The state of the art, Green Chemical Futures is a collaborative teaching and research facility for academic and industrial research within the chemicals and plastics sector in Australia, enabling the expansion of Australia’s ‘green workforce’.

The three elements of chemical education, research and practice are bonded in a singular form, making collaboration the focus of the building. Scientists mix with undergraduate students and industry partners, and highly visible circulation promotes the concept of a transparent and shared enterprise.

Lower levels of the building contain teaching and learning spaces, while upper floors house research and translational facilities. The building houses 17 specialist sectors, training programs for industry practitioners, and laboratory spaces for over 1,000 students and 100 industry partners. It also achieves a 5 Star Green Star Design and As Built Rating. An impressive 20m high artwork by Louisa Bufardeci is featured in the central stairwell.

The building integrates self-shading northern windows, an air handling system with auto closing fume cupboards, and a rooftop skylight filtering natural light through the central atrium. Designed by Lyons Architects, the landmark building is a centrepiece of the Nationally awarded North West Precinct delivered in collaboration with Jackson Clements Burrows, Outlines Landscape Architecture and MGS Architects.

**Location**

13 Rainforest Walk, Clayton Campus

**Awards**

2015 Vic Architecture Awards - Educational Architecture - Architecture Award
2015 Vic Architecture Awards - Award for Steel Architecture

**Images**

1. Façade of award winning Green Chemical Futures.
2. Laboratory spaces for students and industry partners.
3. Staircase and artwork ‘(in a very short time and space) the universe devolves into a string’ (2014).

Images courtesy of Lyons Architecture.