

NEW
ACADEMIC
STREET

HEROES



"You have to have patience, you have to be rational, you have to be logical, you certainly have to be able to manage people as much as you're managing the space... You have to be able to listen as well as talk and that's a really important part of what we do."

Peter Martin
Senior Analyst, Planning and Asset Utilisation
Property Services

nas.rmit.edu.au



Peter has been instrumental in the space planning of RMIT, allowing operations to run smoothly over the lengthy construction period.

Being a Senior Analyst in Space Planning at RMIT has its perks. For example, “With all the briefings of individual projects, you get to become an expert in five minutes about many different fields.”

Peter Martin has been with RMIT since 2012 where he first started out in ITS.

“I started with the IT side and took over looking after their facilities and their projects. With that, I developed an interest in what I’m doing now, and then I transferred across from Computer Science to Property Services and Space Planning in 2008.”

As a Senior Analyst in Space Planning, Peter has to deal with the campus as a whole, attending many meetings, liaising with stakeholders and figuring how to move staff and students in and out of spaces. Over the past few years, with the NAS Project well and truly up and running, available space has become scarce and making sure everyone has a place to teach and study is a huge task. Peter and the Property Services team have stepped up to the mark to make sure that can happen.

“The campus keeps changing and Property Services is changing as well – getting better at providing longer-term solutions and not looking at filling holes. We’re trying to plan ahead so that the works we do fit that longer-term plan... We do try to get that balance of immediate against longer-term planning for future generations,” Peter says.

“One of the things I have learnt within my job, when I was with Computer Sciences it was all about IT, within Property Services, you realise that that we do research into nanomaterial: we do art, we do sculpture, we do media, we do such a broad spectrum. You have to try and understand what the user and the stakeholder wants to develop and try and interpret that and turn it into a process to go forward. You try to look at and understand the whole University and what they have so that there are no duplication of facilities... You try to minimise and improve the utilisation of what we currently have.”

Student-driven objectives

Peter has attended hundreds of meetings keeping up with the work in the precinct. At one time, he had nearly 50 other projects going on at the same time. A typical day for Peter could include back to back meetings, which meant he didn’t get back to his desk until 6pm. He then continued to review the bulk of the meetings and action plans so that everything progressed smoothly. All in all, this went on for nearly 18 months – a significant length of time.

“You wake up at 3am and say, ‘Where am I again?’ It was an interesting period overall.”

One of the biggest positives that Peter has observed about the NAS Project is its student-driven objective. Not only is the revamp going to bring Melbourne’s CBD community to the heart of the campus, but there will be spaces, facilities and a façade that invites students to RMIT. The NAS project will not only allow students to collaborate, but will be an eye-opening experience for many staff across colleges and schools.

“The one thing I’ve been complimentary about is that this is being sold to the students. There’s certainly a generation that are going to have their whole university life coloured by the project, virtually from the time that they walk, to the time that they walk out – they’ll know construction and nothing but. I think that’s been really well sold and the students have been brought along for the journey and that integration,” Peter says.

“I was expecting much more push, but I think everybody is on board. It’s really positive. Neighbours meetings have meant that people have met people they previously wouldn’t have.”

Peter is looking forward to the opening of NAS saying that he thinks “It’s going to be a really exciting thing moving forward and seeing how we connect up the city and the RMIT campus.”