

MOMENTS IN **DESIGN**

Showcasing diverse perspectives.

Offering inspirational and educational content.

Tailor written for the design curious everywhere.



EDITION 1

HOW DESIGN RESPONDS TO A CHANGING WORLD

This edition of Moments in Design shines a spotlight on how the design industry as a whole is changing as our world shifts, moving the industry forward in a new direction.

Featuring insightful knowledge from a diverse range of backgrounds around the world, this edition presents the experts who are at the forefront of the change within the industry, in many different disciplines.

MOMENTS IN DESIGN

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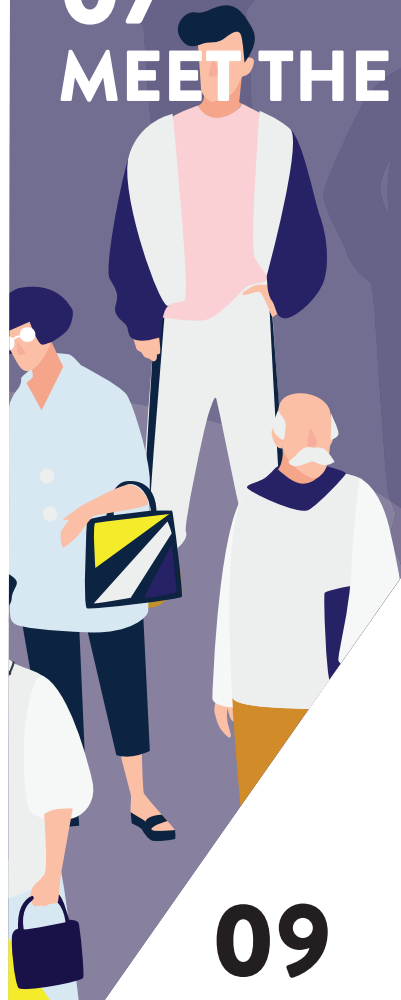
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Interested in Contributing to Moments in Design?

If you are an Architect, Interior Designer, Design Professional, Trend Forecaster, Interior Enthusiast, Product Designer or Developer, and are interested in contributing to the Moments in Design Magazine, get in touch with the Basford Brands Moments in Design Team. Moments in Design will cover a variety of topics ranging from new technologies, innovation or topics in Interior Design and Home Furnishings industry, to groundbreaking designs for the built environment.

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“Our world needs design in its many form, but as our world changes, we must endeavour to change with it”

PURPOSE

FROM THE EDITOR

This current Covid climate is forcing many companies and professionals to think outside the box. Despite the tragic results from the ever so present health epidemic, the lasting effects on the industry as whole I feel will be greatly impacted for years to come.

I feel as though the world has been made to all of a sudden be held responsible of its' actions, and with the rise of developing technologies, innovations and science, it has become a detrimental move to be more conscious of the results of each decision that is made. While the industry moves, the professionals that design it move too.

Gone are the days that decision makers stray away from the discoveries that begin to change the design industry for the better. More so than ever, we are seeing an uprise in recycled materials, biodegradable plastics, renewable energy sources, and organic ways to preform ancient ad-hoc procedures and practices - people are changing the way they share their space. We are moving into a time where more emphasis is placed on the afterlife of a product, service or story apposed to its' current use.

Now is the time to make impactful choices; choices on projects, products, innovations, and smarter technologies. As the world changes, the industry must move with it, considering now more than ever, the bigger picture. This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared.

The purpose of this piece is to showcase the diverse opinions and perspectives from fascinating individuals that highlight the importance of moving with an industry that is changing so rapidly. To eliminate the need for fear of change, and to present industry leaders as an example of how informed decision making can do no harm in a world that has already experienced so much of just that.

I want to extend my greatest gratitude to all the expert contributors who took time to share their knowledge and opinions about this topic, and the artists, illustrators and photographers for allowing me to showcase their work. Without you, this would not have been possible.

Kate Butler

KATE BUTLER

MARKETING & BRAND COORDINATOR
BASFORD BRANDS

MEET THE EXPERTS

EDITION 1 2021

7 EXPERTS 6 DISCIPLINES 4 COUNTRIES

These 7 expert contributors come from a range of backgrounds and disciplines in the wider design community. Their work and ideas are laying the foundation to encourage and inspire the next moment in design.



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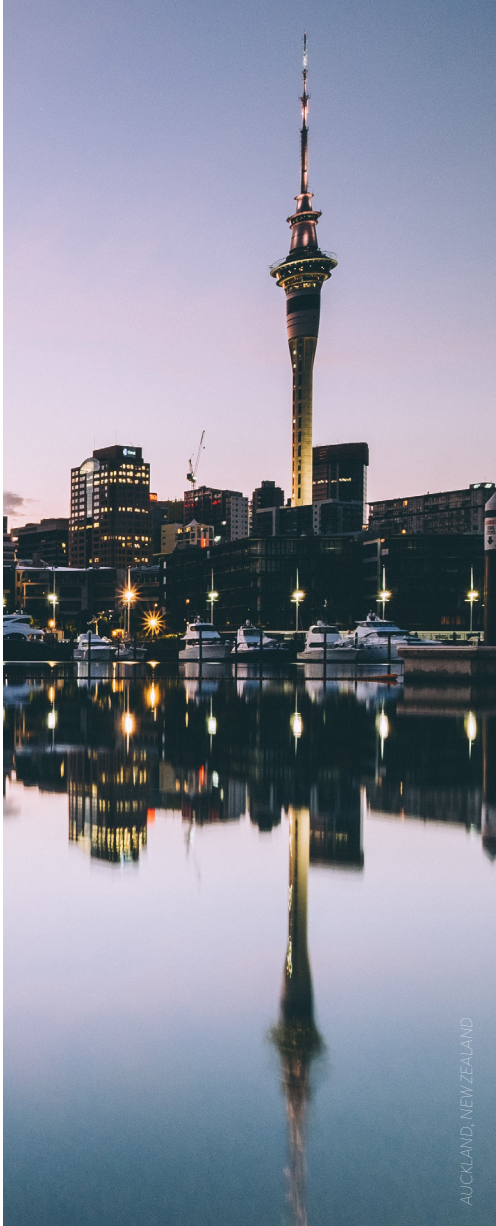


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MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



GEELONG, AUSTRALIA



REBECCA
JANSMA

PRINCIPLE DESIGNER & OWNER

With over 10 years experience in Interior Design, Rebecca is known for effortlessly combining crisp, clean architecture with thoughtful, detailed and tightly resolved interior solutions.

She has a passion for natural materials, and the inherent beauty and authenticity they bring to spaces. Combined with custom upholstery and a love of contemporary art, she creates casually elegant spaces that are warm, comfortable and very livable.

Rebecca has built a reputation as a highly versatile designer, whose work is tailored to the needs of each client and project.



This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared, what are your thoughts regarding this statement?

