



## Unique fitout makes waves in this year's ADNZ Awards

Formed 11 years ago, local architectural design firm Weirwalker is as well-known for its fitout work as it is for new designs, representative in its achievement of the 'Commended - Commercial Interior' award at the 2015 ADNZ Architectural Design Awards.

Owned by Amherst Properties, Anderson Lloyd House was one of the first of the new office buildings to be built in the CBD, replacing two buildings at 70 and 72 Gloucester Street which were demolished post-quake.

Weirwalker Architecture was engaged for the fitout design for the Mediterranean Shipping Company's (MSC) new office within the central city development after being approached by the firm, and the resulting interior reflects the shipping company's core business, Robert explains.

"As a shipping company, MSC has a unique relationship with the water," he says.

"As a result, we were able to incorporate curved elements to replicate the sea. This not only references the changing nature of the ocean, but guides the user through the space, adding interest and mystery."

LED strip lighting gives the corridor a visual lift, textural wallpaper enlivens the circulation area, juxtaposed against the smooth painted GIB board on the other side, and folding aluminium panels behind the reception desk recall the form of a shipping container.

Three distinct palettes of materials and colours have been developed, embracing natural materials (cedar slatted screens), a calm monochromatic base with bold, colourful accents and a thoughtful lighting design, also symbolic of the nature of the client's business by representing the natural states of water – liquid, ice and vapour.

Commercial construction contractor Ganellen was contracted to undertake the MSC fitout, integrating the fitout of the two MSC floors (L4 and 5) and L2 into the delivery of the base building works to ensure efficiency of delivery for principal and tenants.

Office fitout and refurbishment specialist Angus Interiors was subcontracted by Ganellen to carry out a portion of the fitout, after being involved in a number of other large scale local commercial fitouts, completing and project managing the internal partitions, suspended ceilings, painting, glazing and joinery components of the MSC fitout.

"MSC was a challenging yet very satisfying project," interiors manager Matt Reedy says.

"The design and vision Weirwalker illustrated proved to be a winning formula, and as such, Angus Interiors was proud to have received the 'National Commercial Project of the Year' award from the AWCI Association.

"Angus Interiors would like to congratulate Weirwalker for their award-winning design for this project."

The overall office space is based on a continuous flexible system that allows multiple spatial configurations, enabling the tenant to reorganise the space in a vast array of possible layouts as desired.

The office also reflects a focus on employees and staff retention, featuring a café-style breakout area and a large outdoor terrace for staff, while cedar screens in work areas help to provide a sense of enclosure and minimise distractions.

"A large outdoor terrace ensures the space is accessible in all weather, with a pergola and blinds to protect against wind and rain and recessed heating," Robert says.

"MSC's prime reason for moving back to the city was for their staff, so they were focused on creating a great space for those staff members to work in."

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