Pamela Gaunt has designed an abstract artwork for the co-located Japanese and City Beach Primary Schools. The sculpture cantilevers from the wall into the pathway, at the centre of the school’s front façade. A series of drawings made by the artist trace and overlap the changing tide line and are the source of inspiration for this artwork. These were created from the viewpoint of looking along the local coastline, having one foot in the water as the ocean laps the sand. They link the artwork inextricably to the coastal environment of City Beach. The artist collaborated with the architects and school to integrate the artwork into the existing site. Created in jet-water cut aluminium, the sculpture is comprised of a series of undulating sheathes which capture light and have a visual rhythm which is both dynamic and playful. The sculpture changes as the viewer moves. Light, shadows, intimate and distant viewpoints and just standing still, all deliver different visual experiences. This gives the artwork a vitality and interactivity, not only for the children at the school but also for residents and visitors. The blades are brightly coloured, the colour palette chosen to evoke the colours of nature-sunshine, shadow, coastal dune plant life and the shifting light play on each of these elements. These colours have been extended to the awning brackets, to continue the visual language along the length of the building. The artwork is laden with meanings connected to environment and ‘place’. It invites engagement and is both optimistic and joyful. Its abstracted nature and its environmental theme, will give it an enduring quality not only for the students of the two co-located schools, but also the local community.

This artwork sits lightly in the local landscape and has both a ‘spare elegance’ and a sparkle!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artist: Pamela Gaunt
Titles: Undulating Motion #1
Architect: gresleyabas architecture environment & design
Photography: Robert Frith/Acorn
Art Coordinator: Jenny Beahan
Client: Department of Education
Project Manager: Jade Lightbody
GPS Coordinates: 115°45'56"E, 31°56'5"S