We are seeing a surge in demand for interior design services, and this extends across all sectors from residential to commercial and hospitality. I do believe the more that people are exposed to good interiors, the more they want that aesthetic for themselves. It will become a bit more mainstream and the democratisation of design that we see with online consultations and Zoom walkthroughs will make good design more accessible to people from all demographics.

How has Covid made you think outside the box with regards to your work, conceptions and how you choose your products?

Covid was a shock to us all, and after a few weeks of being very quiet while clients assessed the impacts, we have been busier than ever! The restrictions have not hampered our work in so far as we had projects we could work on, and new projects were commissioned with appropriate measures in place. Shortages in some supplies are still an issue, but we make sure to advise clients and have all generally lowered our expectations with time lines. We haven't really modified too much, but it has made us very grateful that we work in an industry that hasn't been too seriously affected by the virus... many small businesses have and for that I have great

What does the design industry look like for you in the next 5 years?

Honestly, I really don't see that it will impact us that much in Australia. We have been so fortunate in our experiences here, even though Victoria suffered a couple of rigorous lockdowns that were pretty extreme, I think we've all emerged very keen to mingle and get on with life again! I see people, families and groups out dining, going to shows, relaxing in parks and going back to their pre-Covid activities and I really do hope that any lingering fears may be diminished with vaccination.



REINVENT YOUR SPACE

Is it a seasonal thing? For me, when the weather performs these major changes and all of a sudden we're not sitting outside in a warm breeze with a glass of Rosé, but rather hunkered down inside with a slow braise on the stove and a glass of something more substantial, my sense of the interior space

CONTRIBUTOR: REBECCA JASMA, PRINCIPLE DESIGNER & OWNER

STYLE MEETS DIRECTION

Autumn is a season of slowing down and nurturing the inner senses. It's this more sedate energy along with the marked change in the texture and quality of light that can spur a change up in your interior spaces. For me it's bringing out blankets and throws – all the soft furnishings get a look over and anything too bright or Spring-y get put away in favour of richer, more textural pieces.

So, if this is you... think about these current style and colour directions and how you may want to incorporate them in your home to keep the spaces fresh and in sync with the seasonal shift.

This year has seen some evolutionary changes in the style directions and colours we're loving in our homes. Paint colours, décor items, bedding and soft furnishings are all areas we can easily renew from year to year (or season to season if you're particularly energetic!).

EARTH AWARENESS

The pastels and soft gelato tones we have been living with for the past few years are moving on... the difference this year and leading into 2022 is that tones are deepening. Think about the soft blush and peach that we have all loved... it's moved into warmer more neutral and darker territory - more coral and deep ochre, earthy clay tones.

Combine that with lots and lots of texture, and pattern – I'm particularly loving the texture, stripes and plaid we're seeing in fashion and predict that will be huge in our interiors for the next few years.

The resurgence of hand made ceramics is a wonderful aspect of this also and adds the organic touch we crave – a ceramic pot on top of a small, asymmetric pile of old books is the perfect styling vignette for a coffee



table or buffet. In addition, a neutral palette is one of the most soothing and nurturing you can choose for your home so that will always have a place.

↑
Chelsea Hing,
Yarra Valley House
→
Annie Spratt



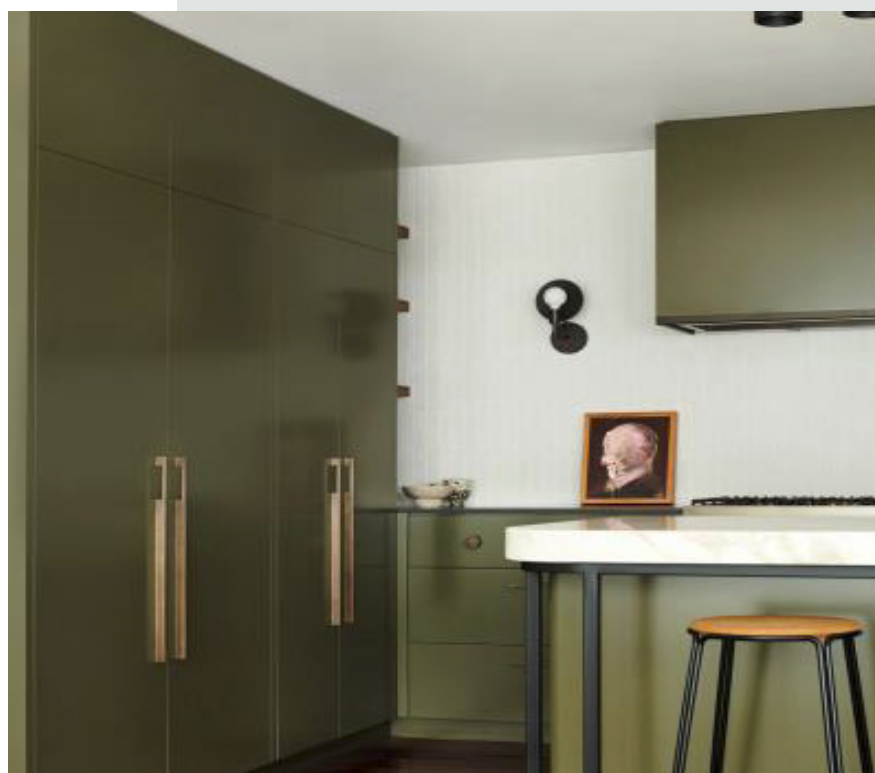
EUROPEAN CHIC

White – a perennial favourite and always in style - is particularly prominent this year and I believe this will persist when combined with recycled, re-purposed and antique pieces as it's very complimentary to the organic, environmental awareness we are seeing in general. In order for this style to look inviting and unclinical, you will need to ensure plenty of texture and pattern – not too much colour, almost monochromatic. Think houndstooth; plaid; heavy, slubby linen and natural weaves including rattan and grassweaves.

JEWELS

Other colours we're seeing as staples now include the deep jewel favourites of the very brave... but now they are being used more in the mainstream as highlight décor pieces. So, you needn't paint your whole room a deep burgundy, emerald green or midnight but just include unexpected bold colour through something as simple and timeless as a pendant, side table or bedroom linen.

We are seeing the soft mint greens of a few years ago heading into deeper forest greens and becoming a more grown-up and serene palette rather than the bright frivolity of the mints and limes.



↑
Juan Burgos

↑
Rebecca Jansma,
Jan Juc House

→
Lithgow in Forrest,
Maurice Kain Drapery Fabric



↑
Charisse Kenion

←
Chastity Cortijo,
Laundry Room

↑
Jean Philippe Delberghe

MEMPHIS REDUX

This style references the bold stylistic colours and patterns of the 80's. It's certainly not for everyone and you either love it or hate it... but if you want to dip your toes in the style try taking just one piece and inserting it in a space – you don't need to go full Memphis, but the bold colour and strong graphics of the style certainly adds energy and a sense of flair to a space.

