

“Shelter”
by
Peter Dailey

Hannans Primary School
Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
A Percent for Art Project for the
Education Department of Western Australia



Fashioned from massive pieces of recycled timber, Peter Dailey's shade structure is intended to remind us of the quiet heroism of the people who have carved out an existence in this harsh environment. In sheltering the school community his structure seeks to do that which is at the heart of all human endeavour; to provide for and protect our children.

The Percent for Art Scheme is managed by the Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS) in partnership with the Ministry for Culture & the Arts.

Extreme summer temperatures make shelter from the sun a vital component of an educational campus in Kalgoorlie. The artist's brief at Hannans Primary School was to provide a shade structure.

Using salvaged timbers, Peter Dailey has crafted a structure which he intends to reflect the strength of character of the people who have carved out an existence in the harsh landscape of this region, both past and present.

Viewed from a distance the shade structure is formal and intended to express architectural strength. Upon closer inspection an amazing richness of detail is revealed. Rejecting the brutal functionalism typical of the large-scale artefacts which commonly adorn a mining town, Peter Dailey has used a decorative pallet which owes its major influences to the Art Deco style.

The carved columns of the shade structure are intended to reflect the flowering of the Kalgoorlie community as something which has grown from the earth. The forms at the base of the columns allude to the curved blades of earthworking equipment. The more intricate forms at the column heads represent human figures in a highly abstracted way. Overall each column can be read as an allegory for the human spirit. Like a team of Colossus-figures, they support the massive beams of the roof, the central beam of which is intended to be read as a spine or as a vein of gold. Over this structure sits the roof itself, providing physical shelter for the children at the heart of the Primary School.

The artist derived an immense amount of satisfaction from this project, in the realisation of a goal he shared with the school and the greater community; to provide for and protect the children. In creating this richly evocative shade structure Peter Dailey not only provided a house for the body of those sheltering beneath it; he also provided a home for the soul.

**HANNANS
PRIMARY SCHOOL
DESIGN TEAM**

Peter Dailey
Artist

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Architect & Project Manager

