

TRIPLE M & B105 – AUSTEREO



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Brisbane broadcast giants, B105 and Triple M are riding the wave of the new digital age, leading the way in digital broadcasting technologies, and breaking down all the barriers of traditional environments for radio stations along the way.

Below Photos> Reception areas of B105 and Triple M.



Acclaimed as the first fully digital radio complex in Australia, Austereo's new Brisbane tenancy, now home to Triple M and B105 radio stations, represents a significant change in the culture of broadcast operations.

"There's a good feel about it... it's a great environment," said Des DeCean, Austereo's group general manager - engineering and IT. "The Brisbane facility was an opportunity to create a new environment for Austereo and explore new technology for broadcasting.

"I had a concept in mind to get away from building traditional closed office environments and isolated studios in a multistory building – I wanted to get a feeling of team spirit back into our business, having everyone working closely together.

"I wanted people in the office areas to see the studios so they'd feel part of the on-air product, and likewise, the people on-air in the studios to see that there's a lot of people involved in making things happen for them," he explained.

The challenge was to take a very old timber warehouse, once Brisbane's mail distribution centre, and integrate all aspects of the business on one level, especially the high-tech acoustically isolated on-air studios which were placed within the office environment on 2400m² to accommodating approximately 140 people.

Schiavello, commissioned as construction managers, assisted architectural and project management firm Peter Harvey and Company in developing and executing an open-plan design solution that would accommodate a high-tech capsule for creative output, while faithfully maintaining and overcoming the building's inherited timber fabric.

"We had acoustic problems because of the nature of the building being an old timber warehouse," explained Peter Harvey of Peter Harvey and Company. "We overcome these by 'floating' the studios on rubber mounts with additional strengthening of the floor, with large acoustically sealed windows, and additional acoustic isolation in the studios and the mechanical air-conditioning plant.

"We then literally placed the production and on-air studios right in the middle of the office, so everybody could see or hear the results of their work. The studios became a floating box within a sea of office staff," he said. >





Above Photo> On-air sound studio features latest sound technology in an acoustically isolated environment.

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The high-tech attributes of the project coupled with the heritage constraints of the building also presented problems with structured cabling and air-conditioning.

“Getting the masses of cabling and air-conditioning ducts around the building to each individual studio and workstation area was an architectural and interior design challenge,” said Peter Harvey. “Instead of hiding those elements we decided to expose them by using cable trays and duct work slung between the timber trusses. These became strong features to the overall design and the interior environment”.

The visual stimulation of the advanced radio complex comes from the careful mix of old and new: high-tech cable trays, stainless steel and aluminum are juxtaposed with exposed steel and timber beams, and natural timber floors that leave no doubt to the integrity of the space.

Specifically designed by Peter Harvey and Company for the new digital radio and broadcast equipment, Schiavello’s specialised joinery is evident in the studios and workstations including on-air and production desks and consoles built to the highest ergonomic standards.

“Schiavello was chosen because of their exceptional attention to detail. Given that the construction for acoustic rooms such as studios does require a lot of skill and careful work on behalf of various trades involved, we wanted someone who could work efficiently and effectively to our stringent time frame. They really come home on this one!” concluded Des DeCean.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Location: William Jolley Place, Level 1, 21 Saul Street, BRISBANE
Client: Austereo Pty Ltd – Des DeCean
Design: Peter Harvey & Company – Peter Harvey
Schiavello Qld Fitout: Phillip Ross, Dave Allenby, Vince Alberry
Area: 2400 m2