



## Swanbury Penglase



### New Office... Who dis?

We are now firmly established in our brand new new purpose built offices at 214 Gilbert St.

The site was formerly occupied by George Gross and Harry Who Fashion Designers, and when they announced in 2014 that they would be winding up their firm, it opened an opportunity that was eagerly seized by directors Steve and Andrew.

Staff were involved in the creative process from the very beginning: divided into teams, we all looked to the area surrounding the office to understand the context of our new space and how that might influence architectural form. The challenge was how to make the best of all the ideas and produce something with a unified design aesthetic.

As a practice we asked, 'what type of space would suit Swanbury Penglase? How can it be both aspirational and practical?' The result is 'the designers' workshop'.

The overall form is strong and angular, mimicking the saw-tooth profiles found elsewhere in this corner of the city and much like a workshop or shed.

Externally, the architecture is stripped back to fundamental components, with materials selected for their raw characteristics. Services are deliberately exposed and raw, without intervention to soften or disguise.

Internally the response builds on the raw nature of the external design, with most materials expressed in their own right and selected to contrast with the exterior. Intended to appear 'installed' and separate to the exterior skin, plywood emerged as the hero - its warm and gentle texture adds an inviting and natural dimension to the more austere steel and concrete structure of the open studio space.

A new office is an opportunity to shed 'baggage', focus on where we are headed and reinvent accordingly. For example, office furniture and equipment is used very differently now to 20 years ago; our new desks are sit-stand to promote a healthier workplace. Our industry is heavily based on software with very little paper being used these days which has allowed spatial arrangements to be more standardised and hence collaborative and flexible. Where possible we have sourced Australian designed and made furniture pieces from people like Ross Gardam and Design by Them. Although we loved 244 Gilbert, the new premises have been universally praised by the staff and we feel comfortable whilst remaining productive!



Sited notes



# Office News

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May we finished packing and started moving into 214 Gilbert Street, which took the whole day, but with much planning we actually switched our PC's on that afternoon and found the network! We all love the new premises and invite our friends to come and have a look around.

A big anniversary is Felicity Hope at Swanbury Penglase for 20 years [cue fireworks]; well done Felicity you are truly beloved here and a valuable team member.

We welcome Nick Bartholomaeus, graduate of the University of South Australia, who commenced with us earlier in the year. Nick apparently plays guitar in a band – we hope Architecture isn't just a day job. Also fresh is Rhea Barnett, AILA Registered Landscape Architect, having previously spent 5 years at Greenhill Engineers. Rhea enjoys rock climbing and can be seen scaling cliff faces on weekends.

Farewell to Sophie Oakey, Administration / Presentation Coordinator who has finished her tenure on the front desk, while Felicity Swanbury was away on maternity leave. All good things must come to an end (Felicity we mean all that time at home with children / not you returning...) and Sophie has been fortunate enough to find employment elsewhere in the industry.

Congratulations go to Landscape Architect Cecilia and husband Ollie on the birth of their son Percy.

During May, Paul Rawinski ran his debut marathon at the Adelaide Marathon Festival, clocking an impressive time of 3:12:59. Paul also shaved his head to raise funds for Parkinson's Research due to his brother-in-law Todd Murfitt being diagnosed with young onset Parkinson's disease. Todd recently underwent brain surgery and is doing well, you may have noticed him featured in the media. A noble cause Paul. To be commended.

Interior Designer Rebecca Hewett recently travelled to Spain to trek the Camino with her mother and sister. The Camino is an ancient pilgrimage through Northern Spain terminating in the town of Santiago de Compostela (believed to be the resting place of St James the Apostle). Bec spent 12 nights walking 220km from Ponferrada and claims it was an exhausting experience.

Projects reaching completion during this quarter include Edwardstown Soldiers Memorial Recreation Ground and Pedare Christian College Middle School. Both projects have been managed by director Simon Best and occupied most of his time since joining us 2 years ago.

Nick Bartholomaeus



Rhea Barnett



Cecilia and Baby Percy



Paul running marathon



Rebecca in Spain



Pedare



**Pencil vs computer?** (your preference) Bit of both....but ACAD not Revit!

**Fav eatery:** Golden Boy, Chinatown Café...anywhere in Chinatown really

**Most treasured possession:** Other than my family....would have to be my photo hard drive although my carmex lip balm & hair straightener are pretty treasured too!

**Best thing about living in Adelaide:** The Central Markets, close to the beach, close to the hills what more could one want

**First favourite song as a kid:** Heart of Glass by Blondie

**Currently listening to:** Amy Winehouse

**Motto in life:** Don't sweat the small stuff

**Fantasy (or next holiday destination):** New York for 2 months! But will be a while away I think....

**Superpower (if you could have one):** Flying

**Growing up you thought you would be...?** A Journalist

**Memorable SPA moment:** I've had 20 years of memorable moments at SPA but off the top of my head would have to be the whole office trip to Qld in 2010 but Andrew Phillips' gnome theme 40th B'day celebrations were pretty memorable too

## Staff Notes



**Position in firm:** Senior Associate Interior Designer

**Current projects:** A masterplan for Parliament House, carpet designs for the Adelaide Town Hall and Marion Outdoor Pool

**What inspires you?** A good challenge

**Design you wish you could take credit for:** The Pantheon in Rome or Faro Restaurant at MONA in Tasmania

SPACIOUS