

Above [1] & [2] ... Open work areas feature Unimet workstations with cantilevered worktops, powerblades with feature light boxes, Systemet storage, and Novetta seating.

Metricon Group

To create an invigorating place where people would enjoy working every day, design firm Gray Puksand combined elements of openness, vibrant colour, contemporary furniture and architectural form for Metricon's new work environment.

The various divisions that had previously been scattered among several buildings were now accommodated within one open-plan workspace.

The challenge in this project was implementing this new philosophy to the workplace, as most people had come from smaller, individual offices. The large floor plate presented space-planning issues addressed by the development of a matrix structure of workstations that enabled departments to be linear in each direction relative to the department and individual sections.

"To avoid an expanse of open workstations, we developed within the matrix layout a series of Served and Service spaces", explained Paul de Podolinsky of Gray Puksand. "The workstations are divided by centralised 'service' spaces that include facility zones and a new centralised storage system. These areas provided the inclusion of design elements that introduce visual stimulation and a feeling of warmth to the general work areas."

project details ... **PROJECT LOCATION** ... 499-501 Blackburn Road, Mount Waverley, Melbourne **CLIENT** ... Metricon Group - George Kline **DESIGN** ... Gray Puksand - Peter Gray, Paul de Podolinsky, John Willey, Claudia Leung, Jane Millington **SCHIAVELLO VIC SYSTEMS** ... Naz Girmaldi, Angelo Cocciardi **AREA** ... 3600 m² **PRODUCTS** ... Unimet workstations, cantilevered worktops, feature light boxes attached to power blades, Systemet storage, Novetta seating.





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The introduction of timber and open joinery units formed a division and an interconnecting workplace that promoted interface between spaces whilst breaking the scale down. These areas help to facilitate chance meetings between workers and encourage staff interaction.

The workstations or 'served' areas provide a continuation of this interface, whilst allowing individuals scope to personalise the space.

The selection of Schiavello's Unimet system enabled the matrix structure to be facilitated, and the choice of screen heights provided an open feel without the visual disruption of general office equipment.

The freestanding screen-based system allowed Metricon's existing desks to be integrated with cantilevered worktops,

whilst maintaining a consistent and unified visual appearance. The system also enabled the flexibility to cater for the specific requirements of individuals whilst maintaining an overall coherent structure and aesthetic.

INFO BOX

Metricon had three main areas that required different design considerations. These needed to maintain a unified appearance to represent the synergy of the company and its direction:

Public Face...

