

**AUSTRALIANSUPER
FITOUT + SYSTEMS**

What do you get when you merge two of Australia's most prestigious and successful industry superannuation funds? A youthful organisation poised for great heights.

SUPER POWERS UNITE

Project Location
Levels 32 + 33, 50
Lonsdale Street
Melbourne

Client
AustralianSuper:
Jill Ireland

Design
John Wardle Architects:
John Wardle
Kirrilly Wilson
Fiona Dunin
Toby Horrocks
Barry Hayes
Adam Brown
Dale Hewlett

Project Manager
Montlaur
Project Services:
Will Cuming

Schiavello Vic Fitout
Andrew Howard
Tommy Virgato
Tommi Cosgrove
Gary Edwards

Schiavello Vic Systems
Stephen Villiers

Area
3000 m²

Products
QED desking and pedestals, System 45 pinable screens with magnetic whiteboards, Millem partitions.

1_AustralianSuper reception area including exposed plywood counter continuing the Urban Workshop's design theme, Millem toughened glass partition system with pivot doors.

2_Mezzanine level breakout area with timber panelling.

3_Meeting room with integrated timber veneer storage and cupboards, showing 'city-scape' theme.

4_Open plan workstation area with QED desking and powder coated pedestal with System 45 pinable screens, showing 'city-scape' division solution.

With an impressive 1.2 million members already in tow, AustralianSuper was formed in July 2006 when Australian Retirement Fund (ARF) and Superannuation Trust of Australia (STA) merged, creating the necessity for a large new head office.

Celebrating striking city views from the top of Melbourne's iconic Urban Workshop (see page 24), John Wardle Architects have complemented yet contrasted the natural feel of timber panels and warm down lighting with sleek, bold furniture choices. The cityscape echoes throughout the interior, with the 'Manhattan skyline' sculptured-storage units (joinery by Schiavello) creating subdivisions between team zones. These features create a common design language and materiality with the Urban Workshop's illustrious ground floor entrance; created by joint venture WBNH, with which John Wardle Architects were pivotal members. Schiavello's involvement with the Urban Workshop fitout extends throughout the tenancy into each floor's lift lobby, and into the AustralianSuper project. This continued participation was critical in keeping the quality of the designers' vision to a high and consistent standard. John Wardle Architects also drew subtle reference to the city's gardens with forest-like screen prints on Schiavello's glass Millem partitions.

Jill Ireland, AustralianSuper (General Manager, Relationships Management) specified a brief to John Wardle Architects that was 'open plan, with excellent staff facilities, quiet rooms in lieu of offices and design/décor that

Originating from more conventional closed office spaces, the employees were confronted with the notion of not only a new environment with new faces, but a different work culture.

As John Wardle Architects explains: 'It was vital that AustralianSuper's new workspace demonstrated to their staff and stakeholders the merged funds' open, transparent and member-focused culture.'

Schiavello's Systems and Fitout teams supplied workstations, systems furniture and undertook the architectural joinery construction. This included the reception counter, boardroom panelling and credenza unit, along with the staff kitchen joinery and wall panelling wrapping around the mezzanine. Jill Ireland recognised Schiavello's ability to 'provide solutions that were cost-effective and often ensured a positive outcome.'

The QED workstation with System 45 screens was selected from Schiavello's range for aesthetic value, ESD qualities (Schiavello's powder coat MDF technology greatly improving life cycle environmental impact), modularity, height flexibility and in particular because it is locally manufactured.

John Wardle Architects: 'The [Schiavello] team was very accepting in constructing some highly complex details and unique forms. Their extensive knowledge of the construction industry, materiality and systems enabled the project team to resolve some of the more complex details on site.' John Wardle Architects conclude, 'Schiavello's Fitout team and management of all subcontractors was instrumental to the project's success.'

