

ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS

RCA STUDIO

CAPABILITY STATEMENT



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Muscolo Physiotherapy

Studio
Recognition
Clients

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THREE-STOREY CURTAIN WALL IN THE CENTRAL VOID OF OF HARRY THE HIRER'S HEADQUARTERS



INTRODUCTION

RCA Studio designs buildings and interiors in Melbourne that balance rigour with warmth and humanity. Our work spans residential, commercial and civic projects, each shaped by a process grounded in material intelligence, careful planning and lived experience. We listen, observe and translate the rhythms of daily life and work into architecture that feels grounded and lasting.

We begin by understanding your site, brief and the patterns of daily life or work. Early studies test light, circulation and material relationships, exploring how spaces might feel and function. As design develops, we refine details and textures to express craft and durability. Planning and documentation follow, ensuring clarity and compliance. During construction, we stay closely involved to protect design intent and resolve details on site. Each stage is collaborative, translating conversation and context into architecture that endures.

We consider how spaces perform daily: acoustics, light, circulation. Every decision weighs function, longevity and maintenance alongside aesthetic intent. Our design is shaped by material intelligence, thoughtful detail and human experience: spaces that feel good to work in.

COBILD SPEC SUITE

CLIENT: COBILD
LOCATION: ABBOTSFORD, VICTORIA
COMPLETED: 2025
SCOPE: 450 SQM
TYPE: FITOUT, WORKPLACE
BUILDER: COBILD
PHOTOS: VEERAL PATEL

Cobild engaged us to design speculative office suite in their new Abbotsford building designed by Matt Goodman Architects. The brief required flexible workplaces that could attract tenants within a disciplined budget. We worked with the raw shell of exposed concrete and visible services rather than against it, using a set of tactical insertions to elevate the suites without inflating costs.

Deep-green joinery echoes the building’s mesh façade, tying interiors to their context. A monolithic honed Rosso Levanto marble island and matching reception counter provide focal points against the raw concrete. White metal slat screens and curved glass partitions sub-divide open plans without breaking sight lines or restricting light. Perforated American walnut plywood panels manage acoustics across workspaces.

We selected materials for durability and ease of upkeep — robust enough for tenant turnover, refined enough to feel considered. Each suite adapts to different tenants and work styles, balancing base-building rawness with crafted detail.



OPPOSITE RICH STREET BUILDING BY MATT GOODMAN ARCHITECTS
DEEP GREEN JOINERY ECHOES THE BUILDING’S MESH FAÇADE

ABOVE RECEPTION AREA WITH OPEN SIGHTLINES
MEETING ROOMS AND BREAKOUT AREAS
HONED ROSSO LEVANTO MARBLE ANCHORS THE SPACE

BURWOOD ROAD OFFICE

CLIENT: STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
LOCATION: HAWTHORN, VICTORIA
COMPLETED: 2024
SCOPE: 590 SQM
BUDGET: \$800,000
TYPE: FITOUT, WORKPLACE
BUILDER: MP-PM
PHOTOS: WILLEM-DIRK DU TOIT

Strategic Financial Management engaged us to design a workplace in Hawthorn that balances professional credibility with residential warmth. We planned the space around a generous reception, anchored by a monolithic matte travertine desk engraved with the company name.

Continuous oak slats run across ceiling and walls, unifying joinery, shelving and furniture in a single material rhythm. Porcelain flooring offers durability and low maintenance, while custom oak joinery adds warmth without clutter. Embossed acoustic panels manage sound within meeting rooms. Floor-to-ceiling glazing brings daylight deep into the plan — a workplace that feels professional yet human.



OPPOSITE

WORKSTATIONS AND BREAKOUT AREAS

ABOVE

WAITING AREA WITH OPEN SIGHTLINES
MEETING ROOM COLOUR MATCHES THE BUILDING
PORTO ROSSO MARBLE KITCHEN

STRATEGIC HOUSE
CANOPY AND LOBBY

CLIENT: STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
LOCATION: HAWTHORN, VICTORIA
STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION
TYPE: BASEBUILD UPGRADE

Following the second-level fitout, Strategic Financial Management engaged us to upgrade the ground-floor lobby and entry canopy. We redesigned the street presence with a new canopy structure, signage and lobby finishes to bring the base building in line with the refurbished upper level.



