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Butterflies bring Wintergarden to life

Daniel Nancarrow
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The new-look Wintergarden facade.

Having shed its cocoon of black plastic wrapping, the Wintergarden's elaborate lighting facade was given its first chance to shine last night.

Decorated in flora and fauna designs, with large metallic butterflies, the 86m by 25m facade was lit for the first time by Premier Campbell Newman in the Queen Street Mall.

The lighting of the structure, which has been left exposed but unilluminated for the past two weeks, marks the end of stage two of the centre's \$100 million redevelopment.



Social butterflies rejoice in new mall bloom
Nick Harvey and Emma Sayer.



Incorporating 24,000 LED lights, the facade's lighting system is designed by **Canadian artist Bruce Ramus**, who has produced lighting and stage designs for U2 and David Bowie.

The facade itself was designed by Melbourne architectural firm Studio 505.

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Industry Superannuation Property Trust development director Chris McCluskey said the facade was meant to "mirror the beauty, complexity and rhythm of life".

"The layered metal forest includes organic and geometric forms which change during the day as the sun moves and creates new highlights and shadows," he said.

"At night, the light show is both beautiful and serene – like a delightful garden. At any time of night, mall visitors will see a magnificent butterfly or school of fish meandering across the façade. The lights can transform from a sunset to a rainstorm."

ISPT has described the structure as a landmark interactive facade.

Wintergarden first opened in 1982. It was bought by ISPT for \$154 million in 2003, with the stage two refurbishment opening on 3 April, 2012.

Stage three of the renovation will involve the opening of about six additional stores as the redevelopment of the Regent office tower continues.

Brisbane singer-songwriter Kate Miller-Heidke also performed to cap off opening celebrations.

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