METALLICS

Finally, a mention of metallics... Brass is here to stay in all it's forms – brushed, natural, and aged. I'm sure this longevity is due to the practicality of the metal; it's beautiful patina as it ages; it's versatility as a material and also the fact that it's been around for generations as a functional material and that gives it an authenticity that many other materials lack. Having said that, in the studio we are also using gun metal and brushed nickel as firm favourites as well. It's the simplicity and almost mute characteristics of these metallic finishes that makes them so versatile and enduring.



CONTRIBUTOR
REBECCA JANSMA

PRINCIPLE DESIGNER AND
OWNER, SPACE GRACE & STYLE

What does the design industry look like for you in the next 5 years?

The design industry is growing rapidly and evolving all the time. Technology is so advanced; we are communicating so easily with the world and everything is at our fingertips just by the click of a button. Smart home assistance connecting to lighting and appliances is becoming integrated into our new designs. Clients can have their homes connected to the Internet, open and close doors, turn on air conditioning and allow other family members to assess remotely if needed. Fully connected smoke and fire safety alarms are incorporated into the smart home systems too.

How has Covid made you think outside the box with regards to your work, conceptions and how you choose your products?

The world has changed with Covid, no one could have predicted this epidemic. We continue to support and source local product as much as possible, there may be some shortages and delays in supply from around the world. This certainly doesn't stop us, it allows our local manufacturers to adapt their business model to suit the market and introduce new product lines. More of our clients are asking where their products are from and what is important to them is knowing that they are supporting their local manufacturers.

This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared, what are your thoughts regarding this statement?

Being forced to stop and explore our own environments more with lock down has made everyone evaluate what is important in their world. We can help people more than we have ever done before. We need calm and inviting homes, businesses, health spa gym facilities, cafes, medical practices, restaurants etc that connect with each person.



MANDY
MOLLOY-LEE

DIRECTOR & OWNER

Mandy Molloy-Lee is the director of Premium Interior Design. Her Geelong commercial and residential interior design team are passionate about turning their clients vision into reality. Mandy brings more than two decades' international experience to her interior design and styling role and her expansive credentials include work in the textiles, real estate, fashion apparel, homeware, wood products and visual merchandising industries.

CREATING DESIGN SOLUTIONS

As designers we have needed to not only tap into what is going to improve our clients lives for the better, but improve their wellbeing, their state of mind and really uplift their environments holistically.

CONTRIBUTOR: MANDY MOLLOY-LEE, DIRECTOR & OWNER

HOW WE SEE THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

The pandemic has changed the world, it has really shaken up many industries and made us all evaluate our work, the way we do business, how we purchase our products, where we source them, who is behind the products, and are they sustainable? It has created anxiety as many people were forced to stop and were unsure of how Covid-19 was going to impact them. It has forced us to think outside the box, collaborate with businesses even more to support each other and the industry, and how do we all come together as a team to improve our clients worlds for the better?

The digital world is the new norm, we now have meetings online, the world has arrived into our hom and businesses



CONTRIBUTOR
MANDY MOLLOY-LEE
DIRECTOR/OWNER OF
PREMIUM INTERIOR DESIGN



without stepping out the door. We are discussing with families and businesses in detail what is important to them and how they want to operate moving forward in this changing world.

CREATING DESIGN SOLUTIONS

We are not only looking at the design layouts, the materials being used in homes and businesses, but we are making sure that our clients are able to get that digital balance and have their environments work exactly as they want it. Yes, we are all online these days but it is important when we are not online that we all have a space that allows us to really unwind. When working on residential homes it is about creating design solutions for our clients that allow

clients that allow each member of the family their own space in their home where they can go and unwind, while also creating open flow spaces for spending time together and entertaining with friends and family to build that connection we all need too.

HARMONY AND BALANCE

We have as a company been evaluating every detail of the design space, what we source and how this will impact our clients. Our goal is to bring harmony and balance to our client's worlds so they are able to adapt easily to this changing world, grow and flourish.

← Abstract Art by Elle
The Medical Health Group. →
Geelong
Interior Design and Styling
by Premium Interior
Design



ARTICLE THREE



MAYA
VIVIAN

TEXTILE PRODUCT DEVELOPER & DESIGNER

With over 14 years experience in textile product developing and design, Maya joined the Basford Brands Decorative Product Development team in 2013 and has quickly established, and showcased, extraordinary talent in the field of drapery design and concept development.

In her time, Maya has planned and executed top selling drapery fabric lines for some of the biggest names in the Australasia retail fabric industry. Maya is a valued member of the Basford Brands team and continues to be so in the rapidly growing future of textile engineering.

How has Covid made you think outside the box with regards to your work, conceptions and how you choose your products?

Covid has been a great influence for innovation in our industry. As people are spending more time in their homes and within smaller geographic areas, a greater focus is not only on the aesthetic and functional qualities of our spaces, but how these elements are intrinsically linked to our emotional wellbeing.

What does the design industry look like for you in the next 5 years?

I am very optimistic about the design industry of the future. As we emerge from this period of great upheaval and look to the future, we look to design as a key foundation of our recovery, to create spaces that bring a sense of inner calm and wellbeing, and to reduce anxiety.

This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared, what are your thoughts regarding this statement?

The traditional role of the home has been evolving over the last few years to be more multi-functional, but in a post-Covid world these changes have hastened. Our focus is on responding to the changing needs of society and steering in a design-led recovery.



THE ROLE OUR HOMES PLAY IN OUR LIVES, IS CHANGING

As we emerge from this period of great upheaval and look to the future, we look to design as a key foundation of our recovery, to create spaces that bring a sense of inner calm and wellbeing, and to reduce anxiety.

CONTRIBUTOR: MAYA VIVIAN, TEXTILE PRODUCT DESIGNER & DEVELOPER

CREATING SANCTUARIES

The past 12 months have seen an era of increased uncertainty – economic, health, political, safety, environmental. Never has there been a time where the importance of the emotional value of our homes has been so high as we look to interior design and decoration help to fill this void of uncertainty. People are looking to create a sanctuary where they can be sheltered from unsettling world events and feel safe. As we emerge from this period of great upheaval and look to the future, we look to design as a key foundation of wellness, to create spaces that bring a sense of inner calm & wellbeing and to reduce anxiety.

WE CHANGE HOW WE VIEW OUR WORLD

As a result of these societal shifts, the role of the home is changing. There is more merging of our spaces, more people are working from home as an ongoing arrangement, as well as choosing to socialise, exercise and pursue leisure activities within their own personal spaces. There is a need for more flexibility, as well as more welcoming and nurturing spaces.

