BGA Seminar
Master Planning for Schools

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BGA expectations for master planning informing project applications.
What is a master plan?

Traditionally a physical site plan
What is a master plan?

Could be less detailed
A useful physical master plan must be informed by a good education plan

What is an education plan?

- School vision
- Philosophy, core guiding principles
- Community context, stakeholders & participants
- Curriculum
- Educational trends (not fads)
- Demographics, enrolment numbers, streams, age cohorts
- Early years centre, middle school, transitions
- Year level groupings, class sizes
- Historical constraints (physical, cultural)
- Funding scenarios
A master plan is a pattern

“our brain is wired to understand patterns”
Christopher Alexander ‘Pattern Language’

“design from patterns to details”
Permaculture Principle

By stepping back, we can observe patterns in nature and society. These can form the backbone of our designs, with the details filled in as we go.

The proverb “can’t see the forest for the trees” reminds us that the closer we get to something, the more we are distracted from the big picture.
A master plan is a pattern

- Don’t sweat the small stuff – just yet
- Focus on the big picture, the pattern
- Not necessarily a physical pattern
A master plan is a pattern

- A pattern reflecting the vision
- A pattern of educational needs
- A pattern of future educational desires
- A pattern that appreciates the local and school community
- A pattern that understands the physical site conditions
- A pattern of physical meaning
- A pattern of understanding for staff, students and community
Who can predict the future?
Engaging an architect

- Working with an architect
- Why you need an architect
- How to select an architect
- Architects create environments
- Architect-designed buildings are better investments
- Architect-designed buildings work better

www.architecture.com.au

Council of Educational Facility Planners International - SA Chapter

- Architects and educators working together to develop best practice learning environments
- Architects specialising in educational facility planning & design
- 31 SA architects CEFPI members

www.cefpi.org.au
Working with an architect

School planning
- Develop a good Education Plan
- Develop an education brief of requirements

Selection process
- Consider successful projects in other schools
- Select architects to have preliminary conversations
- Discuss ideas and expectations
- Discuss services and fees

Planning process
- Be a good client (leave the ‘architecting’ to the architect)
Facilities master plan

The master plan becomes the map for how the school will journey from where it is now to where it wants to be. A well-executed master plan serves as the basis for strategic facility decision making and should remain valid for many years, but must allow for regular updates as the school and curricula evolve.
Facilities master plan

- Be flexible
- Never be afraid to change it
- It should be a living document
Questions?

- www.architecture.com.au
- www.cefpi.org.au