OPPOSITE SIGNAGE RENDER
CANOPY VIEW LONGSIDE BURWOOD ROAD

ABOVE STREET ELEVATION RENDER
LOBBY VIEW

HARRY THE HIRER’S HEADQUARTERS

CLIENT: HARRY THE HIRER
LOCATION: ABBOTSFORD, VICTORIA
COMPLETED: 2025
SCOPE: 3,000 SQM
BUDGET: \$20,000,000
TYPE: HERITAGE, WORKPLACE
BUILDER: AMICUS
PHOTOS: VEERAL PATEL

Harry the Hirer’s new headquarters transforms the heritage Cotton Mills building across four levels.

We cut a central void through the existing structure, drawing daylight deep into the plan and reconnecting floors that had been isolated by previous fit-outs. Prefabricated steel stairs and bridges were craned through the roof and threaded through the void, linking showroom, studio and office spaces.

A three-storey glass wall with transparent LED screens creates a luminous backdrop, while zigzagging perforated aluminium ceilings run through circulation zones. Heritage timber floors were restored, their epoxy-filled patches marking where industrial machinery once sat: a workspace that adapts as the company grows.



OPPOSITE HERITAGE COTTON MILLS EXTERIOR WAS PRESERVED
PERFORATED ZIGZAG CEILING BECOMES LED INSIDE THE STAFF KITCHEN

ABOVE CENTRAL VOID CONNECTS ALL FOUR LEVELS OF THE BUILDING
MEETING ROOM MAINTAINS TRANSPARENCY INSIDE THE OFFICE
BOARDROOM WITH HERITAGE TIMBER FLOOR AND A MIRROR-CONCEALED COLUMN



OPPOSITE SNAKE LIGHTING PROVIDES VISUAL INTENSITY TO THE SHOWROOM
SUNLIGHT REACHING FIRST FLOOR THROUGH THE CENTRAL VOID
STANDING DESKS FOR A HIGH-INTENSITY WORK ENVIRONMENT
WE RESTORED HERITAGE TIMBER BEAMS IN THE TOP FLOOR

ABOVE THREE-STOREY CURTAIN WALL AND STAIRS WERE CRANE

HARRY THE HIRER EXTENSION

CLIENT: HARRY THE HIRER
LOCATION: ABBOTSFORD, VICTORIA
STATUS: UNBUILT
SCOPE: 1,500 SQM
BUDGET: \$15,000,000
TYPE: EXTENSION, WORKPLACE

We designed a three-storey extension to the Cotton Mills building, adopting the existing structural grid while opening the interior to rooftop terraces and the Yarra River beyond.

Heavy corten steel columns and slabs contrast with full-height glazing, connecting work-space with the river landscape. We referenced established datums and maintained sightlines to the Yarra, using an industrial material palette that belongs to the Mills’ heritage character.



EXTENSION, WORKPLACE

UNBUILT

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OPPOSITE ROOFTOP TERRACES VIEW FROM THE RIVER

ABOVE EXTENSION BORROWS GRIDS FROM THE COTTON MILLS
GLAZING INVITING THE NATURE INTO THE OFFICE

TOORAK ROAD OFFICE

CLIENT: PRIVATE
 LOCATION: TOORAK, VICTORIA
 COMPLETED: 2021
 SCOPE: 25 SQM
 BUDGET: \$500,000
 TYPE: COMMERCIAL
 BUILDER: STARK CONSTRUCTIONS
 PHOTOS: WILLEM-DIRK DU TOIT

We were engaged to add to an existing heritage shopfront, a modest commercial project on a constrained inner-city site. The brief called for a small office with its own discrete access, separate from the residential street it sits within.

A lightweight addition cantilevers over the existing masonry, creating a new side entry and bringing the rear of the building back into use. We specified sustainably sourced local steel and spotted gum, chosen for durability and low maintenance. Left exposed, the spotted gum weathers naturally over time.



