

Project Location
15-21 Carter Street
Homebush
Sydney

Client
NSW Rural Fire
Service:
Mark Croweller
Jim Elliott
Tim Anderson

Design Team
Woodhead
International:
Stuart Truman
David Holm
Sue Blackman
Liezle Van Dyk
Inca Paul
Lara Hovey

Schiavello NSW
Mark Keppie
Flavio Battistuzzi
Sash Ristevski
Ferdie Moraza

Area
4,300 m²

Products
Ultimet, Admet
standard and curved
panels, QED,
Systemet storage.



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE SYSTEMS

RENEWABLE ENERGY

NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) headquarters at Homebush, Sydney, is a new purpose-built facility that provides a unique environment, which promotes interaction between the operations and administration components of the world's largest volunteer fire service.

__The project involved consolidating all operations into one centrally located building with state-of-the-art facilities and accommodation for 250 people working permanently on-site. The building caters for over 350 people during peak periods of operation and training.

__The new facility offers a work environment conducive to efficient and sustainable work practices, taking into consideration future growth and the requirements for meetings, training and peak operations.

__The basis of the design concept was "ENERGY"; energy inherent in the staff and volunteers that make up the NSW RFS, and in terms of elemental energy – fire, water, and heat. The space allows the flow of energy in the form of communication and discussion which is openly encouraged in a dynamic and pleasant environment.

__According to Stuart Truman of Woodhead International, the brief required a contemporary open plan environment which challenged traditional thinking on workstation design and planning, and encouraged the use of modern technology.

__The result is a friendly, light and aesthetically pleasant work environment featuring Schiavello's Ultimet workstations with standard

and specially designed curved Admet screens. The workstations maximise the use of natural light, provide privacy and enhance the opportunity for collaborative working.

__Managing the required number of workstations and offices, whilst ensuring a pleasant, open and functional environment, was a major design challenge. "The use of Schiavello's bench style Ultimet workstations assisted the design process as the workstations could be located at slightly reduced spacing without compromising the working area," says Truman.

__The initial design concept enabled the workstation screen to form an integral part of internal glazed partitions where required. An additional benefit of this system was that the apparent screen height between workstations could be extended by the use of a self-supporting glass 'blade', inserted into the top capping of the workstation screen.

__A new grooved Ultimet top capping was developed to accommodate the laminated glazing section. As the design was conceptual, and had not been implemented on other projects, the assistance of Schiavello's prototype and R&D resources enabled the facilitation of the design concept and the new product development.

__"The use of an integrated panel to form part of an internal 'demountable' glazed screen has enabled cost efficiencies and these demountable walls allow the segregation of spaces without having to dismantle the work area and build additional walls, therefore allowing a higher degree of design flexibility," says Truman.

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1_Aerial view of the front atrium showing three floors in the purpose-built facility with striking yellow and red feature walls.
 2_View of a workstation run showing the red interlayer glass panels and blue fabric panels of the Ultimet workstations.
 3_An Ultimet workstation in the general work area showing the red and blue Ultimet screens.
 4_Custom designed Ultimet workstations in the operations centre. Schiavello Ultimet workstations with blue and red screens are visible on the floors above.