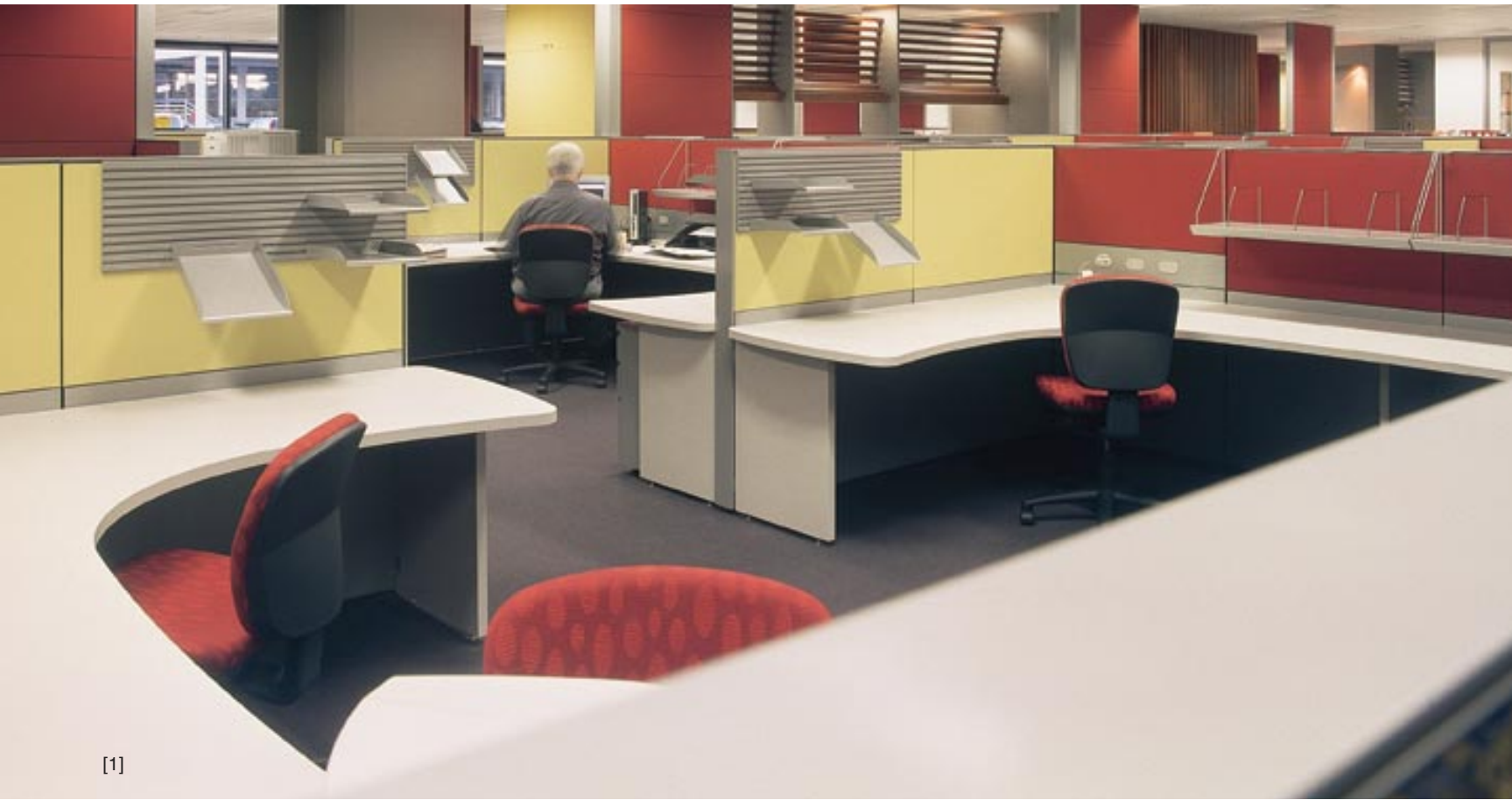
Customer relations and presentation of the company

Office Environment...

A structured environment with flexibility to allow for the functional needs of each department and its individuals

Executive Area...

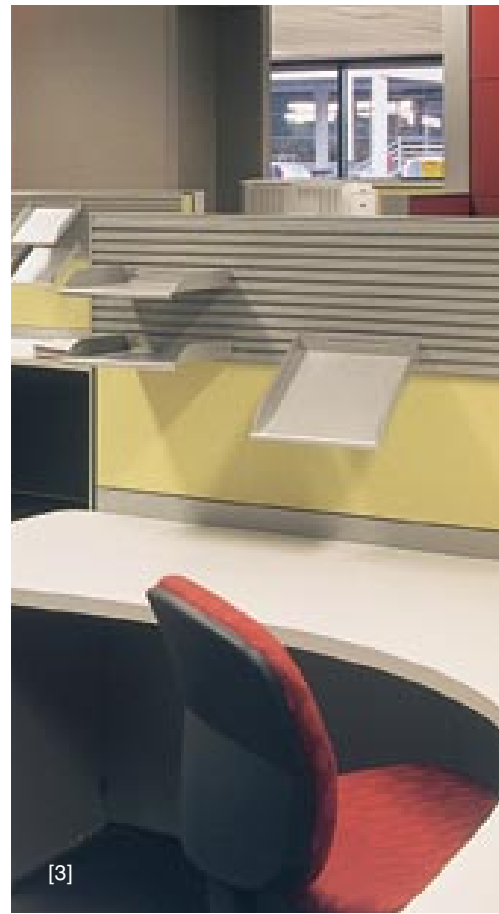
integrated with the rest of the organisation whilst distinguishable and refined.



[1]



[2]



[3]

Above & Opposite [1] & [3] ... The Unimet tile-based system including fabric tile, metal tile + transom hung function wall. Novetta seating. [2]... Unimet tile system with feature light boxes attached to power blades.