



Otter Place by DesignOffice and Hassell

Collingwood, Victoria, Australia

Words by Hayley Curnow • Visualisation Courtesy of Mileu

Set in the heart of Melbourne's bustling Collingwood, Otter Place exemplifies developer Milieu's design-centric and socially-driven ethos – a culmination of the company's 10 years in creative property development. With an emphasis on the value of good design and amenity, Milieu's ambition to cultivate an everyday culture of design has driven collaborations with respected architects and designers, creating place-specific developments that respectfully engage with context. For the latest project, Otter Place, Milieu partnered with Hassell and long-standing collaborator DesignOffice to consolidate and express principles of inner-suburban liveability.

The architecture of Otter Place responds to the suburban vernacular in scale and form, while turning its head to the city. Hassell has shrouded the podium levels in white glazed bricks in a tender reference to Collingwood's gritty, post-industrial masonry. Above, a glazed 'box' creates a sleek counterbalance that celebrates the site's neighbourhood outlook and striking CBD views.

Driven by Design Office and Hassell's expertise in human-centred design, the interiors of Otter Place are cleverly planned to optimise natural light, encourage adaptability and craft an atmosphere of joy and comfort. A foundation of quality materials – including European oak, finished stainless steel, exposed concrete, stained timber, natural stone and granite – is designed for longevity, inviting occupants to layer and personalise their spaces to suit their individual needs.

Committed to the vibrancy and success of the development, Milieu is set to take up residency in the commercial space fronting Otter Street as the team's new headquarters. Aside from delivering a vibrant residential hub that gives back to the neighbourhood, Otter Place expresses the shared values of its architects and developer – a proof point of a cultivated ethos and a springboard for future developments.

Stoney Rise Cellar Door by Cumulus Studio

Gravelly Beach, Tasmania, Australia

Words by Millie Thwaites • Photography by Anjie Blair

Stoney Rise Cellar Door by Cumulus Studio in the heart of Tasmania's Tamar Valley presents a wine-focused experience inspired by place. Boasting a small footprint and high-quality materials, this highly contemporary structure incites curiosity from the very first glimpse. Geometric planes slice through the sky and the sun bounces off the timber-clad façade, replicating the dance of light on the surrounding gum. Undisturbed and peaceful in the middle of a grassy enclave, it beckons, encouraging human interaction.

Stepping inside, the cocooning effect marks a welcoming sense of arrival. Spotted gum and dark bricks have been used extensively alongside burgundy finishes, and large windows capture the views of the surrounding terrain. Overall, there's a distinct focus on locally sourced, natural, untreated and durable materials that will patina and age well over time, ensuring continuous and evolving character for this compact yet convivial space.

A close collaboration between architect and client, the brief outlined a space that could be both intimate and lively, accommodating the day-to-day cellar door visitors and wine tastings, as well as dinner parties and social gatherings. Resultingly, the Stoney Rise Cellar Door is dynamic in its offering; subdued and shared moments coexist, and experiential design prevails.

