



# Mercy Heritage Centre: planning, process and progress





# In Brief

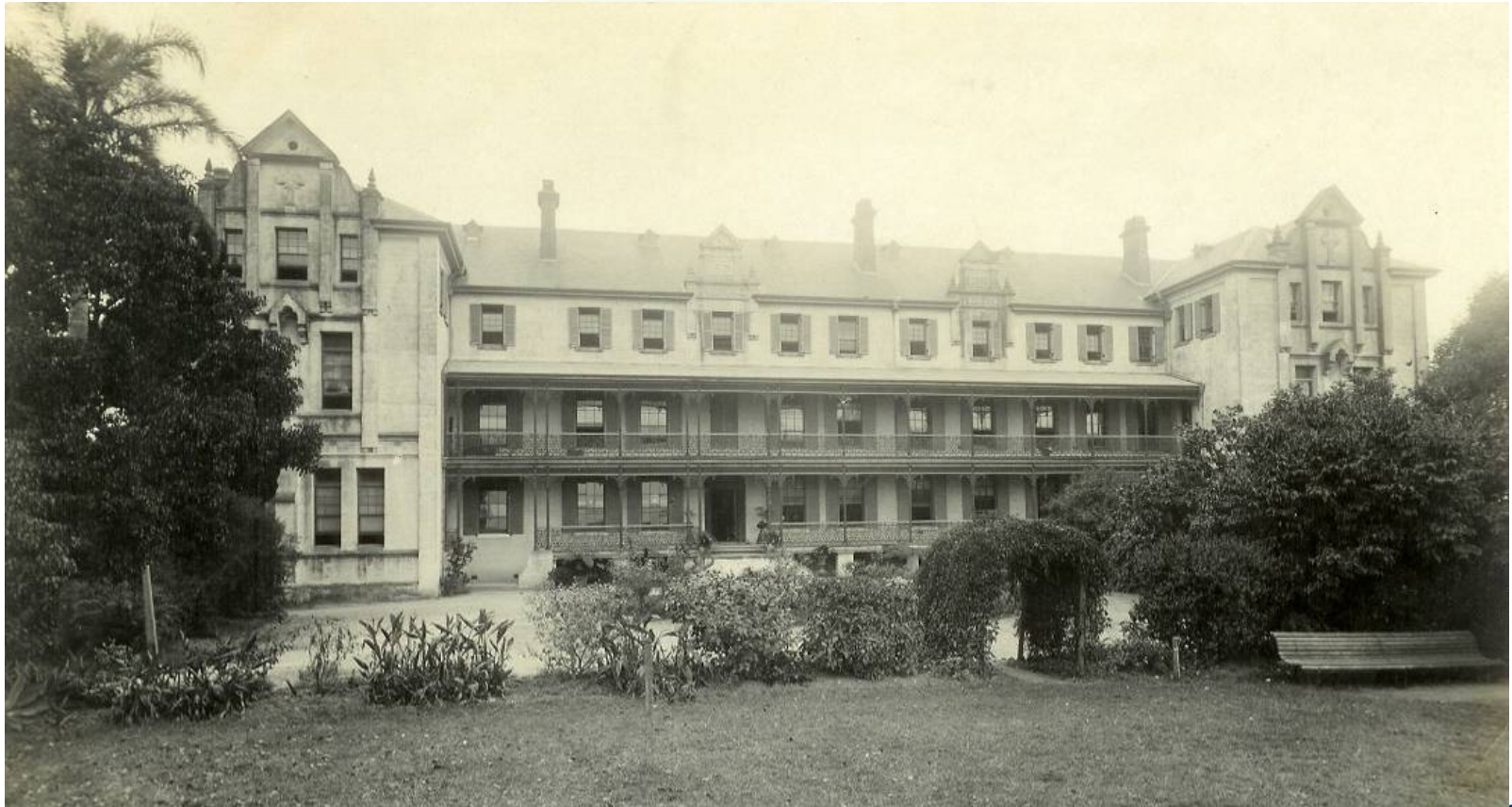


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# In Brief







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- A group of Sisters began a Heritage Committee, establishing the MHC in 2000.
- First paid staff appointed in 2001.
- Audience originally only Sisters and ministries, but broadened to include the public in 2003.
- Annually our programs include temporary exhibitions, tours, talks, concerts and outreach initiatives. Examples include:
  - A1 size (matt laminated) historical and biographical exhibition panels for outreach - borrowed by schools and hospitals in Queensland
  - Developed a collection of "replica" habits for loans





