



The Socially Responsible Design Studio

# NEWSLETTER

August 2019

## REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF BUILDING, STRIP OUTS AND FITOUTS.

**The Australian Institute of Architects has endorsed a declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency.**

The Architect's Declare movement was first launched in the UK, and Australia is the third country in the world to join the movement. According to **Australian Architect's Declare website**, the declaration seeks to confront the climate emergency in a number of ways, including raising awareness, minimising wastage and mitigating climate breakdown in both new projects and upgrades to existing buildings.

In the July-September issue of Interior Fitout magazine, ASOFIA (Australian Shop & Office Fitting Industry Association Ltd) published a double page spread article entitled '*The History of Shopfitting - Standing Up to the Tests of Time*' which opened with the assertion that '... until relatively recently shopfittings were not regarded as disposable. Whilst today (fitouts are only in place for)... as long as a lease, in the past, fixtures and fittings - and in particular shopfronts - lasted through many changes of use and ownership with only minor alterations'.

The article then goes on to present the case study of a country town in NSW where the shopfronts on the main street have been preserved and tastefully revived since at least the 1970's, retaining attractive layering, stories and authenticity.

Both the declaration and this article call us to question the morality of continuing to require, in commercial leases, the huge environmental impact (not to mention cost) of completely stripping out perfectly functional fitouts every 3-5 years or less, only to replace these with functionally identical stores, offices or eateries.

We're not sure if anyone has ever actually tallied the environmental impact of the fitout industry, but it is sure to be astonishingly high with so much material being used, transported and disposed of so frequently.

At FTD we'd like to see changes to the standard fitout and defit clauses in leases, and particularly in shopping centre processes, to promote creativity and reduced impact through adaptive re-use (rather than full defit) wherever possible. Yes, this might cost some work to the defit and fitout industries, but spaces requiring adaption will still need renovation to achieve building code upgrades and refreshed presentation.

Afterall, what greater costs will we suffer if we continue to strip out and rebuild so wastefully out of creative, legal and administrative laziness, and our conflicted desire for the 'forever new and shiny'?



A-ESQUE, The Strand Arcade



M.J. Bale, QVB



## WHAT'S NEW IN FOOD & HOSPITALITY

**New environmental initiative RETURNR aims to replace single use takeaway packaging.**

Participating cafe patrons request their food in a container which can be rinsed and returned to any cafe in the network.

[Read more](#)



**We recently attended the NoVacancy Hotel & Hospitality Business Expo and picked up a number of interesting points about the hospitality industry:**

- Most restaurants guests at hotels are locals, not hotel guests, so hotels need to integrate strong experiences for the local exterior market
- Hotels (and clubs) should aim to create a 'restaurant in a hotel' not a 'hotel restaurant'
- Global food and drink trends are becoming increasingly focussed on organic, natural and sustainable foods - food that is "good for me and good for the environment"
- People are looking for "elevated convenience foods" (on-the-go foods that are both healthy and good value)
- Alcohol and caffeinated drinks are decreasing in popularity in the young market, and some bars are now opening that serve only non-alcoholic drinks
- *Experiential dining* and the experience of food is increasingly important to attract diners in a world where meal delivery services are ever-more popular and accessible



## WHAT'S NEW IN RETAIL AND SERVICES

**A number of severe injuries to small children and toddlers from falling onto shopping racks and hooks** has prompted retailers to make changes to the ways they design and fitout their displays.

[Read more](#)

**Here's something interesting...** Women's brand Mooy, located in Belgium, fuses healthy food with premium skincare products, in an almost entirely pink environment.

[Read more](#)





## WHAT'S NEW IN WORKPLACE

**Should we sit, stand, recline or exercise at our 'desks'?** At FTD we believe that there is no blanket answer to this question. Employees needs are often individual. Preferences and fit vary by tasks, time of day, need to collaborate, emotion, health, stature and impairment. Where possible, we recommend individualised assessment and co-design with the employees themselves. Here are a couple of links to help you consider your options at work...

[Read more](#)[Read more](#)

## FEEL GOOD STORY OF THE MONTH

Last month our Managing Director, Vanessa Cullen, attended the excellent Zero Waste Living workshop at Manly Food Co-op (one of our clients). Read the below article about the workshop for more tips and tricks on what we as consumers can do to reduce our own wastage.

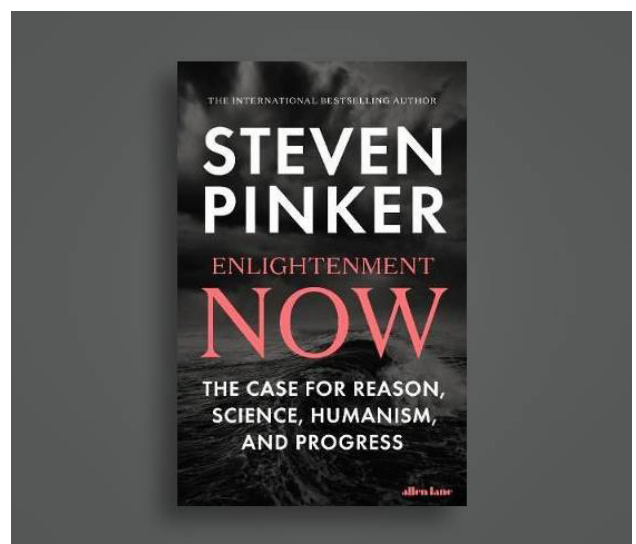
[Read more](#)

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON & WHO WITH

- A Golf Club Building Master Plan in Regional NSW
- Large Office/Medical Services Interior Design Projects in Sydney and Tuggerah
- A New Asian Grocery Store and Brand in Sydney
- An Office/Warehouse Relocation in Sydney
- New Flooring & Homewares Retail Stores in Melbourne and Brisbane
- A New Affordable, Community Grocery Store for an NFP in Sydney
- A Social Enterprise Network Startup Framework for NSW and ACT

## WHAT WE'RE READING THIS MONTH

**Enlightenment Now**, Steven Pinker



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