←
Rejuvenate Drapery Fabric by Maurice Kain
"Environmental luxury made out of recycled plastic bottles"
Photographed by Ed Sloane
Styled by Maya Vivian

NEW INNOVATION IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

The soft furnishing plays a pivotal role in this changing home environment. We have focused on designing textiles that can respond to our changing needs without compromising the aesthetic qualities. Curtains that have acoustic sound absorbing qualities help to create spaces that are conducive to multiple occupants using a space simultaneously without noise distraction. These fabrics also help to create a calm, sanctuary-like experience within a home so that the outside world and its sounds can literally be shut away.

Sheer curtains play a vital role in emotional connection to our homes. Sheers serve to soften the hard lines of architecture, as well as create a feeling of cocooning gentleness through dynamic and diffused lighting. As we spend more time within our homes and less time out in the open, there is a need to bring elements of nature inside. Fabrics that carry motifs or shapes that mimic the textures and patterns found in nature are important for our biophilic connection to the natural world. As our physical distancing from one another becomes a permanent way of life, our emotional need for tactile interaction increases. We are designing fabrics that have surface interest and features that draw you in for a closer inspection and compel you to touch and feel.

The sharper focus on health and wellbeing extends to the impact home furnishings are having on our planet. Sustainability is no longer a niche issue; it has moved into the mainstream. We have been increasing our ranges of natural fibre products that are fully biodegradable and compostable, as well as designing using recycled yarns made from PET bottles.



CONTRIBUTOR
MAYA VIVIAN

TEXTILE PRODUCT DEVELOPER
AT BASFORD BRANDS
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



What does the design industry look like for you in the next 5 years?

Considering the long-term uncertainty we face given Covid and post-pandemic life, workplaces will provide more support to its employees. Companies will adapt to more flexible working methods, placing the employees' wellbeing at the centre. By doing so, companies will benefit from more affordable rent, as people will choose to work remotely for about 30% of the week.

How has Covid made you think outside the box with regards to your work, conceptions and how you choose your products?

While being forced to stay at home for an extended period, the pandemic made me realise that I must continuously reinvent myself in the good and the bad situations of life. The pandemic encouraged me to start my furniture and homeware collection while continuing and running design projects. Supporting the local economy became essential, so we decided to source materials and furniture for our projects during the pandemic within the area where the project is running to support and boost local business.

This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared, what are your thoughts regarding this statement?

Post Covid workspaces should be both physiologically and financially accessible. Staying connected to my co-workers while working from home was fundamental for both our studio arbor+co and ourselves as individuals. We are social creatures, and some decisions are better when we take them spontaneously, which can be more challenging over Zoom meetings. We will benefit from working together as a community rather than working in isolation from home.



DAVID
HAZIZ

FOUNDER AND SENIOR INTERIOR DESIGNER

David Haziz holds a degree in Interior Design from The Sir John Cass School of Art, Architecture and Design (The Cass) London Metropolitan University. He has worked with top architectural studios in London and Tel Aviv. He gained extensive experience in B2C and B2B sales and prided himself in developing solid relationships within the design industry.

David founded arbor+co in March 2018, an interior design studio engaging a talented creative team of designers and architects, as well as business development and project management experts. arbor + co has completed workspace, hospitality and commercial projects from Luxury high end to functional contemporary spaces.

ARTICLE FOUR

ADOPT AND INSPIRE

Planning for post-pandemic life will be a challenging task. Companies and individuals who want to look beyond the pandemic restrictions and adapt to the new work culture have already started planning a return to the workplace, and employees are set to return to a new and different environment and culture. At arbor+co, we recently completed a design project for an Australian company, IDP Connect, in London, installing an inspiring work environment that allows the company to adopt the latest government guidance on social distancing without significant structural changes. Here are the three approaches we applied.

CONTRIBUTOR: DAVID HAZIZ, OWNER & SENIOR INTERIOR DESIGNER

→ IDP Connect Workspace
arbor+co
↓
Augmented Reality



PURPOSE-BUILT WORKPLACE

As we keep witnessing rapid changes in the climate, environmental issues are becoming a priority, and sustainability plays a more significant role in our lives. From working with recycled and natural materials to making background checks on the production process, we should ask ourselves questions about products' ethics, materials and suppliers we use.

At IDP, the open-plan workspace was restructured and redesigned, reducing 20 permanents desks to create two agile and hot-desking areas. The concept allowed the client to shift to a new working method by allowing more staff to use hot-desking and agile meeting corners by implementing a space booking system. The booking system allows social distancing and a limited number of employees to be in the office at any given time. Employees can also check the capacity and reserve desks if they will be working from the office. The majority of the space is now ready to cater to movement and collaboration between teams.

The office is now a place to host informal and formal gatherings with other colleagues, industry partners and clients. A redesign should look to local suppliers and small business around the project location. Where possible involving these businesses will boost the local economy affected during lock-downs.

We sourced the following items from local businesses: office accessories, greenery, furniture,



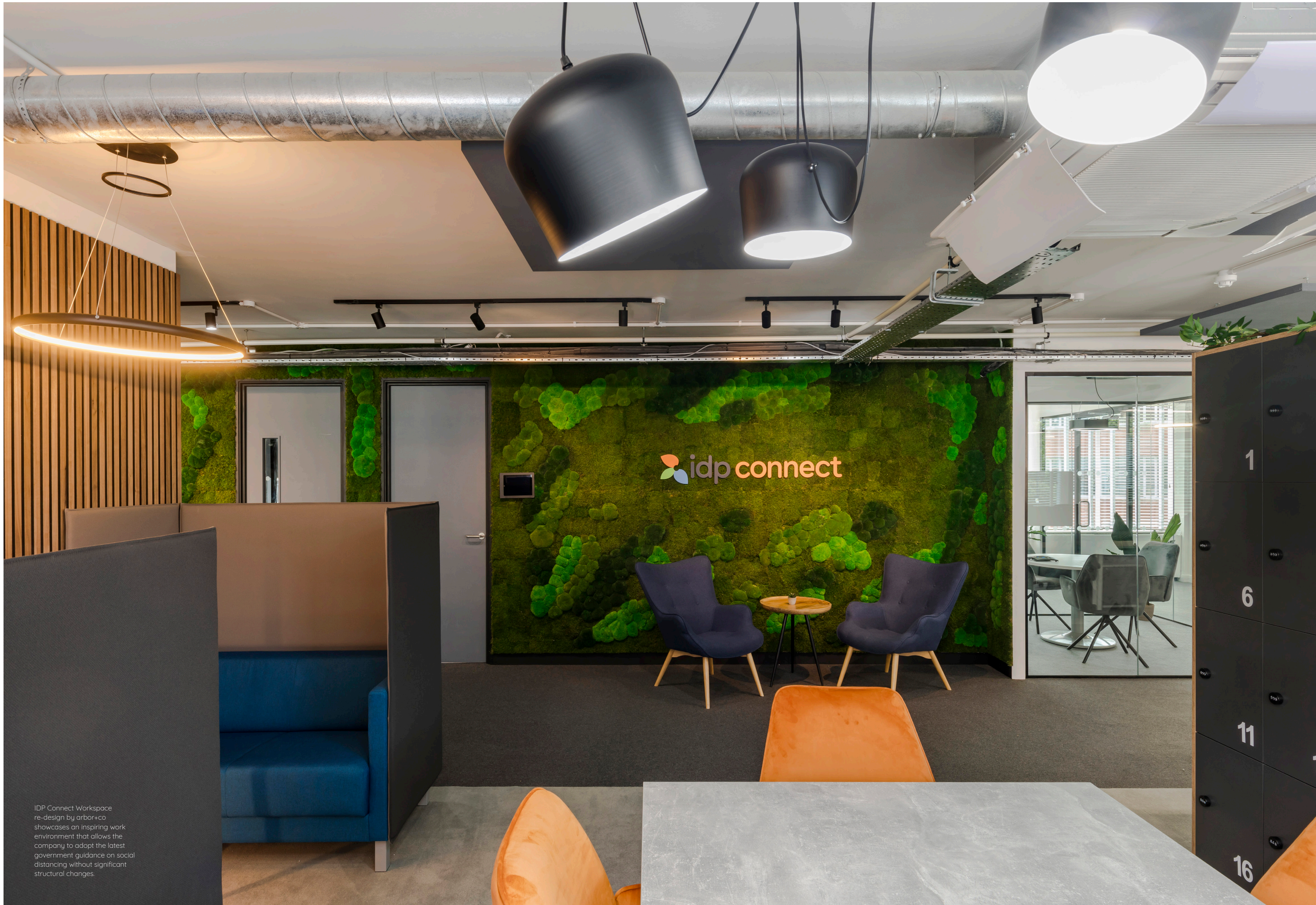
bespoke lockers and bespoke kitchen.

