

Project Location
Levels 31-35
120 Collins Street
Melbourne

Client
Rio Tinto:
Neil Brazier

Design
Geyer Pty Ltd:
John Lenagan
Samantha Shiel
Alexandra Coleman
Amanda Wood
Shane Wintershoven

Schiavello Vic Fitout
Richard Halasa
Matthew De Carolis
Jason Kotis
Kyle Jensen
Dave Hutchinson

Area
5683.5 m²

DIGGING DEEP

Global mining group Rio Tinto has interests all around the world. Of particular interest recently, however was Rio Tinto Australia's move into new headquarters. A publicly listed company with a prestigious and time-honoured tradition, Rio Tinto's continued growth and the requirement for a more flexible and responsive work space meant new premises was the next inevitable development.

The negotiated increase to a 50 per cent open working environment was deemed appropriate, due to a combination of the confidential nature of work, client meeting requirements and the importance of enhancing openness in line with Rio Tinto's values. The design team from Geyer undertook interviews with all department heads, gathering information to devise a plan that would suit everybody's needs, now and into the future.

Geyer's design incorporated the aim to 'foster more interaction within the business and help change the way Rio Tinto's teams worked, which was aligned with contemporary and best practice principles' (John Lenagan, Geyer). The increased open workstation areas was one element of this, as was the introduction of an internal staircase, designed to encourage visual interaction between staff. This 'brings together all departments on different floors in a more connecting fashion' (Neil Brazier, Rio Tinto). The unique design of the staircase with solid oak stair and striking 'Marblo' vertical feature mimics strata mineral layers – a link to Rio Tinto's mining operations.

Breakout areas and libraries have also enabled an element of social interaction; simultaneously supporting the remote workers, hot desking requirements and professional relationships. The extensive video conferencing and linked technology applied to the client meeting floor better connects the Australian headquarters with interstate and overseas Rio Tinto sites.

With Schiavello's Vic Fitout team undertaking the fitout and joinery, the design evokes 'a sense of timelessness and understated sophistication that reflects the brand attributes of Rio Tinto' (John Lenagan). Along with the interconnecting stairwell feature, other references such as rock displays and connection to the earth with fossilised limestone in part refer to the mining aspect of Rio Tinto's business. The Australian artwork collection, enhanced with a warm, golden palette and native materials evokes the familiar, antipodean atmosphere. Neil Brazier describes the positive outcomes of working with Schiavello, 'Schiavello's costs were as expected and planned, a good working relationship with the [Schiavello] project managers proved the project's completion on time and an ability to overcome any challenges.'

As Neil Brazier describes, the new headquarters have greatly enhanced Rio Tinto's workplace culture: 'The new environment has improved work practices and communication between departments and floors'.



RIO TINTO FITOUT

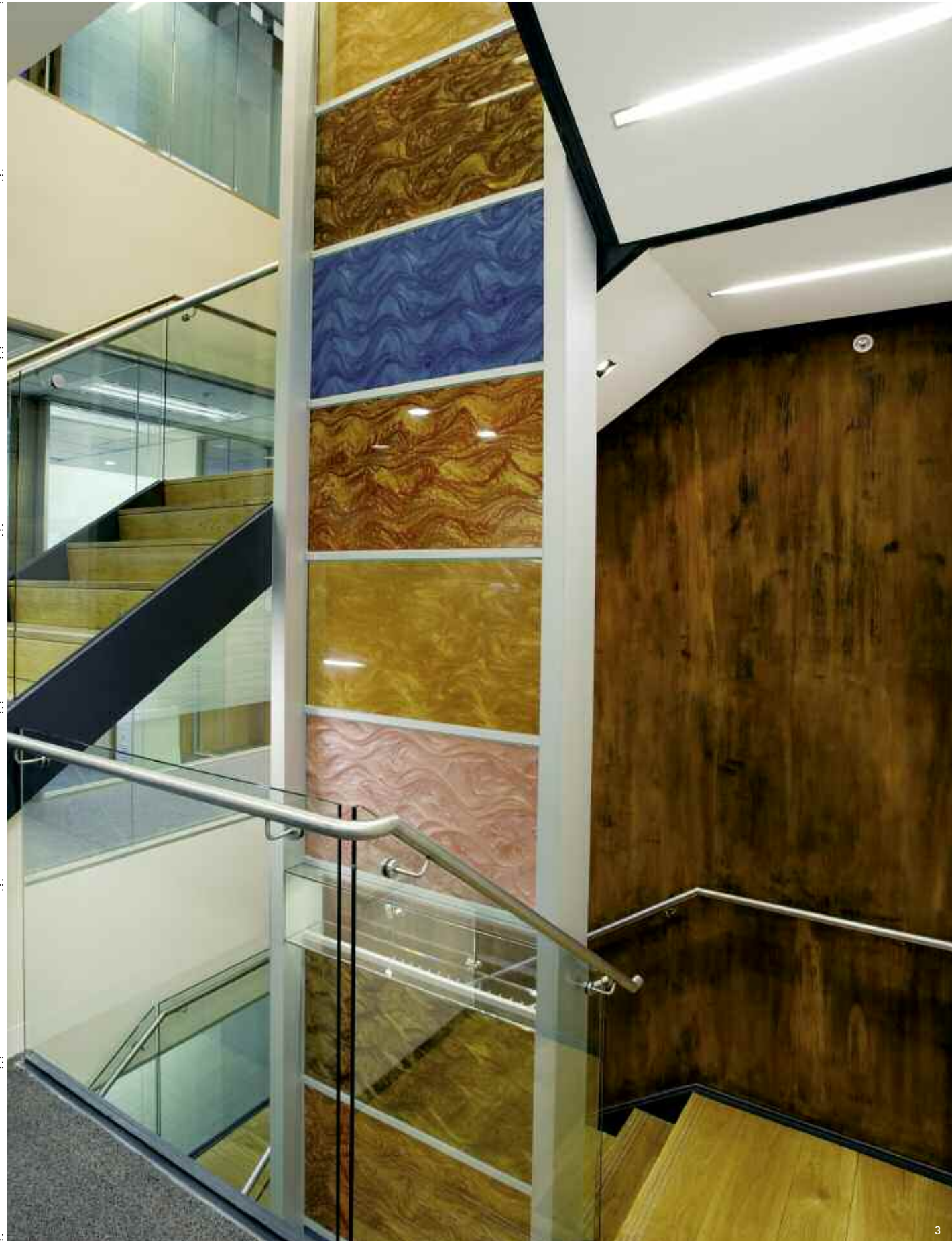
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- 1_An inviting boardroom with skyline views and integrated technology.
- 2_Level 33 reception area with earthy tones and materials providing the distinctly Australian feel.
- 3_Central staircase with Marblo feature and solid oak stair.
- 4_Thoroughfare bordered by meeting rooms in glossy timber finish and earthy tones.
- 5_Meeting room's impressive audio-visual communication technology, with storage and timber feature panelling.