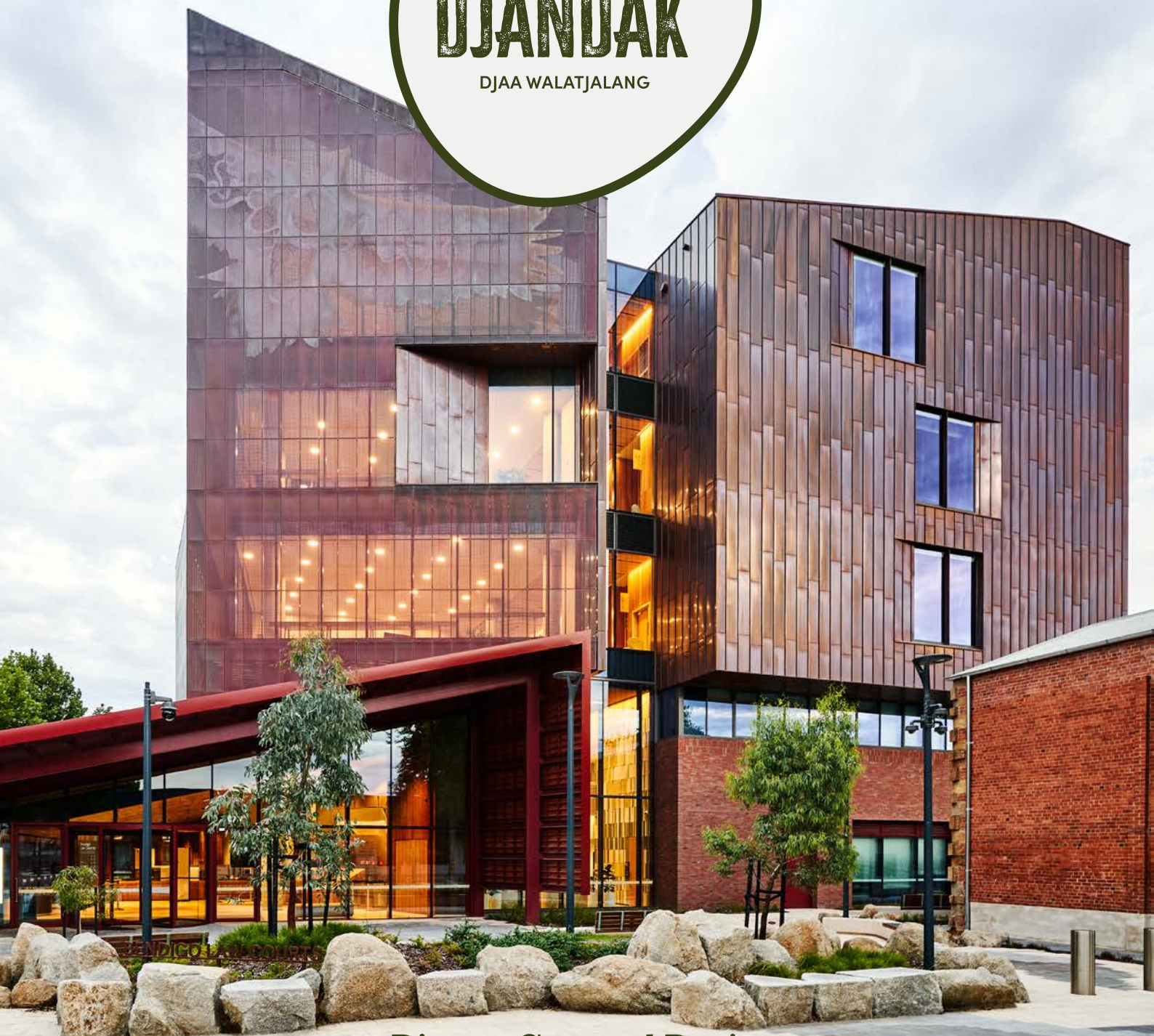




Djaara-Centred Design
Capability Statement | 2025



***Djaara's** (Dja Dja Wurrung People) Cultural connection and understanding of **Djandak** (Dja Dja Wurrung Country) is at the core of all of our projects.*

Country at the heart of design

We embedd Djaara cultural values, aspirations and expression into the built environment.

Djaara-Centred Design puts Country at the heart of every decision (encompassing people, land, water, sky, animals, and plants). Through direct community engagement with **Djaara** (Dja Dja Wurrung People), we prioritise the needs and aspirations of each place on Country, drawing on **Djaara's** deep knowledge of **Djandak** (Dja Dja Wurrung Country). Collaborating with talented **Djaara** artists and storytellers, we embed cultural values into both the built and natural environment. The **DJANDAK** Design team offers unique design consultancy services that facilitate **Djaara** member engagement and cultural expression, ensuring that every project is aligned with **Djaara** aspirations.





