PERTH BOYS' SCHOOL
The first custom-built school in Perth

ABOVE: In the first few years of the Swan River Colony, thoughts of educating the youngsters took second place to survival in a hostile environment. News of the lack of a school got back to England where the newspapers suggested Western Australia ran the risk of becoming a 'degraded society'. As a result, a colonial school was set up under the tutelage of John Cleland, a carpenter by trade, and for 17 years lessons of varying quality took place in temporary buildings around the town. An education committee was eventually convened and led to a school being built in St Georges Terrace, on the site of a mill. Designed by the Colonial Secretary, William Sandford, construction of the school started in 1853 using convict labour, but a shortage of materials delayed completion until 1854.
In with most educational establishments of the time, the new school style of a church in order to imbue the pupils with a sense of duty, obedience. With two additional cross-wings, built in 1865 and continued in use until the 1890s, when it could no longer cater for a 1980s the college moved to other sites and the old Perth Boys' School was vested with the National Trust and leased as a café. In 2016 the use of this building turned full-circle and, conserved and restored, it has become a city-centre venue for Curtin University. Coincidentally, the old Technical School, which once offered classes in fine