NOWarchitecture are lateral-thinkers; an award winning Architectural practice with over 25 years experience focused in delivering consulting services with specialist expertise for Environmentally Sustainable Design.

NOWarchitecture offers expert consultancy for Architecture, Masterplanning and Environmental Sustainability for a wide range of project types for Clients ranging from Government and non-Government Schools, Institutions, Private Business, Community and not-for-profit Organisations.

NOWarchitecture was founded in 1984 by Neville Cowland and Judith North. Over 26 years of operation the practice has developed a statewide project base, relocating in 2007 from Western Melbourne to Fitzroy.

NOWarchitecture’s work exemplifies environmental, social and cultural sustainability, and is undertaken with specific expertise developed through research.

NOWarchitecture (and under its previous trading name of Cowland North Pty Ltd) has been honoured with many awards for design and professional service, including for Sustainability from the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) and United Nations Australasia; for Design from the AIA, Timber Design Council, Steel Institute, Council of Education Facilities Planners International (CEFPI) and the Department of Education; for Professional Service and Business Excellence from the Architect’s Registration Board, Australian Achiever Awards, as a former Wyndham Business of the Year and winner of the Greater Western Melbourne Chamber of Commerce for Best Construction or Development Business.

NOWarchitecture has the skill, creative talent and thorough architectural methodology to translate your Brief to provide an inspiring and successful project.
NOWarchitecture provides unique, integrated, project based solutions referencing to social and cultural environment, climate, topology and existing infrastructure.

NOWarchitecture achieves industry leading results through our holistic design approach emphasising integration of passive thermal and low energy systems to achieve cost efficient construction and operational costs.

NOWarchitecture builds mutually beneficial professional relationships with its clients by responding to the client’s needs, desires and expectations. A client’s brief is the opportunity to create a design that meets the vision, the environment, the budget and the practical outcomes successfully.

NOWarchitecture creates buildings and interiors of timeless quality which are influenced by social values and the identity of the client.

INNOVATION… NOWarchitecture provides innovative solutions with an acute environmental awareness for all projects.

EXPERIENCE… Using 3D CADD technology for over 20 years, each project design is resolved within strict budget and time limits to produce technically logical, efficient and refined building solutions.

EXCELLENCE… NOWarchitecture’s methodology achieves designs of maximum quality using smart primary structures, logical roof forms, economic use of materials, intelligent interplay of natural light and minimisation of operational energy requirements.

Our broad philosophy is based on holistic responsibility, which comprises:

environmental responsibility in our designs,

social responsibility in our corporate governance, and

personal responsibility in our interaction with Clients and consultants.
NOWarchitecture’s senior team have worked together for the past six years. They have formed a tight and efficient Design Team, supported by additional focused staff.

This team has applied its skills to all sizes of projects, including Masterplanning, Design, Documentation and Administration of many projects.

Judith North  B.Arch (Hons), AAIA, Director
PROJECT ARCHITECT

Judith graduated with Honours from Deakin University in 1981, including a Rotary Scholarship to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

Judith’s special expertise is communication with Clients and facility users to effectively enhance project outcomes. Her ability to refine project briefs to achieve facilities which cater for Clients’ unique requirements has won NOWarchitecture numerous design awards. Projects such as Inverleigh Primary School, Portland Secondary College, Malvern Valley Primary School, Meadows Community School and Westbourne Grammar School are examples of innovative planning initiatives she has implemented.

Judith has delivered papers to Educational Conferences in Liverpool, UK and at the University of Melbourne on the implications of space in education. She is a member of the Board of the Victorian Chapter of CEFPI (Council of Educational Facility Planners International) and has served on several community development committees, including the Wyndham Gateways Committee and served the Board of Managers for Mambourin Enterprises, a not-for-profit organisation for intellectually disabled adults.