What is Djaara-Centred Design

Djaara-Centred Design places Country at the heart of design. This includes people and land, water, animals, and plants. Our approach helps clients align their projects with the deep Cultural and environmental knowledge of the Traditional Custodians.

We work in a co-design model with **Djaara** Members. Engaging directly with **Djaara** people is vital for authentically incorporating their Cultural knowledge and values into decision-making. **DJANDAK** has established guidelines and processes to engage members as paid consultants, ensuring their expertise is respected and fairly compensated, while honouring the community's heritage and supporting self-determination.

By choosing **DJANDAK**, you not only access high-quality design services but also support **Djaara's** aspirations for self-determination, cultural preservation, and economic development. We follow **Djaara** Cultural Integrity Guidelines in all our projects.

Our Team

Our multidisciplinary team of designers—including landscape architects, graphic designers, and project managers – facilitates collaboration with **Djaara** knowledge holders through **Wartaka** (come with purpose) groups.

We use our design skills to facilitate cultural expression in the built environment in collaboration with **Djaara** people, other design specialists, and clients. This exchange of design and Cultural knowledge creates meaningful relationships and results in **Djaara** seeing their values reflected in the built environment. Engaging with our design team establishes meaningful relationships and partnerships with the **Djaara** community that ensure the project runs smoothly.

This exchange of Culture and design expertise creates meaningful relationships, ensuring **Djaara** values are embedded and celebrated in project outcomes.



2024 Winners
of the AILA VIC
President's Award



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS

Our Services

We specialise in creating sustainable, culturally informed landscapes, providing professional input into functional and aesthetically pleasing projects and integrating indigenous public art into the built environment. Our team manages all aspects of project coordination, from initial site analysis to post-project evaluation, ensuring that cultural heritage and community input are prioritised throughout the process.

Our Key Services Include:



Graphic Design, Signage & Wayfinding

Our interpretive signage respectfully portrays **Djaara** culture and values through a collaborative and culturally sensitive process. We engage with the **Djaara** community, knowledge holders, and artists to ensure the narratives, themes, and significance are accurately represented.



Each stage involves iterative consultations with **Djaara** members to ensure cultural authenticity, accuracy, and respect. The final signage stands as both a celebration of **Djaara** Culture and a testament to meaningful collaboration, enriching landscapes across the RSA region with stories that honor and reflect **Djaara** Culture and Country.



Landscape Architectural Design

Our landscape architecture team blends traditional **Djaara** knowledge with contemporary design principles to create sustainable and culturally meaningful spaces. From site analysis and concept plans to detailed construction drawings, we collaborate closely with the **Djaara** community to immerse our projects in Cultural significance, historical context, and traditional land use.

Through this process, we develop site-specific plans that may incorporate **Djaara** artwork and interpretive stories, ensuring the designs reflect **Djaara** Culture and values.

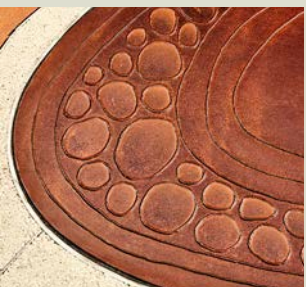
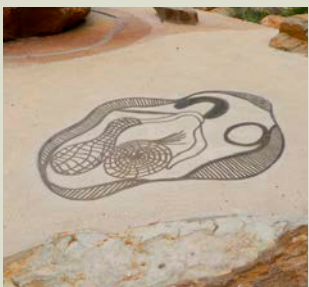


Community & Stakeholder Engagement

We specialise in embedding **Djaara** Cultural values into large-scale projects, strategies, and masterplans from the outset. Rather than retrofitting values into ongoing projects, we begin with a **Wartaka**. This process includes site visits, discussions, and shared aspirations for culturally sensitive site development.



Djaara members consider the site within its broader cultural landscape, offering insights and future aspirations that reflect cultural values and perspectives. Ongoing collaboration ensures these values are included in the project outcomes and future strategies and policies, while fostering a meaningful connection to Country for **Djaara** and the wider community.



Project Management and Artist Management

We manage the integration of **Djaara** artwork into projects, enriching them with cultural stories and a deep connection to Country.



We begin with an expression of interest (EOI), inviting **Djaara** artists to submit portfolios. After artist selection, we handle ICIP licensing, scope, budgets, and timelines. Our team ensures collaboration between artists, design teams, and stakeholders, coordinating logistics and adhering to design specifications for successful installations.

Delivering a cost-efficient, timely result while supporting **Djaara** artists, fostering representation, empowerment, and self-determination within the community.



Djaara Centred Design

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