Project Description

To design a ten-storey building to be as vertically open as possible, to activate an enormous atrium and redefine the space – this was the architects' vision for this radical large-scale project to create a new work environment for a major bank. Inspired by a former nearby port where thousands of international container ships were loaded and unloaded by massive cranes before the area was transformed into a tourism district, they installed a lift platform that transports container-like meeting rooms over a routing system from floor to floor depending on the specific needs. This not only reduced the need for elevators by 50%; the concept itself is a winner in both practical and visual terms: A total of 26 cubes that jut out in the giant hollow space – a few of them were designed as classic meeting rooms with a table and surrounding chairs while others have built-in benches for a much more relaxed environment – ensure constantly changing settings.

Activity-based working was fully applied in the interior design, thereby creating a needs-oriented environment that retreats from the concept of fixed desks and establishes a row of flexible workplaces that are called neighbourhoods. Each one of them is used by about one hundred employees who no longer have a fixed workstation. This allows them to choose between various situational environments.

Seven different zones, inspired by the archetypes of human behaviour, provide the incentive to change locations and ensure constant movement. The spectacular facade structure continues in the interior space: Arterial stairwells connect the individual zones and form an airy organism dominated by bright colours whose individual organs require each other.

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Space Lighting Pty Ltd, Surry Hills

PHOTOGRAPHER
Shannon McGrath, Martin van der Wal

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