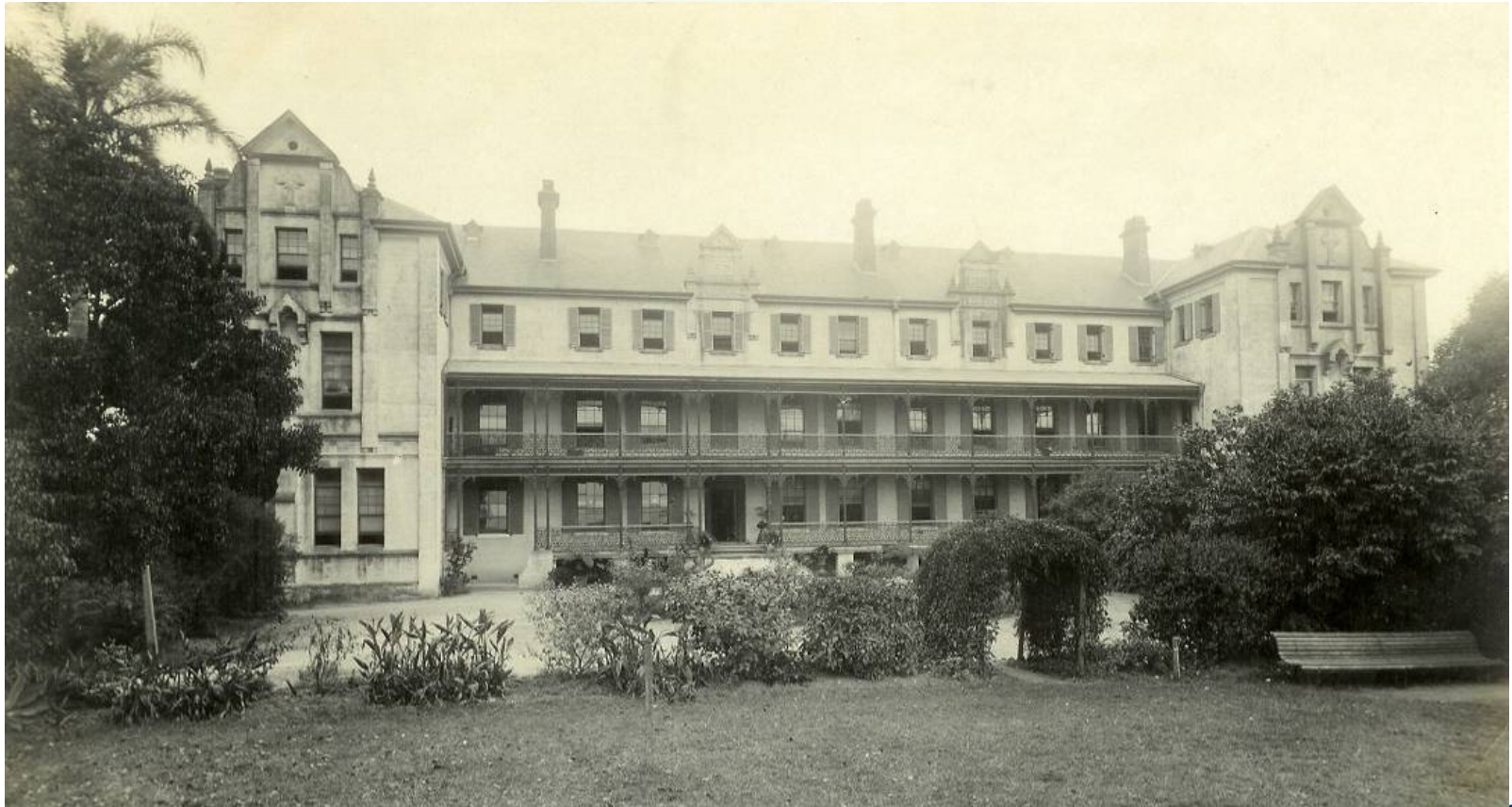
## In Brief

- 2007 the resident Sisters moved on, and the Congregation Leadership Team made the decision to give a significant portion of the All Hallows' Convent to MHC.
- Planning for the redevelopment has drawn on the work of previous planners – Sisters and Heritage Architects.
- Also Vatican “Pastoral Function of Ecclesiastical Museums” document.





# In Brief





# Plans

The redeveloped and expanded MHC aims to:

- Interpret the layers of history through a series of themed displays.
- Provide a tangible, and meaningful, connection to the Mercy Story.
- Build audiences through targeted programs, education kits and other initiatives.