Neville Cowland  B.Arch, AAIA, Director
PROJECT ARCHITECT

Neville Cowland studied engineering at Monash University before focusing on architecture at Deakin University, graduating in 1982. He has delivered guest lectures at Melbourne University on Sustainable Design, at the British Council of School Environments Conference in 2009, and at the Indian Green Building Council Conference 2010.

Neville has specialist ESD experience and is an Accredited GREENSTAR Professional. He has served on a Task Force formulating guidelines for implementing ESD into Building Quality Standards Handbook for the DEECD and is a member of the AIA’s Forum for Sustainability.

He has undertaken continuous professional development through the AIA, the University of Melbourne, RMIT and Deakin University and independent studies.

Neville has extensive Masterplanning, Design, Documentation and Contract Administration experience in a wide range of project types. He has gained a detailed understanding of the functional requirements for educational and community facilities over 30 years experience and research. Neville’s knowledge of technical aspects of construction and the contractual issues provide special depth to NOWarchitecture’s Masterplanning, Design and Documentation methodology.
Daniel Coomber  B.Arch (Hons)

PROJECT ARCHITECT

Daniel’s expertise and experience provides for tight coordination between design theory, integration of sustainability technologies, building structures and detailed computer modelling. His work on varied project types gives him a basis for assessing options for appropriate application of technologies.

Daniel graduated with Honours from Deakin University in 2004 and has been practising architecture for ten years. Daniel’s graduating thesis explored the sustainability of Educational Buildings and relocatable classrooms.

Daniel has undertaken extensive research on sustainability issues developing expertise in application of passive environmental solutions and infrastructure. He has extensive specialist experience and knowledge in the application of ESD solutions and achieved accreditation as a Sustainability Victoria Energy Rater.

Daniel led the Documentation and Contract Administration of NOWarchitecture’s projects at Meadows Primary School, Yackandandah Primary School and Warrnambool College.

Sarah Hobday-North, M.Arch  BPD (Arch)

ARCHITECT & URBAN DESIGNER

Sarah’s interest in Urban and Community Development is supported by extensive experience in Australia and overseas. Project examples include a 31.5Ha site in the City of Casey, Brighton and Dartford town centre, UK and Kolkata West International City in India.

She has designed and facilitated numerous Community Consultation and Stakeholder engagement events, including workshops, presentations and public exhibitions.

Her work has highlighted the importance of integrating community facilities into both residential and commercial areas for the long term success of these areas.

As an Urban Designer it is Sarah’s role to translate diverse and often competing economic and social needs into spatial requirements which support a robust and cohesive plan. Her education skills are being formalised through Sarah’s studies for a Diploma of Education.

Sarah is a member of the Australian Institute of Architects (Vic) Urban Design Policy Committee and was a contributing author in the Institute’s response to the Planning Minister’s VPP Review and MSS paper.

Julia Makin  B.Arch M.Arch

GRADUATE ARCHITECT

Julia joined the NOWarchitecture team from the interior design firm RED Design Group. There she had a coordination role for a Department of Human Services project to coordinate corporate re-branding of Centrelink and associated services throughout Australia.

Julia graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2008. Her Masters study included research into contemporary working environments and implementation of change management programs - particularly in retrofitting existing buildings to reduce their environmental impact.

She completed a Project Management course with the CoDesign Studio which focused on community based projects.

During her studies Julia spent a year working in London with SMC Charter Architects where her experience included university campus, business parks and residential projects. Post university Julia has developed her interest in education and community use buildings with NOWarchitecture.

Julia has had experience in the design, documentation and delivery of corporate offices, schools, and early childhood learning centres.
**NOWarchitecture** is expert in recycling and retrofitting existing buildings for diverse and exciting new uses.

**NOWarchitecture** uses three dimensional computer modelling is used to verify solar exposure, daylighting, acoustic, thermal and ventilation performance and sight lines.

**NOWarchitecture** is continually undertaking research into emerging products and technologies. Through this research we have developed our own passive environmental systems.

