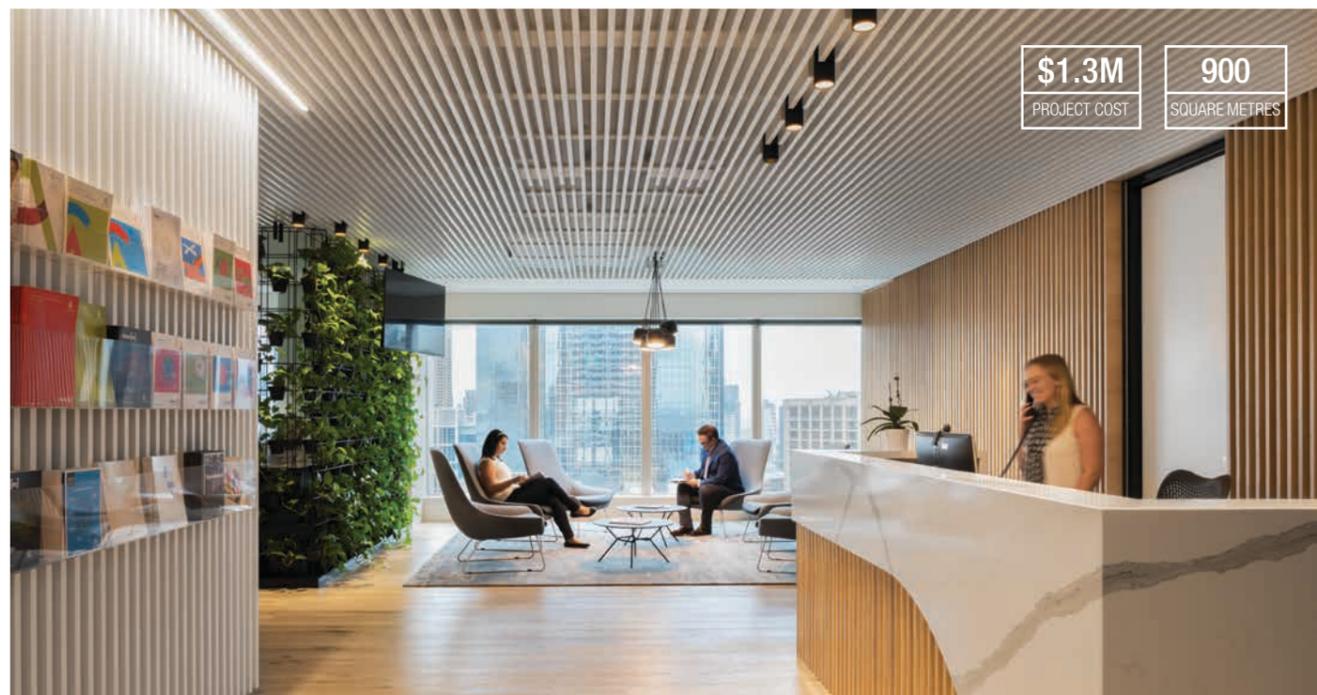


# CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

CLEVER DESIGN TESTAMENT TO OUR DESIGNERS' ABILITIES TO LISTEN DEEPLY.



Membership organisation Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand required a more-contemporary Victoria / Tasmania office that incorporated staff workspace, training facilities, meeting rooms, a members lounge, and breakout spaces.

Gray Puksand began with its staff engagement piece, consisting of three intensive workshops with the client, delving into the needs of their organisation—emotional, physical and corporate. These collaborative workshops helped to tease out the underlying feelings and concerns around the move, as well as the physical requirements.

A focus on members and member services was key to both the design and the budget. There was a need to avoid extravagance—ensuring members fees were seen to be spent wisely—whilst still providing comfortable working and training environments.

“We have an excellent understanding of working with clients that don’t have massive budgets, so we’ve developed a knack for designing cleverly; getting big impact with smaller amounts of money.” explains Heidi Smith, Gray Puksand Partner and Interior Designer.

The office shell had recently been refurbished, meaning there was a solid, compliant base upon which to work. By adding to this foundation with bold colours and natural materials, the team created a contemporary, comfortable space whilst avoiding costly whimsical additions.

The dual requirements for staff workspace and training facilities made space planning crucially important. The resulting layout separates the functions whilst maintaining access and transparency - another important factor the client.

Training rooms can be accessed via reception, but also have their own entrance, allowing for the separation of events from the day-to-day business.

However, the practical nature of the brief was accompanied by a strong design story - developed during the workshop stage - which looked at the emotions the organisation wanted to evoke for staff and visitors. A warm, homely environment was important, particularly for members who are often travelling from interstate. Timbers, indoor planting, and natural light have been combined to welcome members and enrich the workspace for staff.

In another example of economical-yet-clever use of materials, Gray Puksand’s in-house graphics team developed a custom frosted film for the class walls of meeting rooms. Rather than a standard film, they took inspiration from the abacus - a nod to the accountants - to create a colourful patterned alternative.

