

## What makes the perfect office interior design

Ultimately good design must reflect the actual use of the office, having said that our idea of good design is one that maximizes the use of natural light by keeping workstations around the perimeter, with offices at the core. Boardrooms and meeting rooms should be multifunctional and located close to where they are required, i.e. meeting rooms for clients located near reception, rooms for staff towards the back. Of course all furniture and workstations should be sourced locally not only to decrease carbon kilometers but also to keep jobs where we want them... in Australia. Color is also important, a good color scheme can really set the mood for an office, when it comes to color though "subtle" is the word, your office should not look like a children's playhouse.

Ergonomics are also very much a requirement of good office design, Occupational Health and Safety must be first and foremost. Employers have a responsibility to ensure that people leave for home at the end of the day in the same condition they arrived. We are concerned about the public perception of the value of office

seating, it beggars belief that people think that they can buy an office chair that will be sat on for 40 hours a week for less than a case of beer. Remember it is for your staff and work colleagues, if you require healthy and productive input from your staff then you must provide a healthy environment that displays to staff that they are valued.



## Top three most common mistakes in office fitout:

**1** A failure to consider long term business plans. It is so common to see after 12-18 months into 5 year lease for a business to have reached capacity and wishing they had picked a bigger place or made sure their design had incorporated future growth. When companies initially have the foresight to take on extra space they tend to want to spread themselves out over that space and not permit their designer to allow for expansion. It is a lot easier to put 6 more workstations into an area that was either vacant or

*continued on page 2*

## In this issue:

- ▲ What makes the perfect office interior design
- ▲ Top three most common mistakes in office fitout:
- ▲ Featured Product
- ▲ Latest design trends from NeoCon
- ▲ The Huddle
- ▲ Back issues
- ▲ Case Study

## Featured Product

### Interactive Projection

By now everybody has heard of interactive whiteboards, there was a time when they were the next best thing but now they are yesterday's news.

Apex Executive Interiors introduces its new Interactive Projector, no interactive whiteboard required, no need to calibrate, no limitations.

Imagine being able to work your computer, draw, bring up spreadsheets using nothing but an image on a plasterboard wall or a standard projection white board.

Come to our office for a free demonstration of how this fantastic system can project your business into the future.



## Apex Executive Interiors specializes in all aspects of the commercial interiors:

### Building Works

- ▲ Demolition and Make Good
- ▲ Partitions
- ▲ Ceilings
- ▲ Doors and Hardware
- ▲ Painting
- ▲ Operable Walls
- ▲ Window Treatment
- ▲ Floor Treatment
- ▲ Signage
- ▲ Tiling

### Management

- ▲ Project Management
- ▲ Design
- ▲ Spatial Planning

### Service Trades

- ▲ Electrical
- ▲ Data
- ▲ Lighting
- ▲ Security
- ▲ Air Conditioning
- ▲ Fire services
- ▲ Plumbing

### Office Furniture

- ▲ Joinery
- ▲ Workstations
- ▲ Boardrooms
- ▲ Receptions
- ▲ Seating
- ▲ Audio Visual

### Maintenance

- ▲ Office Maintenance
- ▲ Certification of Essential Services
- ▲ Survey Reports

For more information:  
call 02 9635 9100 or  
visit [www.apexei.com.au](http://www.apexei.com.au)

an informal meeting area, than it is to have to shuffle 16 workstations around to make room for them.

**2** The next most common mistake seems to be the inability of some designers to take a holistic approach to office design during renovations. So many offices, a few years after the initial build look like a patch work quilt. After multiple changes done by countless designers and contractors some offices get themselves into a state where a total knock down and rebuild is all you can do to save them.

**3** The final biggest mistake is intercompany communications, it's not that the facility manager's don't try to talk to their people and ask for feedback, its more the fact that staff would rather say nothing during this process for fear of being wrong and then complain later when it doesn't work for them. This is very counterproductive, but it is human nature, make sure your selected contractor knows how to put together a process that includes feedback from all departments and is able to incorporate their needs into the final design.

## Lastest design trends form NeoCon

The design team at Apex Executive Interiors recently attended the annual furniture and interior design convention NeoCon in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago USA.

So what is NeoCon? NeoCon is furniture and interior design convention held over three days, showcasing thousands of products and ideas for use in corporate offices and working environments from over 650 exhibitors.

There is a saying, when America catches a cold Australia sneezes, and this is certainly true of design trends in office fit out.

So what did we learn during our three days at NeoCon? First of all and I can say with conviction that it has certainly not hit here yet, but the buzz word is Green. If it is not environmentally appropriate then it is simply not used. As you may or may not be aware we offer a wide range of environmentally sustainable products and ideas to help minimize your company's impact on the environment.

*continued on page 3*

## The Huddle

The 20th century is well and truly behind us now and we find ourselves surrounded by generation "Y". In case you haven't noticed they don't operate well in formal meeting rooms. A growing trend in open plan office

environments is the meeting huddle. Meeting huddles are informal meeting areas that are strategically arranged throughout an office, that provide a semi private relaxed meeting point or training areas. Talk to us about integrating one into your corporate environment.





Speaking of environmentally friendly, the other stand out was the use of LED lighting, as task lighting, ambient lighting and display lighting. LED lighting as well as having a low draw on electricity is capable of producing some fantastic lighting effects that are not achievable using conventional lighting systems.

Another interesting trend which hit the USA was a trend towards minimalism, screen less workstation systems, boardrooms with really nothing in them but a table and a small cabinet,

but cleverly designed to still be able to do everything that a traditional boardroom can do and more... much more. Modern Boardrooms are really being used as Multifunction rooms, capable of hosting a board meeting one day, a training session the next and a birthday party the one after.

We have returned to Australia inspired by NeoCon, if you want take full advantage of the latest office design trends call us today on 02 9635 9100 and talk to one of our designers.



*Common project orientated workstations, when staff get together on joint projects as a think tank*



*Minimalist boardroom*



*Vestibule and reception areas*



*Screenless workstation systems*



*LED lighting*

## BACK ISSUES

**August 2009**

[Downsize Your Work Space - Budget range office fit out](#)

**March 2010**

[10 things to ask your fitout company - Mid range office fit out](#)

**October 2010**

[20 Steps to a Successful Office Fitout - Top range office fit out](#)

**Client:** National Transport Insurance  
**Location:** Sydney CBD  
**Time Scale:** 2 weekends  
**Area:** Approx 365m<sup>2</sup>

**Client Profile:**

National Transport Insurance is Australia's leading transport insurance specialist.

**Scope of Works:**

Reconfigure an existing layout to facilitate a greater number of staff.

**Works Included:**

- ▲ Assisting in council approvals.
- ▲ Installation of new workstations including power and data.
- ▲ A new vibrant reception area.
- ▲ Demolition of existing walls and repairs to the ceiling.
- ▲ Repainting of the entire office.
- ▲ Partition walls, doors complete with uniquely designed privacy film with a truck logo.
- ▲ Various types of office seating.
- ▲ Designing and installing signage.
- ▲ Reupholstering workstation screens with new fabric.

**Challenge:**

The works had the potential to disrupt every aspect of the day to day running of the office.

**Solution:**

Works were carefully staged and planned to be carried out over 2 weekends, the construction plan was calculated to the hour ensuring that NTI were in no way inconvenienced by our presence.

*“ We used Apex Executive Interiors to redesign a large portion of our office space. During the whole refurbishment process our business was not disrupted and all the work was done over a few weekends. More importantly the whole office is a much more open and welcoming space for visitors and staff. Thanks for a job well done. ”*

*Daniela De la Llana*

*Business Development Manager, National Transport Insurance*

