

Client Toga Group
Details Office fitout
Area 2,700sqm
Completion January 2007

Bates Smart won the commission to design Toga Group's new Head Office through an invited tender. It is located within an adapted woolstore building that Bates Smart upgraded. As part of that project, the original timber ceilings, beams and joists were exposed, with contemporary insertions framed in steel and glass to heighten the contrast between old and new. Toga's brief called for an environment that encourages integration, visibility, collaboration and team work.

The fitout complements the original structure and overcomes some of its inherent limitations. It features a predominantly open-plan work area around the building's perimeter to maximise the limited natural light and create clear sightlines between staff. A central 'street' runs the length of the office to connect the entry and staff café, encouraging cross-pollination and staff interaction. On either side of the street, glass enclosed pods house offices, meeting rooms and quiet rooms. The reception and waiting area are immediately adjacent to the client boardroom, providing a generous and flexible function space.

Within the fitout, the finishes palette creates a dialogue between old and new, as it does in the base building. Specialised lighting and timber flooring give the 'street' its own identity and radiance. This space also provides a backdrop to Toga's extensive art collection and a showcase for previous and current projects.

Top left Reception
Bottom left Foyer
Right Meeting rooms

