The Design Hub is set to be a vibrant centre of postgraduate design research and education. The new RMIT building will provide cutting-edge, sustainable teaching and learning facilities, and a collegial research base for RMIT’s diverse range of design initiatives, design research groups and postgraduate design programs.

The Design Hub is aiming to achieve a Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) 5-star Green Star Education Rating that signifies “Australian Excellence” in environmentally sustainable design.

**Location**
North-west corner of Victoria and Swanston Streets on the former Carlton United Brewery (CUB) site.

**Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) features**

- **High-performance double facade**
  Unique building facade comprised of 16,000 semi-translucent, sandblasted glass cells with the capacity for solar technology to be incorporated into the cells. The Design Hub facade offers shading that is critical to the delivery of energy efficiency and indoor environment quality for the building.
  The internal facade will contain high-performance double-glazed units with a low emissivity (low-e) film. Low e is a surface that emits low levels of radiant energy.

- **Rain water harvesting**
  Rainwater / stormwater to be collected and stored within a below-ground storage tank will be reused for flushing of toilets, mechanical cooling requirements, and irrigation.

- **Grey Water Treatment**
  Grey water will be treated and purified and this recycled water will be reused for toilet flushing. Grey water is non-industrial waste water that is generated from domestic activities that include dish and clothes washing and bathing.

- **Internal waste management system**
  A waste management system that enables separation of different categories of waste materials for recycling will be a feature of the Design Hub.

- **Building Management System (BMS) with Direct Digital Control (DDC)**
  The Design Hub will have a computer-based control system that is used to monitor a building’s mechanical and electrical equipment such as ventilation, lighting, power systems, fire systems, and security systems. The BMS also has the capacity to adjust temperature bands to reduce energy consumption. The BMS is critical to the energy efficiency and indoor environment quality of the building.

- **Energy-efficient lighting (T5 high-frequency ballasts)**
  T5 lighting is a narrow-diameter, fluorescent light tube. T5s run from a special ballast and are around three to four times more effective than a standard fluorescent bulb of similar wattage.

- **Low–Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) paints**
  Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) refer to organic chemical compounds that have significant vapour pressures and can affect the environment and human health. Low VOC paints will be used throughout the Design Hub.

- **Zero Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP)**
  The Design Hub will be fitted out with environmentally-friendly refrigerants and insulation materials that have zero ODP. The ozone depletion potential (ODP) of a chemical compound is the relative amount of degradation to the ozone layer it can cause.

- **Underfloor air distribution system (UFAD)**
  The Design Hub will utilise UFAD in warehouse areas to improve indoor environmental quality. UFAD is a method of delivering space conditioning in offices and other commercial buildings. This technology uses the open space between the structural concrete slab and the underside of a raised access floor system to deliver conditioned air directly into the occupied zone of the building.