

# Safdie Architects in Melbourne, Australia

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[Safdie Architects](#) has designed the new home of the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music in Melbourne, Australia. Image: Courtesy Safdie Architects

[Safdie Architects](#) has revealed its design for a new Music Conservatorium building at Monash University, in Melbourne, Australia. The four-story building, home to the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, will include a 500-seat recital hall, a multipurpose hall, amphitheater, a recording studio, 40 individual practice rooms, a jazz club with cafe and restaurant services, and music department offices and support spaces.

Composed of glass, precast concrete, and stainless steel, [Moshe Safdie](#)'s design for the building is composed of two major building elements. The Conservatorium's more staid, rectangular portion, with a skylit central atrium, contains the building's office and classroom spaces. The second component is a large performance wing that contains the recital hall. This wing splits, culminating in two performance spaces whose end walls are a series of stepped, curved-shell light scoops that will wash diffuse daylight into the rooms.

*Two-minute virtual walkthrough of the Music Conservatorium. Video: Courtesy Monash University*

The new building will be located on Monash University's Clayton campus and will serve as a new entryway to the campus. The structure will include a porous facade that opens up to Monash Walk -- the primary internal

pedestrian walkway through the campus.



*Rendering of the 500-seat recital hall of the Monash University Music Conservatorium. Image: Courtesy Safdie Architects*

Renderings of the conservatorium building show that the rectangular wing will be similar to some of Safdie's recent institutional work, including the [U.S. Institute for Peace](#), in Washington, D.C. The project's design can also share qualities in common with the [Vancouver Public Library](#) and [Salt Lake City Public Library](#) buildings.



*Aerial overview rendering of the Music Conservatorium. Image: Safdie Architects*



*Rendering of the skylit courtyard of the Music Conservatorium. Image: Safdie Architects*



*Multipurpose room of the Music Conservatorium. Image: Safdie Architects*



*The curved light scoops of the Music Conservatorium. Image: Safdie Architects*

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