

**Project Location**  
 Level Ground  
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 + 8  
 161 Collins Street  
 Melbourne

**Client**  
 KPMG:  
 Gabrielle Bibby  
 Mitch Craig

**Design**  
 [L1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 + 8]  
 Geyer Pty Ltd:  
 Peter Geyer  
 John Lenagan  
 Karen Griffin  
 Alexandra Coleman  
 Amanda Wright  
 Aida Berdin

**Design**  
 [Banking Chamber]  
 Metier3:  
 Zorana Zanoskar  
 Joe Danese  
 Edmund Lau

**Schiavello Vic Fitout**  
 Craig West  
 Zane Danielis  
 Justin Hoffman

**Schiavello Vic Systems**  
 Tony Grech  
 Andre Caruana  
 Joe Verrica  
 David Muscat

**Prima Architectural**  
 Peter Klaaysen  
 John Woods

**Area**  
 26,000 m<sup>2</sup>

**Products**  
 2500 Ultimet  
 workstations with  
 metal powdercoated  
 solid and perforated  
 tiles + semi-  
 transparent frameless  
 glass with System 45  
 dividing panels,  
 Systemet mobile  
 pedestals.

1\_The entry space [Banking Chamber] with textural richness of materials used sparingly. To complement the richness of space, Corian was selected to provide a modern, clean and light appearance, with some depth; the reception desk is perhaps the most stunning example of Schiavello's Corian work.



KPMG's Melbourne refurbishment is contemporary and innovative, and in keeping with the tradition and culture of the historical T&G building whilst reflecting the vibrancy of Melbourne's culture.

# LONG-TERM POSITIONING

The refurbishment at KPMG House [historically the T&G Insurance building] at 161 Collins Street in Melbourne is a fine example of linking past to future, studiously respecting the existing fabric whilst providing new elements that better support the dynamic business needs of KPMG.

\_ Located in the heart of the city's financial business district, the site boasts an ideal combination of accessibility to all the facilities offered by the area, and provides the best long-term positioning for their Melbourne office with a commitment to Collins Street.

\_ According to Gabrielle Bibby of KPMG, the key to retaining this space for its 1400 employees is the ability to reposition the main address and reception areas at the Ground level in the existing heritage Banking Chamber. "The opportunity to construct a contemporary facility within a refurbished historic space of classical proportions provides KPMG with an appropriate solution aligned with their corporate values and brand," explains Bibby.

\_ The client's functional brief required the creation of the distinct reception area with supporting three meeting rooms, theatrette, presentation area, servery for events to be held in the Chamber and the dedicated lift lobby. Additional amenities block was also required to service the KPMG exclusive ground floor area. The new toilet block had to be designed as a sculptural element, built by Schiavello within the context of the historic tissue.

The entry space itself was visually very rich: ornate columns and ceilings, complex patterned stonework and the Napier Waller mural, in addition to the detailed special glazing system which was present since the first refurbishment in the early nineties.

"Very early in the process, we decided to create the necessary insertions into the existing tissue in a style which was modern, but timelessly elegant," explains Zorana Zanoskar of Metier3.

In detail, all new elements were distanced from the existing ones, and distinguished by their clean lines.

\_ Textural richness of materials is used sparingly. "To complement the richness of the space we looked for a material that was modern, plain coloured, flat and light, but had some depth," says Zanoskar. White Corian manufactured and installed by Schiavello was selected and used quite extensively; the reception desk is perhaps the most stunning example of Schiavello's work.

\_ Transcending the entry space, Geyer was charged with designing seven different levels within the landmark building. For Geyer, working with Schiavello's Fitout and Systems teams, key considerations for more flexible and responsive planning included in the design of client areas and overall improvement to the existing functional and presentation quality of the facility to clients and KPMG people as well as alignment with KPMG's brand and future business aspirations.

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The project, currently being rolled out in 14 stages, requires Schiavello's fitout team to work closely with Geyer to resolve aspects of the space including an increase in the quantity and quality of meeting, presentation and entertaining spaces, orientation and wayfinding, and access to natural light. Schiavello works to the ceiling, glazed partitioning to offices and joinery to breakout spaces help capture the design intent.

According to Geyer's Alexandra Coleman, the design draws on Melbourne's unique café culture and laneway subculture surrounding the KPMG offices as inspiration for office elements such as the communal break out areas, featuring laser-cut powdercoated dividing screens designed by Geyer and constructed by Schiavello. To work areas, Schiavello's Ultimet workstation system provides a clean, flexible, spacious and cost efficient solution consistent with Geyer's design. "It has formed a core component of the flexible design solution," comments Coleman.

The open office space located throughout the floors, with a number of strategically positioned quiet working areas and meeting rooms across all levels creates a new working space conducive to more effective teamwork and interconnection and communication throughout the business. Schiavello's Ultimet system forms a dynamic grid within the work space. A combination of metal powdercoated solid and perforated tiles contrasts semi-transparent frameless glass and System 45 dividing panels across employee work spaces. Small panels in a solid and glass combination are able to further divide desk space and are easily removed to provide enhanced flexibility. The Ultimet system has resulted in an efficient use of the space, opening up opportunities for communal social areas to be worked into the layout of each of the key floors of the building.

2\_ Glazed partitioning separates small meeting areas aside from work spaces.

3\_ Schiavello's Ultimet system forms a dynamic grid within the work space. A combination of metal powdercoated solid and perforated tiles contrasts semi-transparent frameless glass and System 45 dividing panels across employee work spaces.

4\_ Schiavello's Ultimet workstation system provides a clean, flexible, spacious and cost efficient solution.

5\_ Communal break out area featuring laser-cut powdercoated dividing screens designed by Geyer and constructed by Schiavello.