Another essential that companies should bear in mind is the office location and surroundings. Utilising urban spaces, companies and organisations should think about creative ways to invest in the community by organising events and team-building exercises around the office building. We also introduced a charity shop within the kitchen space at IDP offering snacks and treats in return for a small donation that goes to different organisations chosen by the team.

DESIGN THAT FOCUSES ON DIVERSITY

The pandemic also brought some positive changes. During the lock down, many people decided to pursue old dreams that they had previously been on hold. Some chose to change careers, and some moved location and started to work remotely. But one thing that is shared, is that people have individual tastes, opinions and lifestyles. This should lead to creative freedom where individuals can bring their approach to their work environment and home.

Working on the IDP Connect office, we created an office survey and were open to as many ideas from the team as possible that we could apply to our concept. This allowed us to accommodate various tastes and styles and for the idea to expand and be more radical.



IDP Connect Workspace re-design by arbor+co showcases an inspiring work environment that allows the company to adopt the latest government guidance on social distancing without significant structural changes.



Looking to the future, companies will have to think outside the box and be edgier. Office layouts will merge collaboration and focused areas, where employees will feel inspired to work and network with like-minded individuals.

DESIGN THAT FOCUSES ON WELLBEING

As a fast-growing company, IDP's current London office had been untouched for over two decades and did not meet the employee requirements. After conducting an internal survey, the staff reported feeling uninspired by the current space. Our aim was to create an environment that employees would enjoy, while also being multifunctional and inviting.

Both physical and mental health now play a more significant role in the workplace. Employees are looking for work flexibility, work-life stability and a more holistic approach in the environments they work within. Offices should upgrade their layout and offer breakout space with social, interactive and collaborative areas.

Thinking about long working days, we brought the outdoors in at the IDP using 12-metre jungle and moss walls that greeted everyone as they entered the office, and flowed through to the kitchen and open plan work areas. We used various materials for seating and flooring with carefully chosen textures and compositions to add interest and define different areas. We incorporated soft velvet materials, timber and recycled desks, second-hand armchairs and booths into the design and introduced ergonomic chairs that support comfort and movement.

At IDP, many teams work creatively, so an inspiring environment that allows them space to innovate is essential. The management asked us to provide a solution to their work flexibility where people will work from home for some part of the week and while travelling. We have introduced an intelligent booking office system, using the latest technology to book the new meeting rooms, boardroom and 1×1 meeting corners, helping the employees schedule and reserve spaces days and even weeks in advance. Working desk booking systems also allow managers to reserve desks to create social distancing during office hours.

One thing we now know – the future is unknown. The pandemic reminded us that we all share this planet from Melbourne to London, from Christchurch to Tel-Aviv. We are all responsible for each other and, most importantly, for our world. Adopting a holistic way of work and ethical sourcing is fundamental to a better future in the design industry and our lives.



CONTRIBUTOR
DAVID HAZIZ

OWNER AND SENIOR
INTERIOR DESIGNER AT
ARBOR + CO, LONDON, UK



↳ IDP Connect Workspace
re-design by arbor+co

← Good Studio
People at work



KAREN COMBER

FOUNDER & LEAD INTERIOR DESIGNER

Situated in the United Kingdom & Middle East, Karen Comber is an experienced luxury interior designer, consultant and Owner of Karen Comber Interiors. She works with both residential and hospitality clients and has worked on a number of prestigious projects including island resorts, yacht clubs and currently the first ever 5-star private members club in Riyadh. Her works spans across the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe.

More than just an interior designer, Karen helps clients create inviting spaces built around their family or business, with design solutions that are both cost-effective and luxurious.

Karen is a member of the Luxury Property Forum and is a 2021 Judge on the Liv Design Awards Panel.

What does the design industry look like for you in the next 5 years?

People will be desperate to get out and experience the world and hospitality businesses will be keen to make a big impression. Limited budgets will mean we need to get really creative about how we create an immersive, luxury, experience at a lower price point. Sustainability is another key trend shaping the industry. I think the cost of sustainable materials will come down as demand increases and manufacturers find new alternatives. Small projects will be simpler to run sustainably, with a focus on local sourcing and eco-friendly materials. For larger, commercial properties I think a key focus will be extending the lifecycle of products.

How has Covid made you think outside the box with regards to your work, conceptions and how you choose your products?

I spent a lot of time working in the Middle East on the interior design for Saudi Arabia's first private members club. My family was back in the UK so it took some adjusting. A large part of my work has remained unchanged. My thought process hasn't changed, I still design in the same way. If anything, it's shown my clients that we can work remotely. Some parts of the process such as space planning and materials need to be done in person. That aside, I think clients will require fewer site visits and face to face meetings. Hopefully this will reduce the carbon footprint of our industry and help make fees more affordable.

This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared, what are your thoughts regarding this statement?

We've spent the past year adapting to more time at home. I think our homes will have to play more roles in the future and this will impact how places are designed. Residential spaces will have to be more flexible and I predict a shift from open plan to modular spaces that can be reworked throughout the day depending on the needs of an individual or family.