OPPOSITE OFFICE ENTRANCE

ABOVE LARGE WINDOWS CONNECTING TO THE OUTSIDE
 CORNER WINDOWS BRING LIGHT INTO THE SPACE
 EXTENSION FROM THE STREET CORNER

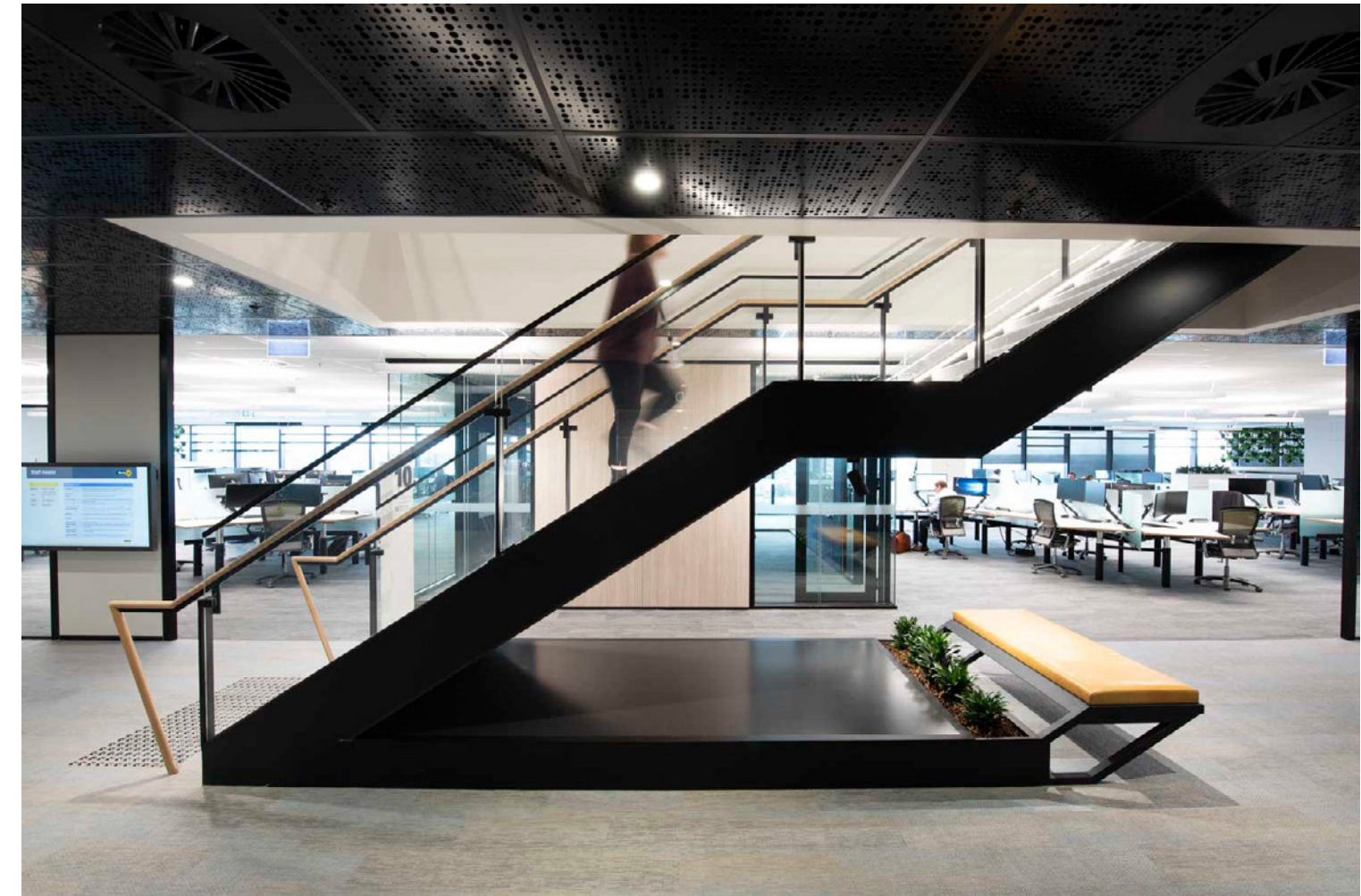


WORKSAFE VICTORIA HEADQUARTERS

CLIENT: QUINTESSENTIAL EQUITY
VIA: PECKVONHARTEL
LOCATION: GEELONG, VICTORIA
COMPLETED: 2018
SCOPE: 15,000 SQM
BUDGET: \$120,000,000
BUILDER: BUILT
ENGINEER: AURECON
PHOTOS: IAN TEN SELDAM

A 14-storey, 15,000 sqm headquarters for WorkSafe Victoria in Geelong, designed to achieve Australia's first WELL Platinum Core & Shell certification alongside a 6 Star Green Star rating and WELL Gold fitout. Tom Carroll led the project team while at peckvonhartel, with both directors responsible for delivering the base building and integrated fitout.