# Planning and Process 1

Remembering previous planners, our research included:

- Finding comparable examples of places
- Decided which we liked or didn't like
- Looked at display elements we felt worked or didn't work
- Identified these areas to further develop our plans for MHC

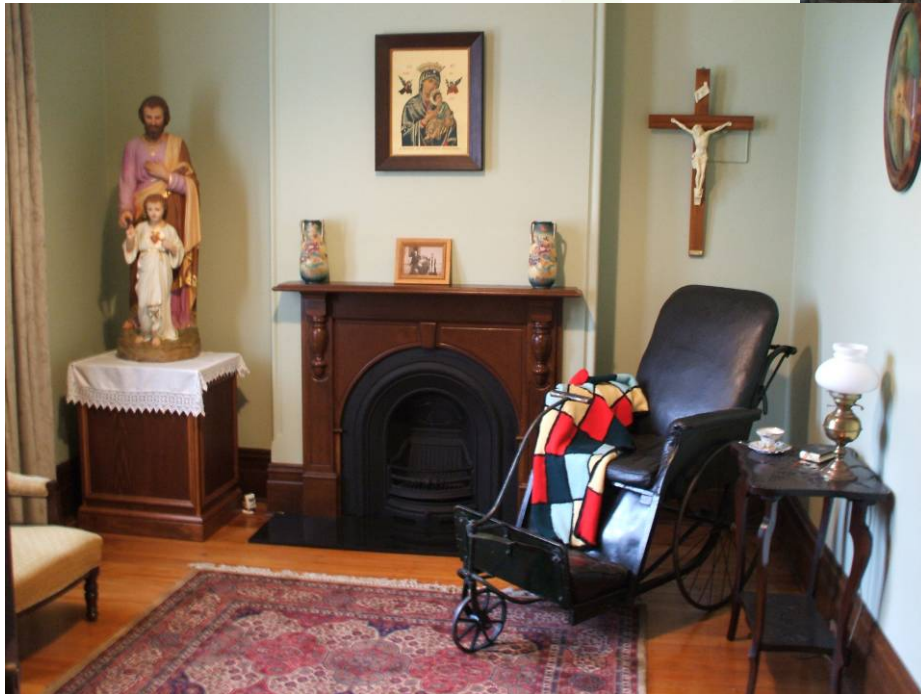






*Mary MacKillop Place Museum, North Sydney*

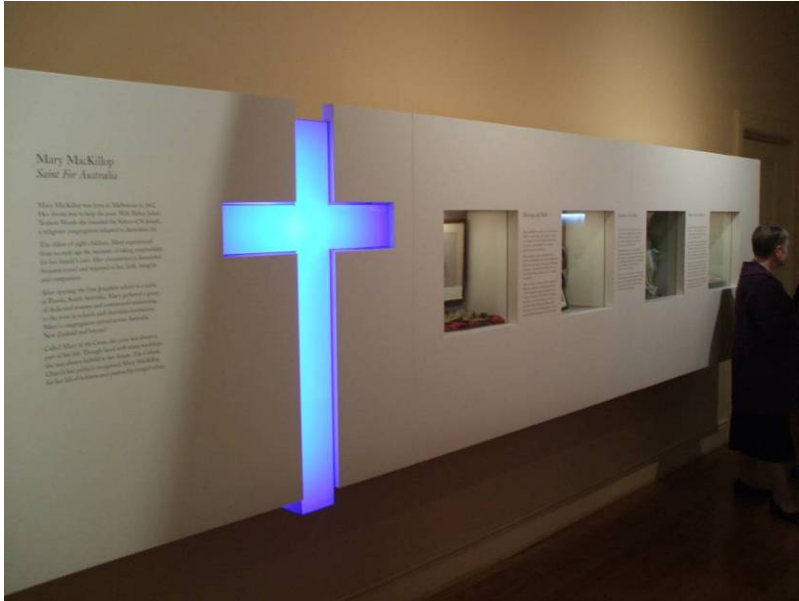




Mary MacKillop Heritage  
Centre, Melbourne







Mary MacKillop Heritage  
Centre, Melbourne



### Beginnings in Penola

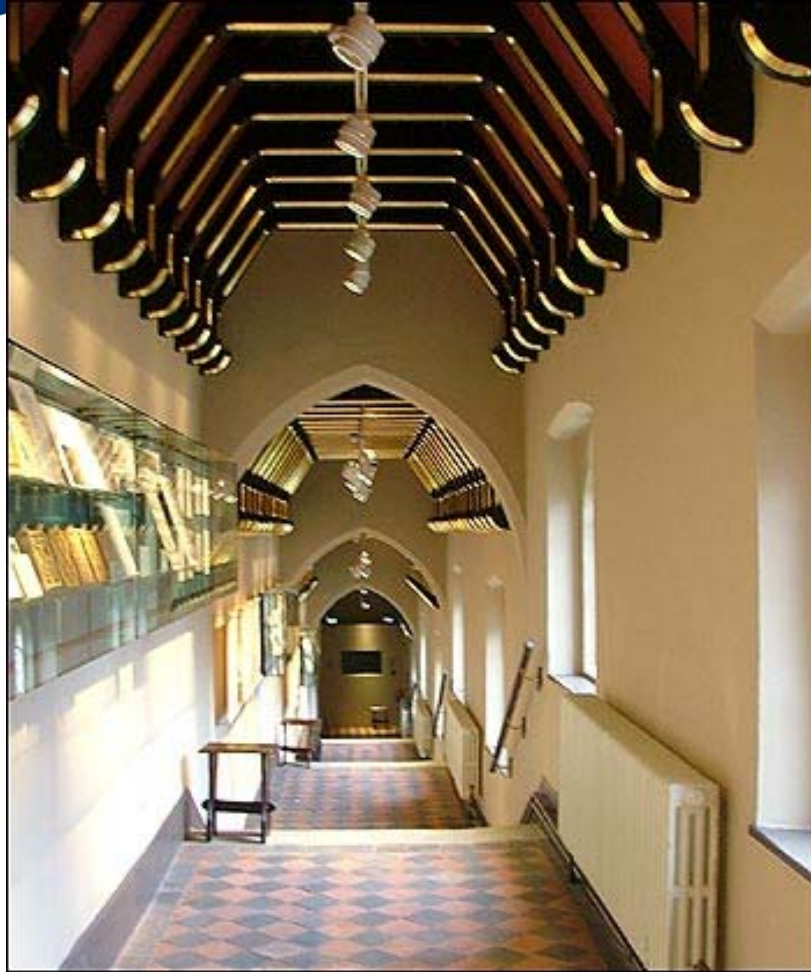
*Mary's dream was realised. With Father Woods as Co-Founder of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Mary began her work in Penola, her first school a renovated stable.*

In January 1866 Mary and Lexie joined Annie in Penola at Father Woods' request, as teachers in a parochial school. At first the sisters used their home at Winella Cottage and the local church for teaching. Mary was then offered an empty stable which her brother John renovated using timber from the stalls. In March the school had 33 pupils.

On St Joseph's Day, March 19, Mary adopted a simple black dress symbolising dedication to God. Blanche Amstink and Rose Cunningham joined her. Bishop Shell visited Penola in 1867 providing rosaries and addressing Mary as 'Sister Mary'. On 30 January, Mary first signed her name as 'Mary, Sister of St Joseph.'







*St Mary's Convent of Mercy, Handsworth*





*St Mary's Convent of Mercy, Handsworth*







## Planning and Process 2

- We quickly discovered all had used exhibition design companies
- We set about trying to identify companies:
  1. That produced the sorts of exhibitions we liked, AND
  2. We felt would be sympathetic to the special requirements (and challenges) of telling the story of a religious order i.e. would actually listen to and work collaboratively with us