**NOWarchitecture** is an accredited GREENSTAR Professional.

Environmentally Sustainable Design strategies that guide our architecture include:
- Efficient logical structures and rational building forms
- Response to climate and intelligent interplay of natural light
- Solar orientation for warmth in winter and natural daylighting
- Even cross ventilation, induced passive ventilation and night purging
- High levels of exposed thermal mass
- Reduction of secondary finishes and economic use of materials
- Consideration of life cycle costs and embodied energy
- Low energy heating and cooling systems and efficient artificial lighting
- Integration of renewable energy sources
- Integration of rainwater harvesting systems
- Integration of passive cooling systems

**NOWarchitecture**'s environmental focus has won awards. Worlds Best Practice Environmental Sustainability is fundamental to all undertakings in all building types.
A selection of NOWarchitecture’s environmental design awards and citations:

2011 Finalist - United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards, Green Building Award (Yackandandah Primary School)
2008 Winner - Sun Smart Shade Awards (Inverleigh Primary School)
2008 Winner - BPEnviron Sustainability Awards, Public Building Category (Westbourne Grammar School’s Science Centre)
2008 Finalist - United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards, Green Building Award (Westbourne Grammar School’s Science Centre)
2008 Gold Medal - SchoolDesigner.com Green Piece Awards (Westbourne Grammar School’s Science Centre)
2008 Bronze Medal - SchoolDesigner.com High Tech Awards (Westbourne Grammar School’s Science Centre)
2007 Winner - Wyndham Environment Awards (Westbourne Grammar School’s James Mitchell Centre)
2006 Special Commendation - United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards, Green Building Award (Westbourne Grammar School’s James Mitchell Centre)
2005 Winner - Wyndham Environment Awards (Jeffkins Residence)
2004 Winner - Wyndham Environment Awards (Belcher Residence)
2002 Published - ‘Environment Design Guide’ (Inverleigh Primary School)
2000 Winner - RAIA Victorian Architecture Awards, Ecologically Sustainable Development Award (Inverleigh Primary School)
The architecture of a School needs to support the process of learning. The buildings & environment must facilitate a multi-disciplinary way of learning where no experience is isolated from the learning process. Space should be linked to pedagogy.

NOWarchitecture believes that an enlightened approach to education and school facility design motivates and develops assured and confident citizens. For positive change, the educational method must defend and extend the potential of children, teachers and parents. New educational philosophy must assist the individual to achieve full personal potential, personal confidence, self esteem and emotional maturity.

Design excellence counts. Good indoor air quality, ventilation, temperature, lighting and acoustics produce notable positive learning outcomes. Building quality, age, spatial configuration, and aesthetics also have a significant affect. Research by US education scholar Mark Schneider concludes that, “Decisions about school facilities, once translated into brick-and-mortar, affect the daily performance of the generations of teachers and students who use them” and also that “many studies link the effects of building quality to academic achievement [and] to student behaviour.”

Design for sustainability supports the educational process on multiple levels. It provides the environmental conditions and personal comfort to produce positive outcomes, it reduces the impact on our planet and transforms the school’s very buildings and spaces into a resource for learning and environmental experience.

NOWarchitecture understand that there needs to be a shift in design philosophy for Educational Building.

The traditional school has been based on a more regimented, uniform method of teaching which encourages competitiveness, with success often measured through comparison to your colleague. This strategy implies self-satisfaction through a perception of superiority and conversely, to others the imbued sense of failure can be debilitating.

Today we have access to a vast amount of information, new skills are required, new careers that are yet to be defined will challenge today’s students in their adulthood. While looking back and respecting history is an honour and privilege, looking forward with courage, vision and faith is vital for continuing growth and relevance.