CONTEXT SHAPES DESIGN

It's 1919. The world is recovering from the most devastating pandemic in human history with an estimated 500 million infected and 50 million deaths. Quarantine, isolation and travel bans are being lifted after years of restrictions. And then came the 20s. Freedom, hedonism, excess against the opulent backdrop of the Art Deco period - think Tiffany etc.

Meanwhile Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus school in Germany. Gropius rejected the opulence and frivolity of the period, embracing a practical and grounded approach to design. Embracing a minimalist aesthetic using clean lines, simple shapes and light fabrics over heavy upholstery and embellishment meant his pieces were easier to clean and more hygienic - Think Le Corbusier etc.

Design is shaped by context. Whether raging against restriction, embracing innovations or leaning into changing customer tastes. The question yet to be answered is how design will respond to the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

CONTRIBUTOR: KAREN COMBER, OWNER & LEAD INTERIOR DESIGNER



←
Office Zoom
Good Studio

TECHNOLOGY & RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

‘Working from Home’ has transformed not only our daily routines but how we use the space in our homes. Video calls provide a window into the previously private spaces of client and colleagues’ homes. Those fortunate enough have repurposed vacant rooms into office spaces. Some have curated these windows into their homes, using feature backdrops, tactically hung art or beautifully accessorized statement bookshelves for their audience to admire.

The less affluent home workers are forced to claim corners of space to fit a makeshift desk. While their backdrop is not a primary concern, a year of video calls has forced us all to examine our personal surroundings in minute detail. With people expecting their homes to play multiple roles, I see a move away from the popular open-plan living spaces of the past few decades. Instead, there will be a focus on multi-functional, flexible living areas with numerous

possible configurations for different functionality throughout the day. Boutique offices and hospitality venues have been designed to accommodate multiple uses for years, maximizing financial returns with areas that can be used for many different types of event or occasion.

I imagine open plan dining rooms with attractive pocket sliding acoustic doors that close by day to become an office and fully open in the evenings and weekends. The spare bedroom/office/storage room will turn from ugly duckling into a swan. A reflection of your personal brand - a space designed to give an insight into who you are.

THE FUTURE BECOMES THE NORM

With working from home expected to become the norm, developers and designers need to adapt by offering better facilities inside and out. Given the original reason for the walk-in closet concept, now considered ultra-luxury,

was a result of the last pandemic where bulky pieces of furniture were unhygienic and difficult to clean. Perhaps the latest signal of affluence and taste will be a beautiful home office? Replacing walk-in closets with standing desks and styled video backdrops. If clothes signaled our personality to the world pre-lockdown, perhaps walk-in closets could become the window into your personality in the virtual world? If Corbusier can scatter sinks in the corridors of his designs, why not a desk in your closet?



CONTRIBUTOR
KAREN COMBER

OWNER AND LEAD
INTERIOR DESIGNER AT
KAREN COMBER INTERIORS,
UK & MIDDLE EAST

What does the design industry look like for you in the next 5 years?

In this era of urbanization, I feel that people are becoming aware of sustainable design responses towards climate change. If I am being positive, I believe that in the next 5 years the construction industry will adapt to the climate-responsive design.

How has Covid made you think outside the box with regards to your work, conceptions and how you choose your products?

When Covid hit us, I was an architectural student doing my final unit. The design I developed in my unit was based on the psychological influence of space on the human mind. I think that was a crucial part of my project to design spaces that will give a sense of freedom.

This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared, what are your thoughts regarding this statement?

These 2 years have changed our perspective of looking at spaces. I feel that, from now on, designers will be more innovative while designing shared spaces. The research and efforts behind designing will be deeper than they used to be. We will have to be updated with current technology on a daily basis. We have to think about the future now more than ever.



VRUSHALI MAHINDRAKAR

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

Having studied her Bachelors Degree in Architecture in India, Vrushali started working as a junior architect where she built her passion and knowledge in various forms of Architectural design. After that, she pursued her Masters Degree at Deakin University located in Geelong, Victoria. While working in the field she gained tremendous amounts of knowledge and skills in mostly residential and educational building design. She strongly believes architecture should be timeless and versatile. "All structures, even modest in scale and budget, can be artistic and functional if they are conceived with thorough research and precisely executed."

ARTICLE SIX

THE NEED OF EFFICIENT PUBLIC SPACES

I started noticing how the virus has not only affected our lives, but the spaces around us too. The restrictions on human contact affected our need for space. The current moment demands creativity to accommodate new occupancy regulations for any location.

CONTRIBUTOR: VRUSHALI MAHINDRAKAR, MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURE IS A FLEXIBLE PHENOMENON

A week ago, I was shopping for a dress for my graduation. While I was going from shop to shop, I kept seeing one little instruction saying, ‘Maximum occupancy ___ people’. After that, I started noticing how the virus has not only affected our lives but the spaces around us too. The restrictions on human contact has affected our need for space. This made me think, even though the cities and the people who live in it are coming back to life, we still have to follow new restrictions imposed on us, due to the virus. The current moment demands creativity to accommodate new occupancy regulations for any location.

Architecture is a flexible phenomenon that gets reimagined daily across the globe. I feel that current circumstances are challenging us to take a different design approach, where we not only have to think about efficient use, aesthetics, and structural configuration, but also about

how space will be perceived to maintain physical distance automatically. So, the question arises, how are we going to follow this current sign of social distancing without changing the existing layout of spaces and efficiently merging them with growing urban fabric?

ADVANCEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY

The advancement in technology is reducing our human contact on an essential basis. Although, as a human, we have a basic need to be around people. Some incidences indicate that, during this lockdown, people have risked their lives and wellbeing to be part of the social gathering. People have craved human presence and socialization because it gives them comfort. Thus, the approach should be taken in a way where life outside of our home will be a part of the crowd while being six ft. apart.

More so over, public spaces play a great role as fundamental



→ Jason Gomes

↗ Simplicity Drapery Fabric by Filigree

“The advancement in technology is reducing our human contact on an essential basis.”

supporting ground for social life. These spaces felt free and comforting during the lockdown. For example, during the recent pandemic, parks have played a very important role in all of our lives. It shows that when people desire social gathering or human connection, public spaces remain flexible for the coexistence of people and impersonal encounters. These public spaces are the heart of the urban fabric. Hence, well developed outdoor space can be a design response towards the current shift of the time.

PUBLIC SPACES HOLD TIMELESS VALUE

A couple of days ago, I read an article that mentioned that Covid is an airborne virus. There is a risk of Covid-19 transmission outdoors, but it is lowcompared to indoor settings. Therefore, concerning the current situation, where the crowd is metered and access is controlled, an efficiently

designed outdoor space can be a place for people who are extras in maximum occupied spaces.

These public spaces with freedom will be the main node for people to spend time while waiting to get in shops or during their recreational time. Using small spaces within the structures can be one of the options we can look forward to.

Public spaces hold timeless values. With the growing urbanization, they frame the economic, cultural, and civic life of the city. They will be continuously used long after this virus is gone. Thus, now is the time to understand the basic human need to be around people and design these spaces with new inspiration. I believe that with the proper research of the past and with innovative designs, these spaces can buzz with activities and people, even at a metered distance.