We managed the project from town planning through design development, construction documentation and completion. The building serves as WorkSafe Victoria's state headquarters under a 20-year lease and required specialised design responses for its government tenant. Circadian lighting, optimised fresh-air ventilation and distributed outdoor terraces across all levels were integrated into the base building design rather than applied as supplementary features. Ground-floor areas house a café, library and end-of-trip facilities accessible to staff and visiting community members.



OPPOSITE EXTERIOR VIEW

ABOVE
CENTRAL STAIRCASE
HOT DESKING AREA
CIRCULATION SPACE

HARLEY HOUSE

CLIENT: LARKFIELD ESTATE
LOCATION: MELBOURNE, VICTORIA
STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION
BUDGET: \$8.000.000
TYPE: HERITAGE, RETAIL
ENGINEER: DREW RUDD ENGINEERING
PHOTOS: JUAN ALBERTO ANDRADE

Harley House sits on the corner of Collins and Exhibition Street in Melbourne’s CBD. We refurbished and repositioned this five-storey heritage building, retaining its façade and heritage character while introducing a new foyer, an additional level, a mezzanine and a light well infill to increase useable floor area. Each addition inherits the proportions and detailing of the existing structure.

We coordinated heritage impact assessments and ongoing consultation with council and heritage authorities to achieve planning approval. Construction proceeded within an occupied building, requiring careful sequencing around existing tenants including Hermes. When demolition revealed the need for significant column strengthening, we adjusted the programme to maintain the delivery schedule.

We upgraded common areas, lift access, flooring and finishes to align the base building with the refurbished upper levels.



HERITAGE, RETAIL

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

PAGE 25



OPPOSITE RENDER OF THE LOBBY
RENDER OF THE LOBBY

ABOVE OPEN OFFICE RENDER
BOARD ROOM RENDER
ACTIVE TENANCIES DURING CONSTRUCTION
UPPER FLOOR REFURBISHMENT IN PROGRESS

DAWSON CHAMBERS LOBBY UPGRADE
AND LEVEL 2 SPEC SUITES

CLIENT: DAWSON CHAMBERS
LOCATION: MELBOURNE CBD, VICTORIA
STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION
SCOPE: 470 SQM
BUDGET: \$600,000
COLLABORATORS: MP-PM
PHOTOS: JUAN ALBERTO ANDRADE

We designed a Level 2 workplace fitout for a legal practice within Dawson Chambers, a heritage red brick building in Melbourne’s CBD.

The plan accommodates sixteen individual offices arranged around central, rear and side corridors, balancing focused private work with shared meeting and collaborative spaces. Interior finishes respond to the building's heritage character without replicating it.



OPPOSITE LITTLE BOURKE STREET ENTRANCE
CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

ABOVE WAITING AREA
OFFICES

THOMAS ARCHER OFFICE

CLIENT: THOMAS ARCHER
LOCATION: MULGRAVE, VICTORIA
COMPLETED: 2026
SCOPE: 1240 SQM
BUDGET: \$1,000,000
TYPE: FITOUT, WORKPLACE
BUILDER: AMICUS

A workplace for Thomas Archer, a residential builder known for material craft and attention to detail. We designed the fit-out to reflect their approach: spaces that feel more like a carefully detailed home than a conventional office.

Travertine, timber and textured render define the material palette. Curved glass partitions maintain sightlines between reception, show-room and workspaces without breaking spatial flow. Lighting is diffused and selective, layered rather than uniform.



OPPOSITE CLIENT ROOM IN CONSTRUCTION
RECEPTION AREA

ABOVE KITCHEN AND CAFETERIA
BREAKOUT AREA
OPEN OFFICE AND MEETING ROOMS

QUINTESSENTIAL OFFICE

CLIENT: QUINTESSENTIAL
LOCATION: MELBOURNE, VICTORIA
COMPLETED: 2023
SCOPE: 1000 SQM
TYPE: FITOUT, WORKPLACE

Quintessential engaged us during their site search. We developed test fits across multiple options that helped secure the final tenancy.

The narrow floor plate and detailed space requirements drove a close briefing and planning process with the client.



