



CALM

**CORPORATE**

Text  
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With stunning views of Sydney Harbour, idpm have given AXA Rosenberg a 'Zen' interior, not unlike a traditional Japanese home.



02

**A corporate environment tempered by the intimacy, calm and gentle elegance of a traditional Japanese domestic interior**

- 01 Informal meeting area, with shoji screens
- 02 Organic free-flowing working environment
- 03 Welcoming reception on top of the world



03

When you are 47-storeys up looking north and east over the spectacular theatre of the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour it is quite possible that you would never get any work done. Perhaps that's why idpm, when they fitted out AXA Rosenberg, introduced a 'Zen' mood – if not to keep the mind focussed, then as a respite from the intensity of the corporate world.

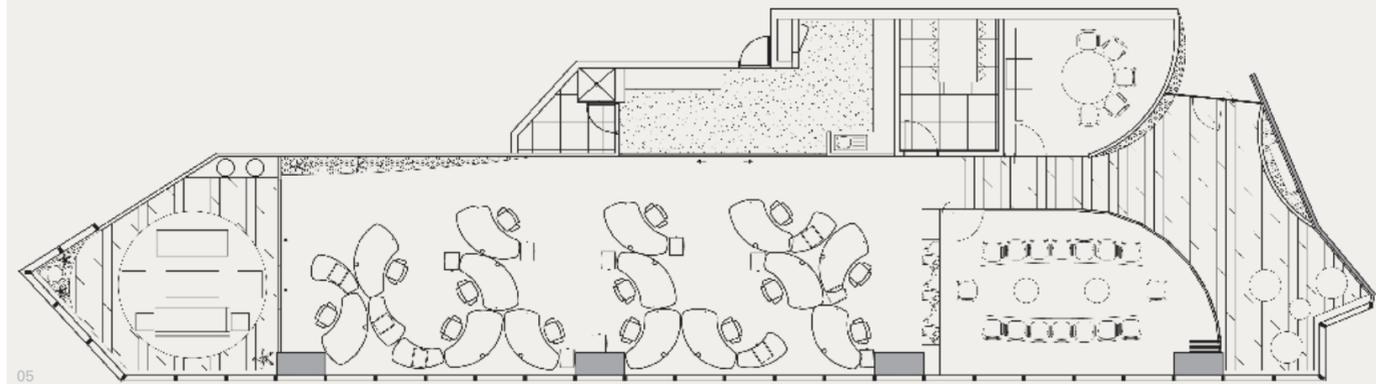
The result is a corporate environment tempered by the intimacy, calm and gentle elegance of a traditional Japanese domestic interior. The most obvious elements are the shoji screens, which glide silently on timber tracks to hide the kitchen and utilities room, as well as providing privacy for the break-out room.

But throughout the free-flowing space there are many other strategies at work which give this environment a special sense of 'Zen' coherence. For example, the organic quality of the space which begins to unfold at the entry where curved walls draw the visitor in and past the set-back glazed entry doors, following the feature stone panelling and curved pebble tiling which provide a transition from the public space of the lift lobby. This curving rhythm is picked up inside by the sensual red 'Apollo' chairs in reception, the transparent wall of the conference room and by the sinewy shapes of the Formway 'Free' workstations.

All this simulates the flow of water – which is also literally present in the form of the water wall in reception and the fish tank wall separating the conference room from the office. This is the only permanent barrier in the whole office, but even this is transparent. The sound of water, the refraction of light through water and the organic ebb and flow of water all contribute to a reassuring stillness inside to contrast with the drama of the Harbour outside.

Other natural elements include the stone panel water wall and the Japanese gardens in reception and in the office with their white quartz pebbles, potted

# A Zen mood – if not to keep the mind focussed, then as a respite from the intensity of the corporate world



bamboo palms and full-height bamboo poles. Indeed, bamboo is used for the flooring and where there is carpet it is designed to replicate the pattern and texture of tatami mats. In the break-out room, the walls are finished in sisal wallpaper whose texture complements the bamboo floor, the rattan suspension lights and the plants. The natural-coloured timber woven Roman blinds also contribute to the 'Zen' palette and lend a domestic mood.

The idea of a 'home-away-from-home' work environment is almost de rigueur these days. But often it comes across more like the rumpus room than a place of quiet retreat. The AXA Rosenberg fit-out, however, offers a highly functional work environment, leavened by the calm beauty and organic energy of the quintessential Japanese home.

*Paul McGillick is Editor of InDesign magazine.*

**Design Practice** idpm  
**Interior Designer** Chris Rumble  
**Graphics** 3D Perspectives, Julian Wong  
**Services Engineer** TCG  
**Structural Engineer** Hyder Consulting  
**Principal Certifier** Advance Building Approvals  
**Electrical** KLM Group  
**Mechanical** Air Tech  
**Fire Protection** Fireteg  
**Hydraulic** Ross Baird Plumbing  
**Partitioning/Glazing** Peter Zlatar Partitions  
**Joinery** P&C Joinery  
**Audio-Visual** Visionext  
**Flooring** Peter Kelly Flooring  
**Aquarium** Oceanlink  
**Budget** \$700,000  
**Area** 300m<sup>2</sup>  
**Time to Complete** 4 months

**idpm**  
(61 2) 9238 4271, idpm.com.au

**Furnishings**  
'Free' multi-workstation from Formway. 'Apollo' reception seating from KE-ZU with 'Sense Alert' upholstery. Reception glass side table with 'Stylus' base and 'Carma' custom-made boardroom table in Rock Maple veneer from Stylecraft. Box seating, upholstered in 'Bellagio Cream' from NSW Leather Company and 'Cubica' armchairs, upholstered in Mokum Euro-suede 'Lipstick', also from Stylecraft.  
**Formway**  
(61 2) 9279 3333, formway.com  
**Instyle Contract Textiles**  
(61 2) 9317 0222, instyle.com.au  
**KE-ZU**  
(61 2) 9699 6600, kezu.com.au  
**Mokum**  
(61 2) 9357 0555, mokumtextiles.com  
**NSW Leather Company**  
(61 2) 9319 2900, leatherco.com.au  
**Stylecraft**  
1300 306 960, stylecraft.com.au

**Lighting**  
Luzifer 'Super Gea' suspended lights in 'Cherry' veneer in boardroom from KE-ZU. 'Fortuna' Teak pendant lamp in break-out from Stylecraft.  
**KE-ZU**  
(61 2) 9699 6600, kezu.com.au  
**Stylecraft**  
1300 306 960, stylecraft.com.au

**Finishes**  
Bamboo flooring in reception and break-out and Sisal wallpaper in break-out from Style Limited. Hand-tufted 'Chunky Loop' rug from Designer Rugs. Carpet from Cavalier Bremworth. Vinyl flooring from Gerflor. Stones from Stoned Decorative Pebble Supplies. Roman blinds and shoji screens from Urban Range. 'Rock Maple' veneer from Briggs Veneers. Kitchen benchtops in Caesarstone.  
**Briggs Veneers**  
(61 2) 9732 7888, briggs.com.au  
**Caesarstone**  
(61 2) 8339 7400, caesarstone.com.au  
**Cavalier Bremworth**  
(61 2) 9932 2600, cavbrem.com.au  
**Designer Rugs**  
(61 2) 9328 4111, designerrugs.com.au  
**Gerflor**  
1800 060 785, gerflor.com  
**Stoned Decorative Pebble Supplies**  
(61) 428 608 850, stoned.com.au  
**Style Limited**  
(61 2) 8399 0242, styleplantation.com.au  
**Urban Range**  
1300 799 552, urbanrange.com.au