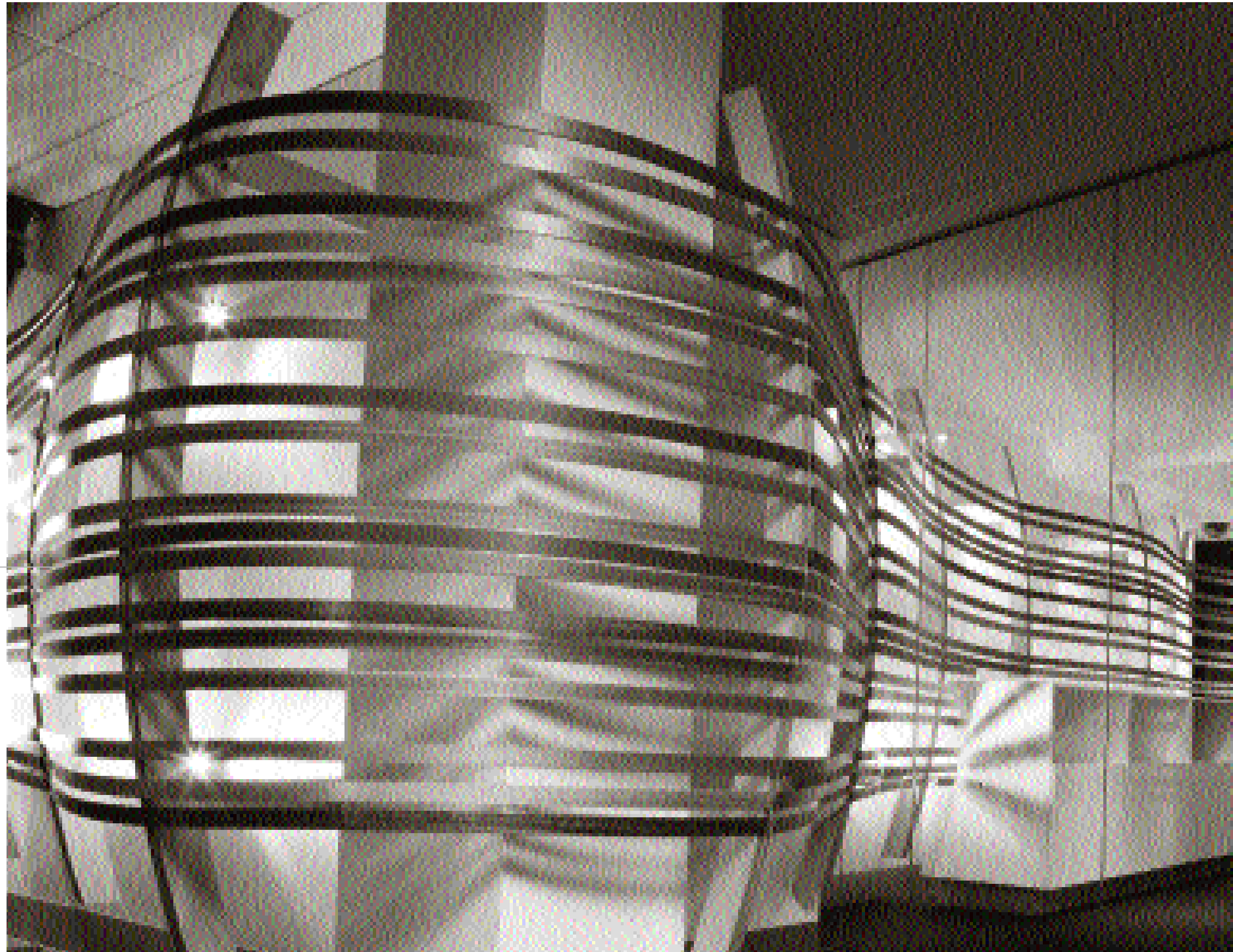


Novare Asia Pacific

A striking workplace for team-based learning and innovation.

In the first operation of its kind in the Asia Pacific Region, Bligh Voller Nield (BVN) succeeded in designing a workplace that supported Novare's business activities both functionally and culturally, amalgamating existing disparate groups comprising 480 people, to one location in Melbourne. "A key driver was that the new workplace embodied the new business' objectives of being progressive, transparent, a fun place to work, and differentiating itself in the market place," explained BVN's, Jane Williams.

The brief called for a workplace that contributed to a sense of community, provided access to natural daylight and views, offered shared support spaces, and varied worksettings for team-based learning and innovation. Moving away from individual 'traditional' cellular offices, staff including the CEO, consultants, analysts, and business managers, now sit within the open plan environment.



Above Image Schiavello constructed cedar screens wrap the walls, creating a striking feature at Novare's new workplace.

novare asia pacific

The striking layout responds to Novare's clients' changing needs for informal and formal communication. The open environment, conducive to interaction and moments of revelation, allows clients to view the people that deliver their products within a transparent workplace. A formal client area, once kept distinct from the general workplace, is replaced by a variety of support spaces. This includes the 'green room' that encourages interaction while sustaining Novare's new workplace culture, and informal meeting spaces scattered throughout the space for casual ad-hoc encounters. 'Utility pods' located close to the various business groups break down the scale of the large floor plates by creating distinct zones for clustered workpoints.

According to Richard Halasa, Schiavello Fitout, Schiavello was responsible for the construction, coordination and management of the complete office fitout. This involved materialising BVN's design concepts which included organic forms that work to spatially counteract and break down the hard-edged geometry of the base building. A high density of meeting rooms, video conferencing, quiet rooms and secure rooms, and a mix of solid and transparent connections maintain the organic form. Featuring throughout the interior is a Schiavello constructed cedar screen. It wraps the walls of meeting rooms, and is fixed on spot lit curvaceous plywood fins, allowing glimpses of blurred activity within the rooms. "Levels of transparency are juxtaposed against one another from clear glazed walls with screening to polycarbonate walls revealing structural framing and solid walls with acrylic slot windows that curve with the plane of the wall," said Jane Williams.

Exposed cable trays complexly travel throughout the space proclaiming the transparency of the business and its connectivity to the workplace, acting as a visual device that leads the eye through the space.

PROJECT SUMMARY
Project Location Basement, L1&2,
658 Church Street, Richmond, Melbourne
Client Novare Asia Pacific
Design Bligh Voller Nield -
Jane Williams, James Grose, Bill Dowzer
Construction Management
Australand - Peter Griffiths
Schiavello (Vic) Fitout
Richard Halasa, Matthew De Carolis,
Andrew Howard, Kyle Jensen
Area 5,300 m²



[1]

Opposite Page [1] Informal meeting spaces scattered throughout the workplace encourage communication and staff interaction. **[2]** Cedar screens wrap continuously behind the impressive reception joinery counter. **[3]** Solid walls with acrylic slot windows curve with the plane of the wall. **This Page [4]** Cedar screens curve with the polycarbonate walls emphasising the structural framing. **[5]** Clear glazed walls with aluminium screening maintain a level of privacy without being too enclosed.



[2]



[3]



[4]



[5]