*National Museum of Australia, Canberra*





*Fossil Museum, Bathurst*





*Australian War Memorial, Canberra*



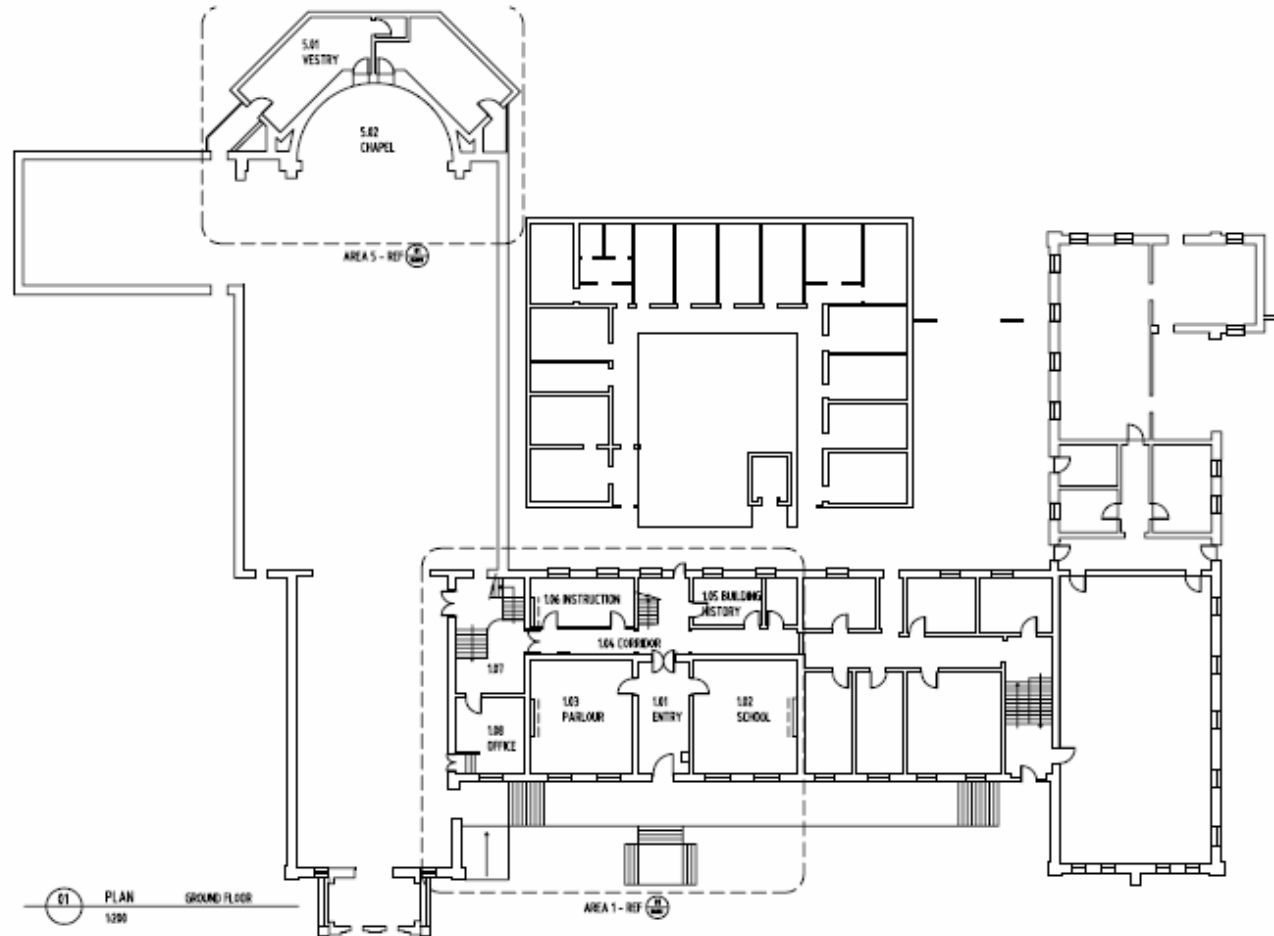




## Planning and Process 3

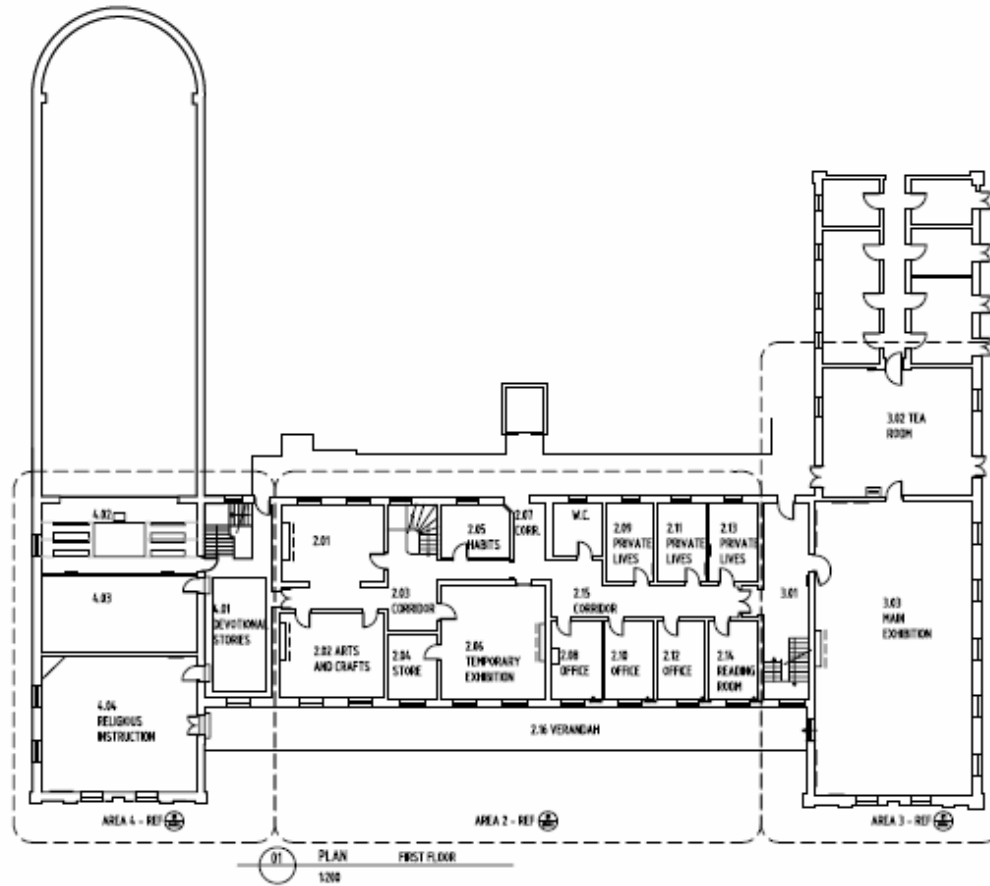
- Appointed consultant exhibition designers
- Worked with them to translate several years of concepts, drafts, ideas and dreams into an actual direction and plan for the spaces
- We then had to develop Content Lists, documenting every single item in every single room - with dimensions and images
- They can then develop the designs - with accurate layouts, cabinets required, etc





