



Mother Duck, Lawnton

Brisbane

Services

Architecture
Interior design
Landscape architecture

Sector

Education / childcare
Workspace

Brief

Use the concept of biophilic design to renovate and extend an existing childcare centre to provide innovative learning and inspiring play areas for 200 children aged under five.

Play-based learning in harmony with nature

We have been working with Australian early childcare client Mother Duck for several years, creating engaging spaces for learning and fun across its ten centres located in Brisbane. Using the principles of biophilic design – a well-established concept that connects with nature and provides numerous physical, mental, and social benefits – we created a child-centric environment with interactive nature zones. An example of the integration of biophilic design within the new centre is the ramp that wraps around the existing established trees, creating shade and allowing the children to explore the treetops.

The project included significant extensions and renovations to the existing childcare centre to create the new two-storey facility, providing studio-style learning areas, outdoor play areas, and an undercroft car park.

The Context team was engaged from project inception through to developmental approval and undertook a QA role, attending regular site and project team meetings to ensure the concept remained front of mind throughout the design-build.

A vital part of the brief was to provide a sustainable facility, allowing us to raise the bar in design thinking and define a new tomorrow for childcare in Queensland. This included the installation of solar panels and rainwater collection equipment.

Some of the key project objectives included:

- Expressing core brand values.
- Providing excellent amenities for children, staff, and the public.
- Championing environmentally sustainable design.
- Aligning the aesthetics with current brand guidelines.

Mother Duck Lawnton opened in September 2023, providing the very best in play-based learning programmes for over 200 children, from babies through to kids aged five. Through the successful combination of considered zones, bright colours, and engaging play areas, we have helped to create a much-loved new facility with a strong sense of place.