

# Melbourne University Arts Faculty Redevelopment

Melbourne, Australia

As part of the Arts Redevelopment project, the University of Melbourne has renovated its Arts Faculty building on Macleod Road within the main Parkville campus in Melbourne. A stunning visual feature of the new building is the louvered façade on three sides. To protect the structure from corrosion and to add visual appeal, the project team opted to hot-dip galvanize all of the louvres.

The steel sections of each louvre have been shaped so they form part of a series of 3D images that can be viewed from different angles as people walk around the building or look on from nearby structures.

The project team chose hot-dip galvanizing due to its durable nature. They specifically noted the stability of the galvanized surface meant the time between maintenance inspections is much longer than other products, thus reducing the life-cycle costs of the structure.

During construction of the project, more than 480 individually numbered steel frames were fabricated, galvanized, and delivered to site. Once on site, the panels were installed piece-by-piece similar to a large jigsaw puzzle with no panel the same. The nature of the galvanized steel was critical in protecting the delicate panels on site both from the elements and from onsite construction equipment, a feat not possible with less durable options, such as paint.

The end result was a stunning looking building and all key stakeholders: fabricator, builder, architect, and building owners commented they will surely consider hot-dip galvanizing on any future projects. ■



## Galvanizers

Valmont Coatings  
Industrial Melbourne

## Fabricator

Michael Staplefeldt  
FabMetal Specialists

International

