

**WORDS PAUL MCGILLICK**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**TYRONE BRANIGAN**

**ARCHITECT IDPM**  
**LOCATION SYDNEY | AUS**  
**PROJECT KEB AUSTRALIA**

**RIGHT** A wall behind the reception edits out a neighbouring building, providing the best views



# AERIAL ELEGANCE

This is not the first fit-out idpm has done in Chifley Tower (see Indesign #27 and #34). They have had quite a lot of practice in how to make full use of the extraordinary views across the Botanical Gardens and the Harbour right up to the Heads, not to mention resolving some tricky issues to do with confined space and intrusive neighbouring buildings.

So, they are on familiar territory with the Sydney offices of the Korean Exchange Bank, including (as with its fit-out for Sumitomo in Chifley Tower) the opportunity for some subtle invocations of an Asian aesthetic.

Essentially, it consists of a simple division into two areas – public front-of-house and the back-of-house work area. The public area consists of reception and client waiting lounge, a meeting room, a boardroom and,

interestingly, the CEO's office whose glazed wall connects it visually with the client waiting area.

The first tactic was to frame the view – which involved editing out the ugly rear of a neighbouring building. Hence, on arrival the visitor faces the geometric planes of the reception desk and its backing wall which allows a slot window view into the CEO's office on one side and a frame for the view out to the Harbour on the other while hiding the neighbouring building.

The unifying theme here is transparency – transparency to the outside view, but also internally with the extensive use of glazed walls and glimpsed views through to the CEO's office and into the main work area through a window to the side of reception, but masked from arriving visitors by a blade wall.

As a counterpoint to the orthogonal organisation

of the space, idpm uses a large, circular rug and suite of round 'Lily' chairs. Likewise, it has balanced the hard surfaces of glass and porcelain tiles with fabric, carpet, timber and colour, adding texture with the limestone reception desk and through the use of Jarrah burr veneer.

The overall effect is one of order and modernity, but warmed and softened by natural materials, a deft use of colour and the stunning visual connection with the natural world of the Botanical Gardens and the Harbour.

*Paul McGillick is Editor of Indesign.*

## KEB AUSTRALIA

**DESIGN PRACTICE** idpm  
**INTERIOR DESIGNER** Chris Rumble  
**SERVICES ENGINEER** TCG Consulting Engineers  
**PRINCIPAL CERTIFIER** Advance Building Approvals  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR** Executive Interiors  
**JOINERY** P&C Joinery  
**ELECTRICAL** Executive Electrical  
**MECHANICAL** Envar  
**FIRE PROTECTION** Credible Building Technologies  
**HYDRAULIC** Ross Baird Plumbing

**BLINDS** Harvey Blinds  
**FLOORING** Peter Kelly Flooring

**BUDGET** \$500,000  
**TOTAL FLOOR AREA** 330m<sup>2</sup>  
**TIME TO COMPLETE** 6 months

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

**FURNITURE** In the client waiting area, Ferlea 'Lily' chair from FY2K upholstered in Kvadrat Maharam 'Steelcut'. Side tables are Walter Knoll 'Eclipse' from FY2K. Meeting room seating is Walter Knoll Foster '500'

armchairs from FY2K, upholstered in Pelle 'Danube' leather. Boardroom seating is Luxy 'Italia Light' in black leather from Chairbiz. Reception waiting area seating is 'Hex' armchair from Chairbiz. Meeting and boardroom seating is 'Mini Ultimas' from Bevisco who also supplied the 'Freeway' workstations. Executive seating is 'Contessa' in black leather from UCI. Task seating is Gregory 'Boxta' and 'Inca' chairs from Chairbiz upholstered in Millennium 'Taupe' from Materialised. Boardroom and meeting room tables are 'Carma' from Stylecraft with Birch veneer from Fethers.

**LIGHTING** Meeting room light is David Knott 'Lotus 600' in Antique Oak from Gineico. Targetti downlights.

**FINISHES** Workstation screen fabric supplied by Instyle. Porcelain tiling from Academy Tiles. Hand-tufted rug in client waiting room from Whitecliffe Imports, with carpet from Cavalier Bremworth. Joinery veneer from Briggs Veneers.

Academy Tiles (61 2) 9436 3566 academytiles.com.au Bevisco (61 2) 9279 2244 bevisco.com.au Briggs Veneers (61 2) 9732 7888 briggs.com.au Cavalier Bremworth (61 2) 9932 2600 cavbrem.com.au Chairbiz 1300 888 434 chairbiz.com Fethers Veneers (61 3) 9646 5266 fethers.com.au FY2K (61 2) 8399 1644 fy2k.com.au Gineico (61 2) 9690 1522 gineicointeriors.com Instyle Contract Textiles (61 2) 9317 0222 instyle.com.au Kvadrat Maharam (61 2) 9212 4277 kvadratmaharam.com Materialised (61 2) 8558 3500 materialised.com Stylecraft (61 2) 9355 0000 stylecraft.com.au Targetti (61 2) 9437 6066 targetti.com UCI (61 2) 9299 9500 uci.com.au Walter Knoll (61 8) 8182 3925 walterknoll.com.au Whitecliffe Imports (61 2) 9692 8822 whitecliffe.com.au