

Minter Ellison Lawyers - Melbourne

A new design sympathetic to an existing fitout maintains its own unique presence with some impressive design features.

The new client floor for one of Australia's top law firms, Minter Ellison Lawyers, located in the Rialto Building's north tower, Collins Street, Melbourne, extends its existing meeting precinct to the whole of level 23 revealing a beautifully crafted interior.

The distinguished space takes its cue from the south tower client floor, completed by design firm, HASSELL, together with Schiavello in 1997. According to designer, Anna Muller, the new north tower precinct is a translucent, coloured light incarnation of the south tower, simultaneously respecting Minter Ellison Lawyers' core values and identity whilst acknowledging and reflecting its progression.

Schiavello's fitout team worked collaboratively with HASSELL to resolve design issues throughout the building process. "They were meticulous in their construction detailing and fully conversant with drawings and the design intent. We once again enjoyed working with Schiavello," said Sean Bett of HASSELL.

HASSELL utilised a range of unique materials in unusual methods of construction requiring intricate detailing. "Subtleties of finishes pronounced movement from ante spaces to informal / formal meeting functions. Light in all its subtleties was an important feature, effectively utilised in defining space," said Suzette Jackson of HASSELL.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Location Rialto Building, L23

Nth Tower, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne

Client Minter Ellison Lawyers -

Guy Medland, Janet Hancock

Design HASSELL -

Sean Bett, Anna Muller, Suzette Jackson,

Trevor Coolidge, Lorenzo Marianni,

Jane Clark

Schiavello (Vic) Fitout Gary Edwards,

Tommy Virgato

Area 880 m²

The new design is sympathetic to the existing client floor and new interiors whilst maintaining its own presence. Entry to the north tower precinct features a series of slide projections to the floor. Coloured light of 'blue and green rain' references the existing lobby ceiling design. The environment's ambience and vistas provide an intimate mingling zone and an 'Alice in Wonderland' door to the other sides; once glimpsed the desire to explore is inextricable.

Formal, large scale common conference rooms use cantilevered timber slipped form joinery walls and doors. Anna Muller said this represents the idea that when any large group of people come together there are alternating forces of movement. Large scale dining conference rooms take this expression and translate the geometry into profiled fabric panelled walls. The conference rooms include small breakout areas, buffet and layout spaces, and audio-visual and conferencing facilities.

Red light rooms offer a medium scale, semi-formal intimate environment, employing a suspended over-scaled two metre diameter glowing red fabric drum. In contrast, the medium scale, informal blue light rooms create an open focus at a seated level with translucent solid surface meeting tables set against a ceiling suspended pearlescent finish joinery wall, glowing with blue light underneath. Completing the floor, and supporting the perimeter meeting rooms, a series of curved glass pod rooms offer informal, small-scale interview spaces, breakout, kitchen, and client utility functions.



[1]

Images [1] This executive lounge shows the meticulous construction detailing and design intent of the veneer feature wall. [2] Fabric panelled feature wall. [3] Unique round meeting rooms use timber slipped form joinery walls and doors, complemented by curved frosted glass. [4] The reception offers a glimpse of this beautifully crafted interior. [5] A range of unique materials and unusual methods of construction required intricate detailing.



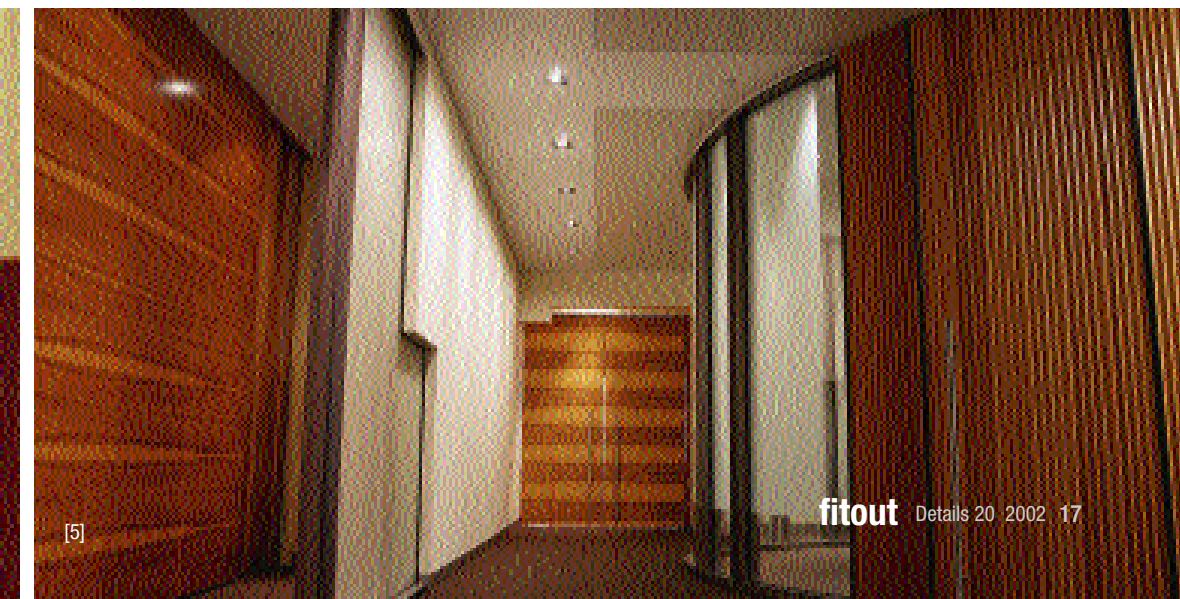
[2]



[3]



[4]



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