

Below Photos> Unimet workstation system and Sesto desking was used with a mobile pedestal and a unique overhead shelf which ran through the full width of the workstation to create and resolve storage requirements.



#### PROJECT SUMMARY

**Project Location:** Levels 3-6 & 9-15, Rialto, 525

Collins Street, MELBOURNE

**Client:** Telstra Australia - Chris Sutcliffe

**Project Manager:** Bovis Lend Lease –

Anthony Flynn

**Design:** MGT Architects – Jeff Morehen

**Schiavello Vic Systems:** Robert Amorosi, Stuart

Etheridge, Ralph Tigani

**Area:** 16,000m<sup>2</sup>

# TELSTRA ONAIR

An interesting departure from Telstra's standard workplace accommodation, Telstra's OnAir mobile communications group exhibits a new open-plan environment that focuses on the corporate life of its people as a key component of the overall fitout.

## TELSTRA ONAIR

When Telstra's OnAir Business Unit opted for a new environment to accommodate 1150 staff over 16,000m<sup>2</sup> of Melbourne's Rialto, it needed to reflect a dynamic industry and people, and strongly position the company in the complex mobile communications market.

"Telstra has recognised that the way people do business has changed and it was important for the office environment to reflect those changes," said Chris Sutcliffe, Strategic Project Manager of Telstra Corporation. "Telstra is now focussing on solutions of office environments that support the concept of a purely open-plan office layout while at the same time challenging designers and suppliers to be creative within very tight budgets."

"It was an interesting project," said Jeff Morehen, project architect of MGT Architects. "Telstra basically put their standard accommodation guidelines to one side and started a-fresh, going through a strategic brief formulation and consultative design process."

The new work environment is intended to improve cycle time and innovation for the client, facilitate a quick exchange of knowledge, and encourage people to learn more about their business. Other key objectives included reducing costs of churn – through flexibility and mobility, attracting and retaining staff through a sense of community and belonging, facilitating accessibility and openness, and supporting client-focused aspects of the business through showcasing the business.

"Schiavello's Unimet workstation system and Sesto desking met the terms of our brief and budget, and we were comfortable with Schiavello's capacity and their capability in the industry to be able to deliver," said Anthony Flynn, Project Manager of Bovis Lend Lease. "They also had a track record with Telstra and Bovis Lend Lease in past projects."

Schiavello's Systems team worked closely with MGT Architects to determine a workstation approach to be incorporated into the design solution. "We came up with a version of what we called a studio solution," said Jeff Morehen. "Elements of the workstation corresponded to data powered screens, and a primary work surface and mobile return allowed for flexibility within the space. In between the banks of the workstations were central island benches powered to take printers and fax machines and incorporate group filing."

Mobile pedestals and an overhead shelf running the full width of the workstation resolved the design issue of accommodating individual and group storage. "Schiavello actually made an open framed shelf above the individual workpoints. The shelf was open allowing you to see through it, thus balancing the need for openness with storage and privacy," explained Jeff Morehen.

"The team designed a customised approach to concealing the services reticulation. Above the shelf, extending to the ceiling, there is another open frame, where one of the blades of that frame is actually where the power and data services are reticulated. In a concealed way, all of the services come from the ceiling down through that open frame, and down into the screen. Within this frame is an overhead screen which is a unique part of the tenancy because it houses a blind, which can be retracted or closed; opening or closing the space, depending on individual needs.

"Schiavello's product at the end of the day was selected over the other short-listed ones because it did address the aesthetics and quality needed, and the budget was achieved to provide a good value solution," concluded Jeff Morehen.

"Schiavello performed very well over the course of the project," said Anthony Flynn. "We certainly had a very tight time-frame and they managed to deliver and meet all the dates that we set."

Schiavello have been a major systems furniture supplier to Telstra Corporation nationally for over seven years.