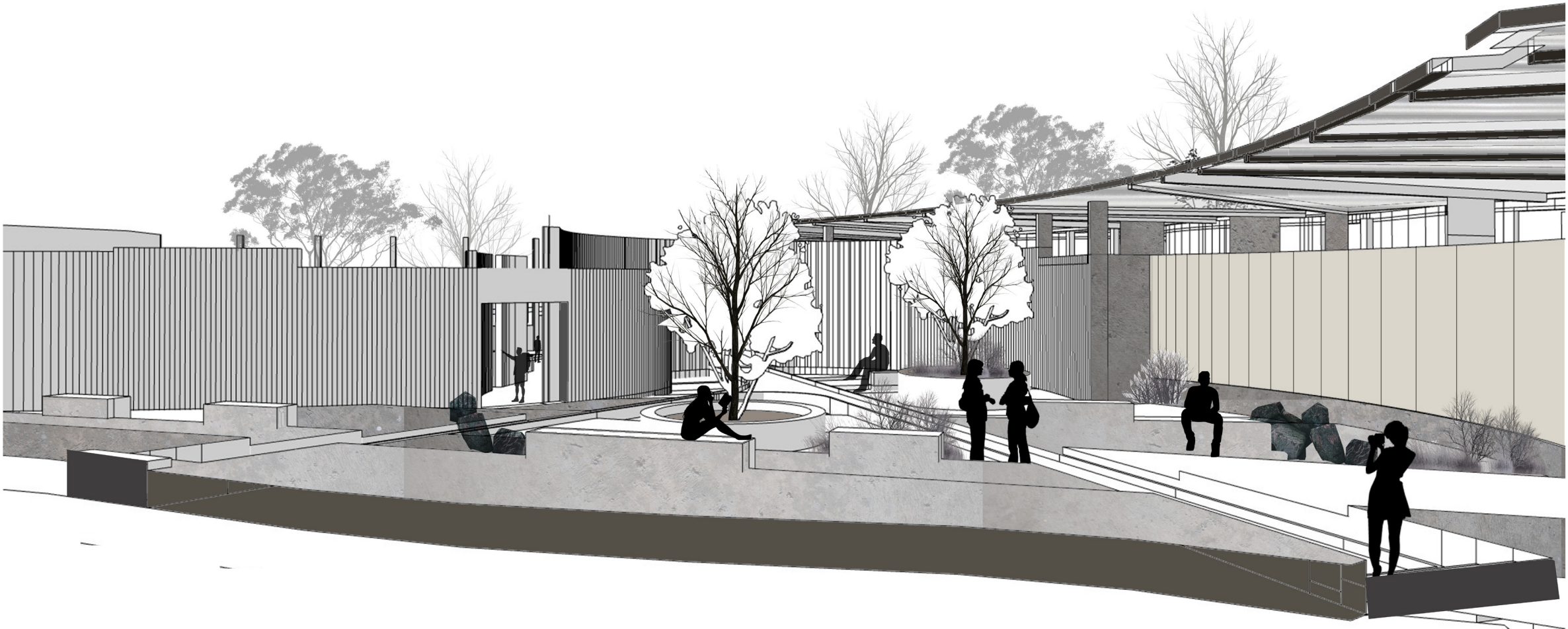


↑ Facial Recognition Concept by Good Studio

↓ 3D Visual Representation of Flexibility of a Public Space by Vrushali Mahindrakar



CONTRIBUTOR
VRUSHALI MAHINDRAKAR
GRADUATE OF MASTER OF
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HENRY
LUU

FREELANCE ARCHITECT

Henry is an experienced Australian Architectural Graduate that graduated with his Bachelor of Design (Arch.) in 2016 and Masters of Architecture in 2019 at Deakin University. So far in his professional career, he has worked as an Architectural Assistant for 1.5 years at Spaces Design Group focusing on educational projects, 6 months at Winter Architecture as an Architectural Intern working on collaborative bespoke residential projects, and 1.5 years at Architecture by US as an Architectural Graduate looking into high-end residential projects and mixed-used apartments. His next milestone would be to complete his Architectural registration and potentially establish his own Architectural practice. Henry is currently pursuing a freelance career in Architecture.

What does the design industry look like for you in the next 5 years?

Times are tough when we are in the middle of an economical halt, and this had resulted in many existing clients having to halt their projects/development, or even potential clients that were considering looking for an Architect to design their forever home. However, now that we are beginning to get things going again, I'm sure there will be a lot more opportunities for new projects and we might even see new architectural practices opening up with new and innovative ideas!

How has Covid made you think outside the box with regards to your work, conceptions and how you choose your products?

When I was working in an architectural practice during Covid, we were working remotely via a shared drive, along with a platform that allowed us to communicate. I think the most important thing was to actually create an atmosphere where we can talk together while working, just to create that working environment, otherwise it just gets too daunting. One thing that really helped me get through my day was to really change your environment, if you're using a laptop, change places such as the backyard, the front yard or the living room. If you have a desktop, make a perimeter around that space, remove anything within it and make sure the environment in that space is similar to the environment at your office such as music, a desk plant or even a work pet! (If you have a pet at home that is)

This whole shift is going to impact tremendously the way places are shared and designed to be shared, what are your thoughts regarding this statement?

Initially, shared spaces that had to be limited to a certain amount of people gave a negative impact, since activities in those areas were limited or not allowed. However, now that we are starting to understand how people interact in a limited capacity shared space, I think there will be new ways on how we design these areas. It would be fascinating to see how new shared spaces will change from Pre-Covid to Post-Covid.

ELEMENTS THAT IMPACT DESIGN

Change is always happening and revolving around, and the way I perceive it, is that it's mostly beneficial to respond to it rather than ignore it. There are two types of changes that I would categorise: changes we can predict and prepare for; and the changes we cannot predict and we have to respond to.

CONTRIBUTOR: HENRY LUU, FREELANCE ARCHITECT

PREDICT AND PREPARE

If we look into our current events that are happening now, we can see that multiple events are ongoing in our current generation; predictable and unpredictable ones. I believe that as Architectural designers, we have a responsibility to grow and evolve our understanding along with the changes in order to help improve the livelihood of the occupants and future inhabitants.

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

The world has become aware of the environmental problems that we have created such as the growing carbon footprint, deforestation, and the more recent bushfire events from the possible effects of climate change. From these events, there has been a growing awareness and this is a change that people can predict and can prepare for.

I have noticed many industries in the built environment have made the conscious decision to switch supply to

more environmentally and sustainable friendly materials. Even Architecture firms have expressed it architecturally. An example would be the building Woodwork by NH Architecture, the first timber building to be built in docklands where it has dramatically reduced the buildings environmental impact compared to alternatives such as concrete and steel.