OPPOSITE RECEPTION BOARDROOM

ABOVE OPEN OFFICE INFORMAL MEETING SPACE

COLLINS SQUARE UNDERCROFT END-OF-TRIP

CLIENT: WALKER CORPORATION
VIA: PECKVONHARTEL
LOCATION: MELBOURNE, VICTORIA
COMPLETED: 2017
SCOPE: 1,000 SQM
TYPE: ADDITION
BUILDER: CONCEPT
PHOTOS: DIANNA SNAPE

An end-of-trip facility upgrade beneath the Collins Street Bridge at Collins Square, delivered for Walker Corporation. Tom Carroll and Nelson Riofrío led the project while at peckvonhartel.

The existing space was dark and fragmented: rooms at varying heights, multiple ramps, low ceilings constrained by large air ducts, and limited visibility raising security concerns.

We maximised bike storage, locker capacity and amenity quality within a restricted volume. Full-height solid partitions were avoided to maintain visual permeability throughout. Golden screens in the bike storage area and sculptural vanity elements in the bathrooms provide security and wayfinding without enclosing the space.



ADDITION

2017

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OPPOSITE ENTRANCE VIEW FROM THE UNDERCROFT

ABOVE LOCKER ROOM
BICYCLE PARKING

MUSCOLO PHYSIOTHERAPY

CLIENT: MUSCOLO
LOCATION: MALVERN, VICTORIA
STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION
SCOPE: 360 SQM
TYPE: HERITAGE, HEALTHCARE
BUILDER: RJ BUILDING SERVICES

Muscolo engaged us to redevelop a heritage bank and post office into an allied health facility for physiotherapy. The programme includes consulting rooms, rehabilitation gym, offices and staff amenities.

We worked within the existing heritage constraints to fully utilise the site while meeting accessibility requirements. New additions reflect the scale, proportion and rhythm of the heritage façades.



HERITAGE, HEALTHCARE

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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OPPOSITE EXTENSION CONFORMS TO PROPORTIONS OF THE HERITAGE BUILDINGS

ABOVE HERITAGE BANK AND POST OFFICE WITH THE EXTENSION IN THE BACK
EXTENSION AND ACCESSIBLE CAR PARK FROM TOORONGA ROAD
INTERIOR VIEW OF THE PHYSIOTHERAPY GYM



LED SCREENS IN THE STAFF ROOM IS A SHOWCASE OF HARRY THE HIRER'S TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES



STUDIO

Nelson Riofrío is a founding director with over 18 years of experience across architecture, master planning and interior design, with international qualifications from Mexico, Spain, Australia, Ecuador, Japan and the United Kingdom. Nelson leads project delivery across all phases, maintaining design intent through documentation and construction. His international perspective and technical precision bring rigour to complex commercial and residential work alike.

Tom Carroll is a founding director and registered architect with extensive experience leading award-winning projects across varying scales and typologies. Tom directs design strategy and coordinates multidisciplinary teams from concept to completion. His pragmatic approach to stakeholder coordination and ability to manage complex briefs ensures design focus is maintained through delivery.

Our architects and designers share a commitment to detail, integrity and collaboration. Each project benefits from collective authorship and continuity from concept to completion. The team brings design sensitivity together with the documentation and project management capability required to deliver complex work up to \$20 million in construction value — without joint ventures.

RECOGNITION

RCA Studio’s work has been recognised through the AIA Houses Awards, the Boroondara Urban Design Awards and features in publications including ArchDaily, Domus, Dwell, Australian House & Garden, Australian Design Review, Habitus Living and The Local Project. Myrnong Crescent House was selected as an Archilovers Best Project of 2022. The studio's commercial work, including Babajan's Carlton and CBD restaurants, has been featured in Broadsheet, Good Food and TimeOut.



ABOVE
RIGHT

ACOUSTIC TIMBER CEILING DETAIL AT STRATEGIC
STRATEGIC'S MATERIALS BRING RESIDENTIAL WARMTH





CLIENTS

Harry the Hirer
Cobild
Strategic Financial Management
Knox City Council
University of Wollongong
WorkSafe Victoria
Agilent Technologies
Resdal Corp
Co.Develop
Caribbean Gardens
Victorian Farmers Federation
Colliers International Group
Babajan



LEFT
ABOVE

HARLEY HOUSE FACADE
HARRY THE HIRER'S BOARDROOM



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