royal Melbourne Hospital (Melbourne Health), it is one of Australia's largest centres of research and commercial activity.

Two buildings of research laboratories, support and office spaces form the core of the centre, with all other components built, hung, passing through or linking into the laboratory blocks.

Joining the buildings is a seven-storey, naturally ventilated atrium. Literally the heart of the centre, the atrium houses the main entry, reception and display area, and it is here that the cellular metaphor is most potently experienced.

Stainless steel pods – support spaces of differing sizes – hang vertically in the atrium, bouncing daylight around the space, and connecting via bridges – like arteries – to laboratories and other areas, with timber screens along the bridges balancing the effect. A technologically sophisticated system of glazing and shading across all the facades, the atrium roof and throughout the interior illuminate the building beautifully, and celebrate – with transparency – its research activities.