

Making Space Work

Select spaces on the first floor have been designed to suit a variety of purposes. Available for use as either offices or apartments, these spaces can be adjusted to suit owners commercial and residential needs well into the future.

Good interior design puts the end-user at the centre of the process. That means every detail, from floor-plans to joinery, is weighed against the experience of being in that space—not for a minute, an hour, a day, or a week, but for years, decades maybe. Spaces need to do more than look good. They need to function. They need to relate to other spaces. They need to accommodate. They need to adapt. They need to age well. And they need to feel good.

This is where the hierarchy of space comes into play. For us, it's a crucial part of the interior design process. When designing the interiors for apartments, we break down each space in terms of its purpose and everyday significance, with the overall goal of ensuring that each area is given the ideal spatial volume and adjacencies. This involves separating interior spaces into three tiers: primary, secondary and tertiary.

Primary spaces in apartments are the living areas. Secondary spaces are kitchens and bedrooms, with tertiary spaces including the bathrooms, laundries and lobbies. They're all important areas of a home, and they all need to function well and have considered relationships with adjacent spaces, but need to serve the resident in distinct ways, at various times of day. Getting this balance right leads to coherent, connected spaces that feel calm.

This design philosophy manifests through a base material palette of white walls, timber flooring and concrete ceilings, complemented by high-quality fixtures and fittings. With this simple, durable aesthetic occupants can personalise the space and make it their own with minimal constraints; an underlying sense of order makes it easier to inhabit a space in a looser, individual way. We've been refining and building on this design philosophy across various projects with long-time partner Milieu.

Beginning with a series of apartments on Peel Street, Collingwood, the partnership has flourished across a range of projects, from Congress (Milieu's first hospitality venue) to Bedford Street (an evolution of Peel Street's design process) to Hertford Street (a set of five unique homes in Fitzroy). Our fifth collaboration with Milieu draws a little from each of those previous projects, taking the best elements and distilling them into this new offering.