Rational, uniform planning is not the answer, but neither is an unfocussed or haphazard approach. The best results will be a manifestation of:

- the aspirations of the School and its mission
- a logical framework and planning
- excellent environmental performance
- be infused with elements of surprise and delight
A selection of NOWarchitecture’s educational design awards and citations:

2013 Commendation - CEFPI Australasia Educational Facilities Awards - Renovation/Modernisation under $2m (Warrnambool College Science and Language Centre)

2012 Winner - CEFPI Victorian Educational Facilities Awards - New Individual Facility (Warrnambool College Science and Language Centre)

2012 Shortlisted - Victorian Architecture Awards Public Building Category (Meadows Primary School)

2012 Winner - Melbourne University Future Proofing Schools Design Competition - 21st Century Learning Award (‘The Fab’ relocatable classroom)

2011 Winner - CEFPI Victorian Educational Facilities Awards - New Entire Facility Category (Meadows Primary School)

2011 Winner - CEFPI Australasia Educational Facilities Awards - Renovation/Modernisation Category (Yackandandah Primary School)

2010 Commendation - CEFPI Awards for Outstanding School Facilities, Renovation Under $1m (Inverleigh Primary School)

2010 Finalist - DEECD School Design Awards, Best School Project below $850,000 (Inverleigh Primary School)

2008 Winner - Sun Smart Shade Awards, Schools and early childhood services category (Inverleigh Primary School)

2007 Commendation - CEFPI Awards for Outstanding School Facilities, Award for New Construction, Entire School (Malvern Valley Primary School)

2006 Finalist - DEECD School Design Awards, Best School Project up to $2.5m (Bellbridge Primary School)

2004 Published - ‘Educational Spaces’ (Inverleigh Primary School & Manorvale Primary

NOWarchitecture is passionate about education and equally passionate about environmental sustainability.

NOWarchitecture are expert in educational pedagogy and are experts in designing architecture that supports emerging teaching methodologies.

NOWarchitecture has formed strong alliances with world leading educational consultants.

NOWarchitecture designs award-winning schools in both the private and government sectors.

NOWarchitecture forges rational and informative links between all stakeholders.
NOWarchitecture’s commitment to quality residential forms started with its first brief and has continued through the homes and extensions it has designed throughout Victoria and interstate.

NOWarchitecture designs superior spaces that are comfortable to live in and economical to operate.

All work is undertaken with an environmental focus and incorporates:
- Passive solar design
- Rational structures
- Sensitive material selection
- Correct Orientation
- Controlled natural lighting
- Aesthetic character
- Cross ventilation
- Spatial and physical identity
- Unique responses to each client brief

A selection of NOWarchitecture’s residential design awards and citations:

- 2010 Winner - National Trust Geelong Region Heritage Award (Colenso Residence)
- 2005 Winner - Wyndham Environment Award (Jeffkins Residence)
- 2005 Published - ‘100 Top Houses Downunder’ (Rose Spring Apartments)
- 2005 Broadcast - Channel Nine’s ‘Amazing Homes’ (McIntyre Residence)
- 2004 Winner - Wyndham Environment Award (Belcher Residence)
- 1999 Published - ‘Houses’ Magazine (Lee/Tang Residence)
- 1997 Published - ‘Houses’ Magazine (Kenny Residence)
Every building designed by NOWarchitecture works hard - from concept to construction to continuous use.

At NOWarchitecture, good commercial design blends functionality and flair and provides a sensible, memorable structural solutions to each client’s need. This philosophy has earned NOWarchitecture a national commendation.

NOWarchitecture nurtures every stage of the process.

NOWarchitecture creates commercial buildings that are appreciated by our clients, by their clients and by the wider community for their design excellence and environmental responsibility.

NOWarchitecture is an accredited GREENSTAR Professional.

The elements that contribute to our commercial design successes are:

- Minimisation of energy and life cycle costs
- Material selection and efficiency
- Contextual response to the brief
- Workplace time and motion analysis
- Ergonomics
- Natural ventilation
- High levels of daylight

NOWarchitecture forges rational and informative links between all stakeholders.

NOWarchitecture doesn’t just build buildings, it builds long term mutually beneficial relationships with our clients.