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NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	INITIALS	APPROVAL	NOTES: THIS DRAWING IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED	SEE KEY SCALE	ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES	P. 02 8399 7340	F. 02 8399 7342





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# Storage





# Storage



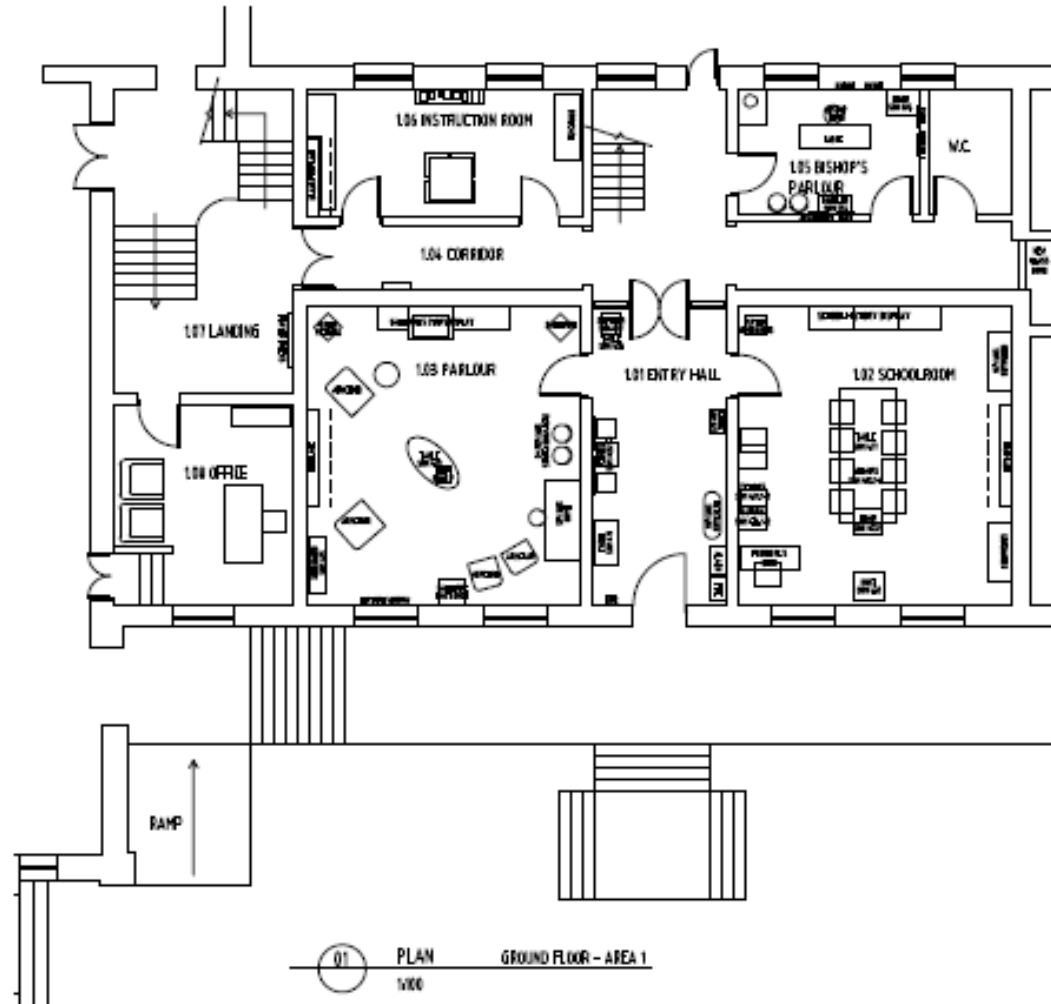




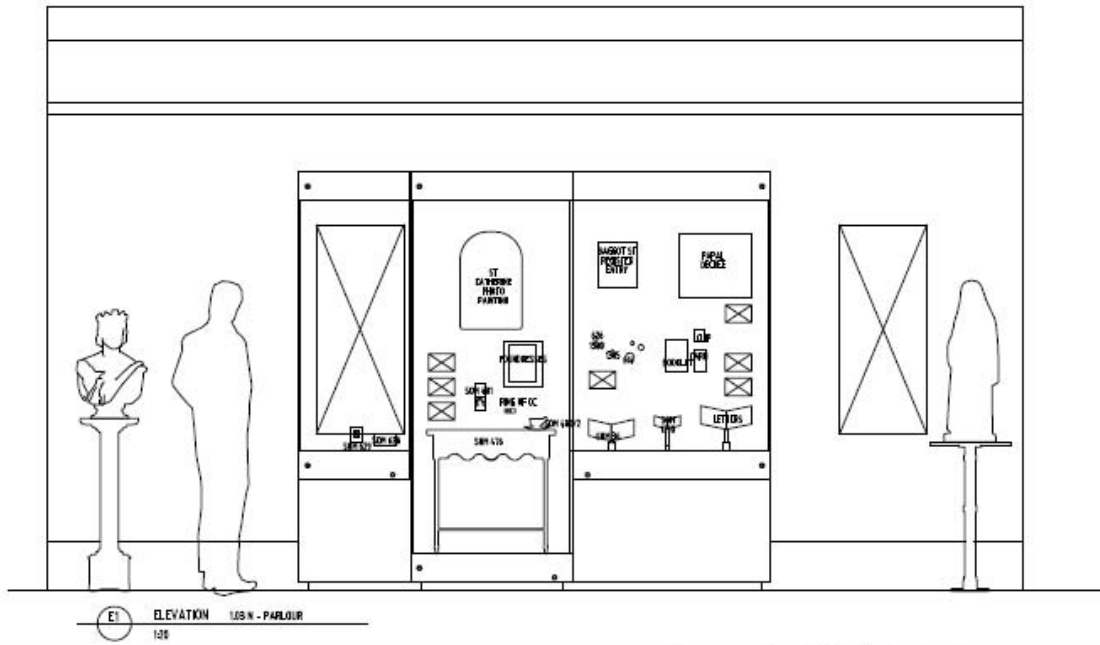
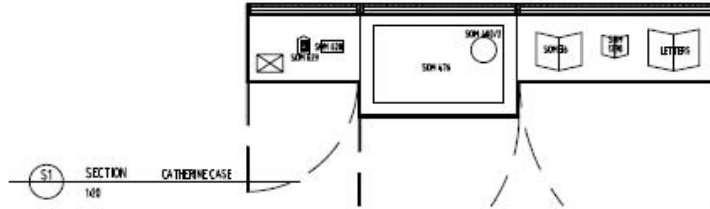
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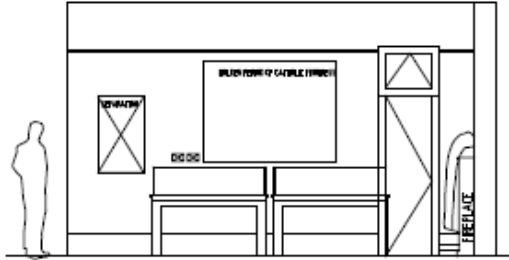


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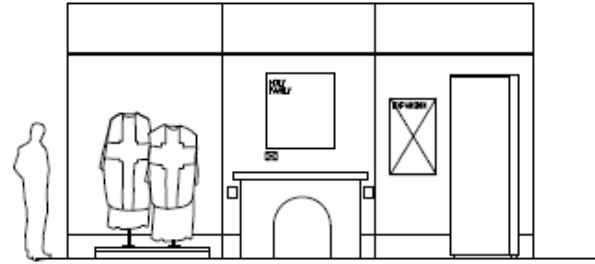