Other movements that are circling around would be the aim for a "Carbon Neutral Footprint" where the goal is to not have a net in carbon emission. By being more aware of the situation, architectural firms are now beginning to favor local materials rather than materials from other countries as it takes a lot more energy transporting cross-continent, or even interstate.

Design decisions like these create a positive impact on the environment, and I'm sure as years go by, more environmental movements, similar to what is happening currently, will continue. This will result in different types of materials and building methods,

which will innovate different designs in future designs.

GLOBAL EVENTS

On the other side of the spectrum, there are events we cannot prepare or predict for. A good example is the outburst of Covid-19. Even though Asian countries had similar events such as the Bird Flu, this would be the first time western countries have faced this issue. People who used to work in an office environment prior, were forced to move to a work-from-home environment, and this was new to most people that had been working in offices. This change of environment would mean that homes would need to consider spaces that suit their workplace rather than the conventional "study" room that most dwellings have.

On the other hand, office buildings would potentially retrofit their existing office space to a more modern approach called "Hot Desking" where there are no permanent desks but rather, desks that are used by multiple people over the

→
Reza Jackson
An Eco-building structure



“By being influenced by our current architectural styles and also the growing use of new CAD software and tools, I’m sure there will be a new era of architectural design”



course of its day.

New building designs would potentially design amenities surrounding that idea and that is probably seen more and more in the upcoming years if working from home becomes a norm. So, it would be pretty exciting to see innovative working spaces that are designed around home offices and buildings that are solely designed for hot desking.

TRENDS IN EACH GENERATION

Another thing to consider is how each generation has different tastes or styles of design, or even how they were brought up when learning architecture.

Our current architectural era is somewhere between post-modern to neo-modernism architecture. To which have been influenced by Architects that have grown up learning about their architectural era at their time of learning. By being influenced by our current architectural styles and also the growing use of new CAD software and tools, I’m sure there will be a new era of architectural design that has another way of thinking or view.

The client and Architect relationship is also another big part of design development, and figuring out the client’s inspiration and where it came from can also reflect on the design. We are in a generation where people have been born into the world surrounded by technology, and their influence is much different than the people who weren’t brought up with technology.

With this in mind, I believe that within the next 10-20 years, the design choices

that the client would like would be different than the types of buildings that we have designed today.

BECOMING MORE AWARE

These are three of the many elements that I believe are changing in this world and also play a part in how the design will respond to it. As the world becomes more aware of the effects of environmental impacts, many would consider picking more sustainable and more environmentally friendly materials and methods. The sudden change of working environments or even the way people live due to sudden events such as Covid-19, will change the way a design response will be, in order to accommodate this new living/working environment.

And lastly, the next generation’s influence will be our future clients, this will potentially also have a shift in a new architectural era. With all these in mind, the question of “how design responds to a changing world” will always continue to evolve and develop new fascinating ways.



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HENRY LUU

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←
Danny Saltaren



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Launched in 2021, Moments in Design is bi-annual magazine with contributions by Design Industry experts around the world for the wider interior curious community.

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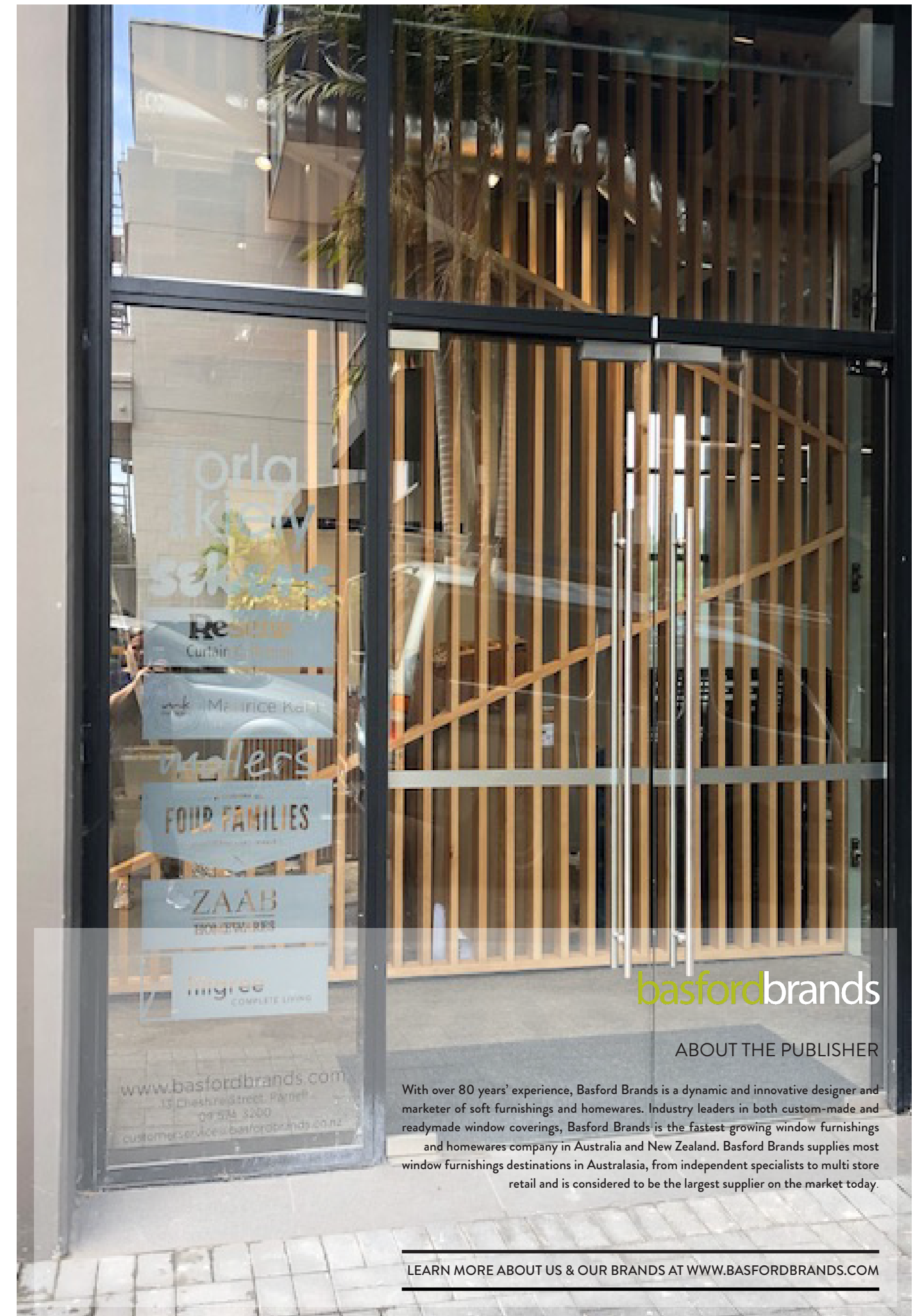
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