



The Socially Responsible Design Studio

# NEWSLETTER

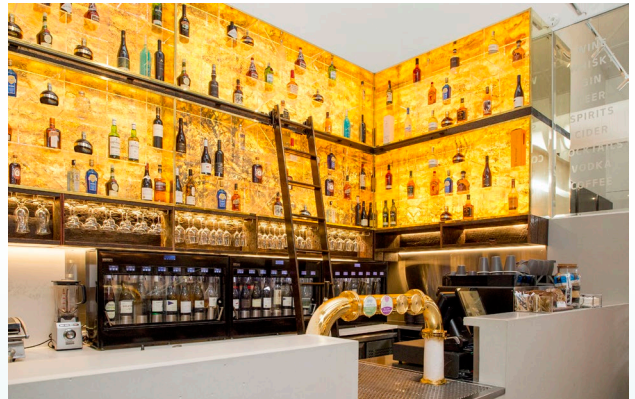
April 2020 - COVID-19

## A TRANSFORMATIVE COLLABORATION

After a design documentation, approval and tender period of only 6 weeks and a build period of only 10 weeks; Forward Thinking Design, LSC Shopfitting and Club Catalina's subcontractors have delivered an astounding \$1.3 million dollar transformation of this iconic coastal golf club's 960 sqm Main Bar, Members Lounge and Restaurant spaces.

Forward Thinking Design were previously contracted to consult on the selection of the finishes and furnishings for the Club Catalina's new alfresco dining terrace, sports bar and view room extensions and some minor exterior upgrade works. The Club were pleased by the firm's work on these areas and again approached FTD to consult on minor aesthetic upgrades to the Main Bar, Cash Box and Members Lounge furnishings. FTD's Managing Director, Vanessa Cullen, soon expressed her concerns to the Club's GM and board that the minor facelift works appeared not to be driven by any broader strategic master plan for the club's business and facilities.

Club Catalina's leadership concurred with Vanessa's observations and went to market to select a firm to guide them through creating a Strategic Building Master Plan. Forward Thinking Design were successful in winning this tender, going on to the lead the Club through market and stakeholder research, the creation of a new vision for re-positioning the Club in its marketplace, co-designing a 3 year strategy for improvement of the clubhouse facilities and designing a Building Master Plan. It was agreed that renovation of the Club's Main Bar and Members Lounge was to be the first stage in the execution of this plan and FTD were engaged to create the new aesthetic concept and to detail and tender the design for construction.



The resultant fitout is a timeless 'symphony in white'; a pared back expression of the building's structure giving the spaces an industrial edge, whilst the decorative details hint at Hampton's style made NSW-south-coast local. Classic brass detailing, reeded glass, reclaimed timber, and etched and faceted mirrors firmly ground the interior in an elegant retro sensibility that pays homage to the building's existing Art Deco period references.

The furnishings came in under budget, as FTD don't like to over-spend on setting furnishings and decor in stone, but rather give our clients the flexibility to have the style of their environments grow and adapt over time. Everything FTD specify is appropriately attractive and durable but spaces don't go out of fashion when the client can afford to easily refresh the look every so often.

The Bar's layout and infrastructure were co-designed between FTD and the Club's bar staff to include new Enomatic wine dispensers/displays, Lenehans under-front glass chillers and a new beer reticulation system with pumps and flow back. The Members Lounge acoustics were improved through the use of acoustic paneling in the walls and joinery, as well as acoustic underlays, and by clearing the pitched ceilings of unnecessary obstructions. The lighting throughout

was designed by Bow Jaruwangsanti of Design By Bow, to optimise both aesthetics and energy efficiency.

The sight lines and volume of the Members Lounge floor plate were opened up through the removal of fixed walls in favour of operable acoustic partitions, improving both the total occupancy of the space and flexibility of seating arrangements for different types of events. Reducing the scale of the columns, rationalizing the air conditioning conduit, peeling back the layers of successive renovations, and allowing the space to breathe revealed the honest and unique character of a building that has grown and evolved (somewhat erratically) over time. Club Catalina's new Bar and Members Lounge invites its community to find their perfect seat, settle in and make themselves at home.



## WHAT'S NEW IN RETAIL

Over the past weeks, in response to COVID-19, the State Governments and National Cabinet have been working with retailer and landlord bodies to produce a Commercial Leasing Code of Conduct, applicable to retailers experiencing financial stress due to COVID-19. This comes in addition to the no eviction guarantee for retailers over the next 6 months.

[Read more](#)





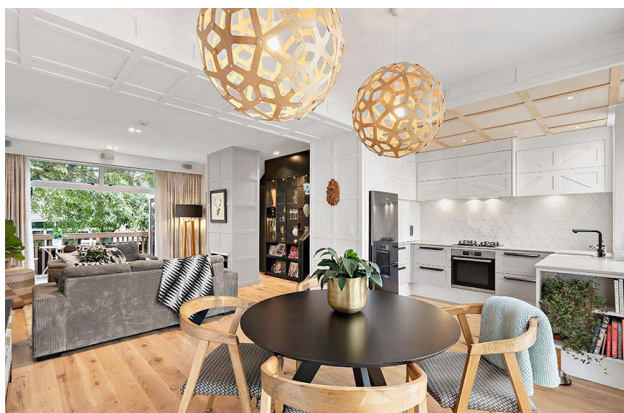


## EXCITING NEWS!

Our Principal, Vanessa Cullen, has joined Bambuddha Group as a Delivery Partner. Bambuddha Group is a social enterprise providing a development leadership network of speakers & consultants supporting clients to find solutions to impact challenges and complex systemic change making.

By working hard and working kind, Bambuddha its delivery partners & clients are creating a better world aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

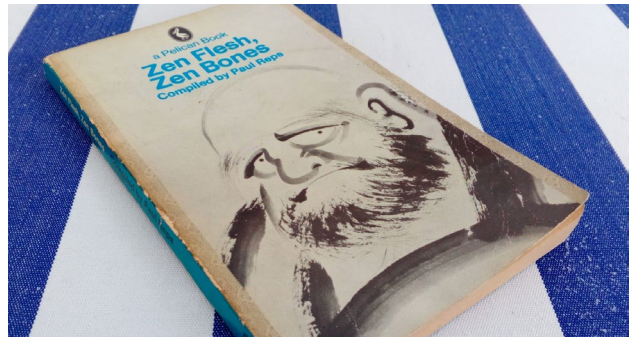
[Learn more about Bambuddha Group](#)



## MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Resene couldn't have been more relevant than to dedicate their entire autumn magazine to 'make yourself at home'. Take a look for some lovely inspiration for making your home a haven in these current stressful times.

[Read more](#)



## WHAT WE'RE READING

### Zen Flesh, Zen Bones

*A Collection of Zen and Pre-Zen Writings*

## WHO'S HIRING RIGHT NOW?

Whilst our retail, restaurant and club clients are finding times very tough, some industries such as IT, healthcare and finance, are more likely to be hiring new staff right now. Many companies such as Datacom, Centrelink, Coles & Woolworths, Services Australia and Telstra are currently recruiting and actively engaging in procurement. Check out the article below for an extensive list of businesses hiring right now.

[Read more](#)

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON & WHO WITH

- A golf club building master plan in regional NSW
- A plant-based eco cafe in Sydney
- An office and client services relocation for a women's employment charity in Melbourne
- Stakeholder research to design relevant services for an ethical business community in Australia
- Environmental impact reduction initiatives for the interior fitout industry Australia-wide
- Strategy and webinars for business continuity in hospitality

### Social Media



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