

**Client** Fairfax Media Holdings

**Details** Commercial building and integrated fitout

**Area** 16,600sqm (NLA)

**Completion** October 2009

**Award**

> Australian Interior Design Awards, Environmentally Sustainable Design Highly Commended 2010

Fairfax's new head office is located on the edge of Melbourne's Docklands. The project accommodates all of The Age editorial staff in a single state-of-the-art facility; the building is home to an expanding group of Fairfax media holdings in print, broadcast and on-line formats.

The site – on the corner of Collins and Spencer Streets – is the “hinge” between historic Melbourne – the City grid – and emerging Melbourne, the rapidly expanding Docklands district. Sited directly opposite Southern Cross Station, Media House occupies a similar Collins Street frontage.

The building's low-rise linear form is accentuated by a generous north-facing colonnade that provides a covered public walkway along its length, allowing the building's interior to be experienced from outside. At street level, the transparent ground floor is designed to work as an extension of the street, where the public can access The Age Gallery, The Age Shop and a café and plaza.

An inclined plaza provides generously landscaped areas watered from underground tanks which use water recovered from the building's roof areas. The plaza ends in generous steps and ramps providing direct access to an indoor-outdoor café.

The building is an assembly of long, horizontal forms which reflect the linear flows of information within, as well as the dynamism of new media and even the familiar rolled form of the home-delivered Age.

Media House will establish Fairfax in its rightful place as the dominant media organisation in Melbourne; just as Southern Cross Station is the transport hub of the City, Media House will become the information and media hub, with a bold and confident public presence.

**Pictured** View from Spencer Street