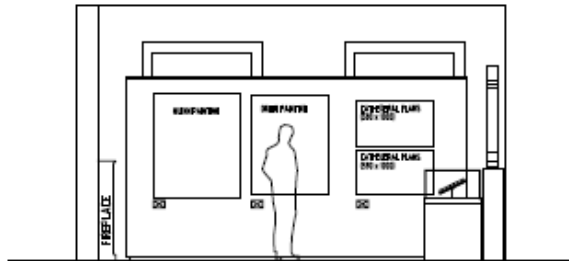




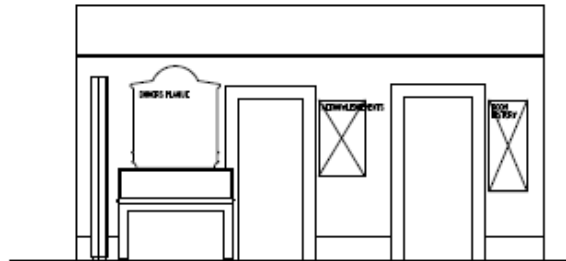
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E3 ELEVATION 2.06 E - TEMP GALLERY  
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E5 ELEVATION 2.06 W - TEMP GALLERY  
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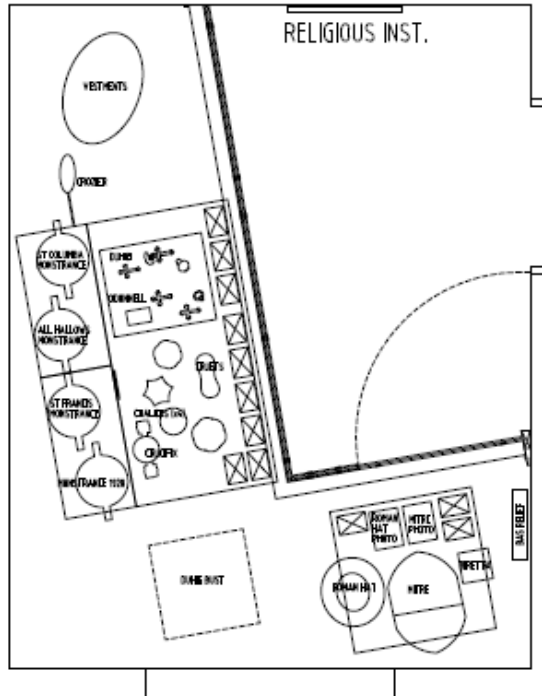
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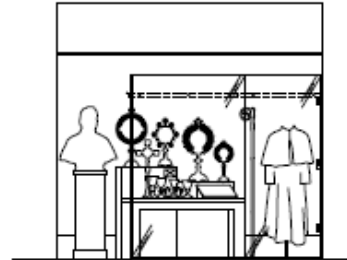




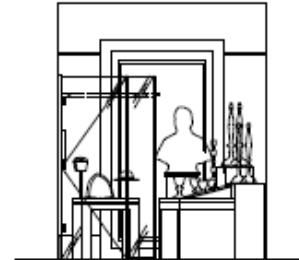




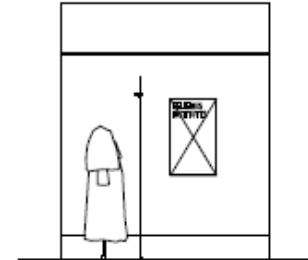
01 PLAN 2.04 - TEMPORARY GALLERY STORE  
1/30



E1 ELEVATION 2.04 S - TEMP GALLERY STORE  
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E3 ELEVATION 2.04 N - TEMP GALLERY STORE  
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DATE 06/07/09	DATE	REV	NO. & A	NOTES: TO BE SHOWN ON PRINTS ONLY	DATE 02/04/09
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2007







2008







2009





2009







# Summary

The redeveloped and expanded Mercy Heritage Centre aims to:

- Interpret the layers of history through a series of themed displays.
  - Beginnings
  - Health
  - Education
  - Welfare
  - Religious Life
  - Building History
- Provide a tangible, and meaningful, connection to the Mercy Story.
  - Exhibitions looking at the historical development of ministries, but also the modern initiatives - to give a sense of the on-going Mercy work
  - Staff in-service sessions, inductions, retreats (with Mercy or guest speakers)
  - Venue for Board meetings - to create/ensure knowledge in leadership
- Build audiences through targeted programs, education kits and other initiatives. For example:
  - Staff programs (above)
  - Curriculum linked education kits (resource kits for teachers, generally include: suggested pre-visit activities e.g. visit our website; questions and answers; discussion topics; themes of exhibitions), broken into subject categories e.g. history, religion, art, etc
  - Use by Ministries for exhibitions, promotions, celebrations, and so on















