

## AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION [SYDNEY] SYSTEMS

**Project Location**  
Elizabeth Street  
Sydney

**Client**  
Australian Crime  
Commission:  
Andrew Phelan

**Strategic Design** 1\_L-R: ACC's work environment  
featuring the PILA system for  
effective team separation and  
enormous flexibility over time.  
**Interior Design**  
This is complemented by Schiavello's  
QED workstation system enhancing  
openness to team spaces.

**Geyer Pty Ltd:**  
Allan Griffiths  
Peter O'Donnell  
Simone Oliver  
John Millington

**Schiavello NPG**  
Robert Amorosi  
Errol Korken

**Schiavello NSW**  
Mark Keppie  
Daniel Beers  
Steve Inwood

**Area**  
3900 m<sup>2</sup>

**Products**  
PILA system with  
Lydra + E-Screen fabric  
panels, QED work  
environment with MDF  
powder-coated  
worktops and storage  
+ desk-mounted low-  
line privacy panels.

"Our project needed a unique product to both solve our flexibility issues and be cutting edge. Schiavello's Pila system by Burkhardt Leitner was the obvious choice."  
Peter O'Donnell, Geyer.

# GENERATING FLEXIBILITY

Since the events of September 11, Australian law enforcement is operating in an ever-changing and increasingly complex environment.

The establishment of the Australian Crime Commission [ACC], which brings a strong intelligence focus to the investigation of serious and national criminal activity, comprises the skills and functions of the former National Crime Authority, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and the Office of Strategic Crime Assessments.

To better position Australia to meet the threats posed by nationally significant crime, new accommodation was needed to support the multi-agency teams approach critical to ACC's objectives. These were reflected in the strategic design brief to deliver a new workplace environment that leveraged cultural change based around the agencies' business goals and future projections.

The ACC relocated to Centennial Plaza, Sydney, in close proximity to the city and easy access to amenities. The building's large floorplates accommodate an open workspace with remarkable 360-degree views and natural light.

The ACC clearly enunciated key 'Environment Themes' around working in teams, including Trust, Connectivity, and Flexibility, and these helped develop the design concepts.

"The most critical two elements that drove the new environment were Trust and Flexibility," explains Philip Ward of Philip Ward Architects. "The level of flexibility required was so demanding that conventional approaches were never going to work.

In trying to come to grips with achieving effective team separation and enormous flexibility over time we explored temporary space solutions used in the exhibition industry, which led us to the Pila system."

Philip Ward Architects in conjunction with Geyer Design used the Strategic Design brief to develop the tenant brief using a process of interviews, workshops and interactions with key staff to determine specific team and business units' functional needs.

The biggest challenges revolved around creating an environment that was not just able to be flexible but looked flexible and reflected the theme of flexibility which formed part of the work practices. Teams were provided with spaces and a kit of parts to go in them, determined by the teams and facilities staff.

"Our project needed a unique product to both solve our flexibility issues and be cutting edge, adds Peter O'Donnell of Geyer. "The Pila system was the obvious choice as it was conceived as a framing system to support many possible material infills, such as lycra, glass and others." Lycra was selected in some instances to separate and connect, whilst natural light transmission is retained. Acoustically separated spaces are strategically located and help to anchor the team spaces.

The simplicity of Schiavello's QED work environment, featuring MDF powder-coated worktops and storage, and QED desk-mounted low-line privacy panels, further enhances openness to team spaces.

