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"Volume" *by Daniel Templeman*

In mid 2006 Architects Cox Rayner, invited me under the curatorial direction of Jacqueline Armistead, to conceive an entry statement artwork for the new Southbank Educational Precinct. Having worked with Cox Rayner before on the very successful Brisbane magistrates Court commission, "Confluence" 2004, I was thrilled by the opportunity.



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During the concept phase I worked closely with the Staff at Cox, John Holland Construction and the SBEP stockholders to develop a series of works that marked the entrance to the new facility. The brief centered on the idea of learning.

I had previously worked on a series of sculptures called "Destroyed by Fiction" in which 'book' or 'container - like' objects pushed into one another to create irregular shapes. These shapes were then extruded into three-dimensional forms that articulated both positive and negative spaces. "Volume" 2008, is an extension of this idea.

Knowing that the site would be used predominately by students, who walked past the work daily, I wanted to make a work that could be enjoyed in varying ways.

By altering surface treatments and the inclusion of the seating elements, the sculptures invite an interactive experience. The sculptures' form, that pushes and pulls at itself, works in parallel with the idea of interactivity or exchange. Revealing and concealing has become the prevailing dynamic of my work. Whether it is within the form of the work itself, or the site it occupies, this opposition is always central. Through the manipulation of the perceived properties of basic building materials, these ideas have evolved.

Once the proportions had been resolved I began to work with the team at Albert Smiths' to work out how we could build the sculptures and what materials and finishes we could achieve.

Some 18 months later work began on the construction that can only be described as epic. The forces at play in these huge constructions meant the internal structure needed to be incredibly robust. The skill level of both the Signspec and workshop team resulted in a millimeter perfect frame to which the external faces could be clad.

The complex configuration on internal and external faces meant that achieving a high-grade finish was a convoluted process of working piece by piece around the works. The workshop team did a wonderful job ensuring each section was built to the design.

The success of the work hinged on the transitional elements within the sculptures i.e. where the differing surfaces meet.

This task was made more difficult with the inclusion of Sandstone tiles in the design. The tiles were included to give the impression that parts of the work were merging with the existing building adjacent to the work.

The work has come together just as I had hoped, creating a puzzling effect and a physical presence. Again, together with the team from Albert Smith Group, we have delivered a project that successfully functions as a destination artwork in Brisbane city.

Daniel Templeman - Artist

