

52 MARTIN PLACE

NEW BRAND IDENTITY OFFERING A WIDE VARIETY OF NEW RETAIL AND DINING SERVICES FOR CBD HUB.



Gray Puksand has completed the refurbishment of 52 Martin Place for REST Industry Super and Colliers International. This sees the underground concourse and retail hub in the Sydney CBD revitalised for the first time in 25 years. The concourse connects Martin Place train station with Elizabeth Street and now includes a mix of 18 service retail and food tenancies, and dining zones with seating for 135.

As a thoroughfare that accommodates a high degree of foot traffic throughout the day, the redevelopment was carefully staged to ensure minimal interruption during the trading period with works completed after hours.

Layers of ceiling finishes applied over intervening years had left the starkly lit concourse with ceiling heights as low as 2.3m. These were peeled back to reveal the base building conditions from which the design team could begin to develop their vision to bring the retail hub into the new millennium.

Holly Maxwell, Associate said the challenge was to work with the building restrictions to achieve as much height as possible and create a unique interior.

"In the end we were able to achieve a 3.2m ceiling height in the main dining area and 2.5m at the Elizabeth Street entrance. We also had to consider the floor which has some steep angles and undulates up and down throughout the space. Over three metres it might jump by half a metre. It was a real brain teaser but we are getting great feedback from tenants and users of the space," she said.

The central dining area features an organically shaped fixed banquette with green planting and a light feature above made with individual reflective hexagons in black, bronze and gold acrylic mirror and set at different heights. A slatted ceiling of undulating height runs to this central point and features low glare linear lighting as a component of the lighting designer's brief. Occasional wall lights dotted throughout the main dining area add another layer of considered detail.

Expansive feature walls include green planting, bronze mirrors and timber panels or chopping boards in a variety of shapes and sizes which are engraved or etched with simple lines or a variety of food names that relate back to the food offer. The minimal palette and level of considered detail has created a calming haven for CBD workers and has given the underground concourse and retail hub a much needed sense of identity.

