

Case Study Architectus – creative and sustainable design



Architectus is an award winning practice employing over 250 leading architects, designers and planners.

With offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Auckland and Shanghai, Architectus' philosophy is to consistently deliver intelligent and creative design solutions notable for their simplicity and performance.

When Architectus made a move from North Sydney to the CBD in 2008, the organisation set out to create a new office that would reflect their design and sustainability philosophy as well as their keen interest in creating healthy environments and places that people like to occupy.

Joining CitySwitch Green Office in mid 2008 saw Architectus commit to a 5 star NABERS Energy rating in line with their broader goals for a new, sustainable working environment.

Goals

- Create a space which demonstrates Architectus' commitment to creating sustainable environments
- Create a working environment that supports and inspires a creative design team
- Inclusion of environmentally sustainable materials and systems

Getting underway

Architectus appointed an in-house project manager from its architectural staff to coordinate and liaise with the various groups within the company – IT, Administration, Planning and Urban Design, Architecture, Interiors, Graphics and Communications. This role included compiling the space requirements and orchestrating the move.

Meanwhile the company's Interior Architecture team designed and documented the fit-out, with priority being given to the selection of environmentally sustainable materials and systems.

architectus™

Signatory status	
Date joined CitySwitch	30 June 2008
Tenancy size	1300 sqm
NABERS Commitment rating	★★★★★
Website	www.architectus.com.au
Key outcomes	
Annual saving	\$7,350 despite 50% larger office
Cost of investment	\$1,000/sqm
Green CO ₂ savings per annum	19 tonnes, despite larger tenancy
Partner support	St Hilliers and HDallas
Technology	T5 lighting, movement sensors, zoned air-conditioning and lighting with after-hours occupant control

New CBD tenancy – new opportunities

Incorporating sustainability into a new tenancy

Moving into a new space provided Architectus an opportunity to include environmental specifications and considerations every step of the way.

Some of the innovative sustainable solutions undertaken include:

- passive design – achieving optimum natural day-lighting and winter sun access
- incorporating T5 lighting in addition to motion sensors where possible
- adopting Green Star recommendations
- use of sustainable and environmentally friendly materials and finishes
- using zero or low VOC emission paints
- sourcing post-consumer recycled or Forest Stewardship Council certified timber.

Key achievements to date

Following the new fit-out, Architectus has achieved a number of positive outcomes in a short period of time, including:

- a 15% reduction in electricity consumption equating to a yearly saving of \$7,350
- reduced greenhouse gas emissions - from 155 tonnes to 136 tonnes per year - despite moving to a larger tenancy
- lifting their Green Star rating from 2.5 in the old tenancy to a predicted 5 stars in the new tenancy
- a reduced need for artificial lighting with increased direct access to natural daylight
- adaptable spaces – meaning flexibility for small/large meetings, workshops and functions without compromising the efficiency of the working office
- IT solutions to enhance video conferencing as an alternative to carbon-intensive air travel for meetings
- bike storage and showers to encourage cycle commuting for staff.

"As built environment specialists, our support of CitySwitch is consistent with our philosophy – sustainable design must integrate consideration of resource and energy efficiency, ecologically and socially sensitive land use, and aesthetic sensitivity."

Lindsay Clare
Design Director
Architectus

Get involved

Join CitySwitch and discover how small changes can make a big difference to Australia's future environmental health – and that of the planet.

Visit www.cityswitch.net.au for more information or call the CitySwitch Program Manager in your state. Contact details are listed on the website.

CitySwitch is a national tenant energy management program. Previously known as the 3CBDs Greenhouse Initiative, the program works with tenants to improve office energy efficiency, reducing the CO₂ emissions attributed to climate change.

CitySwitch Partners



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

