

Smart spaces for inspired living  
COOL CONDOS, BRILLIANT BASES & DREAM DENS

# belie

CREATIVES IN  
THEIR NATURAL  
HABITAT

*Tamsin Johnson  
Brahman Perera*

SKY

INSIDE *Thomas Hamel's* HARBOURSIDE HAVEN

GARDENING

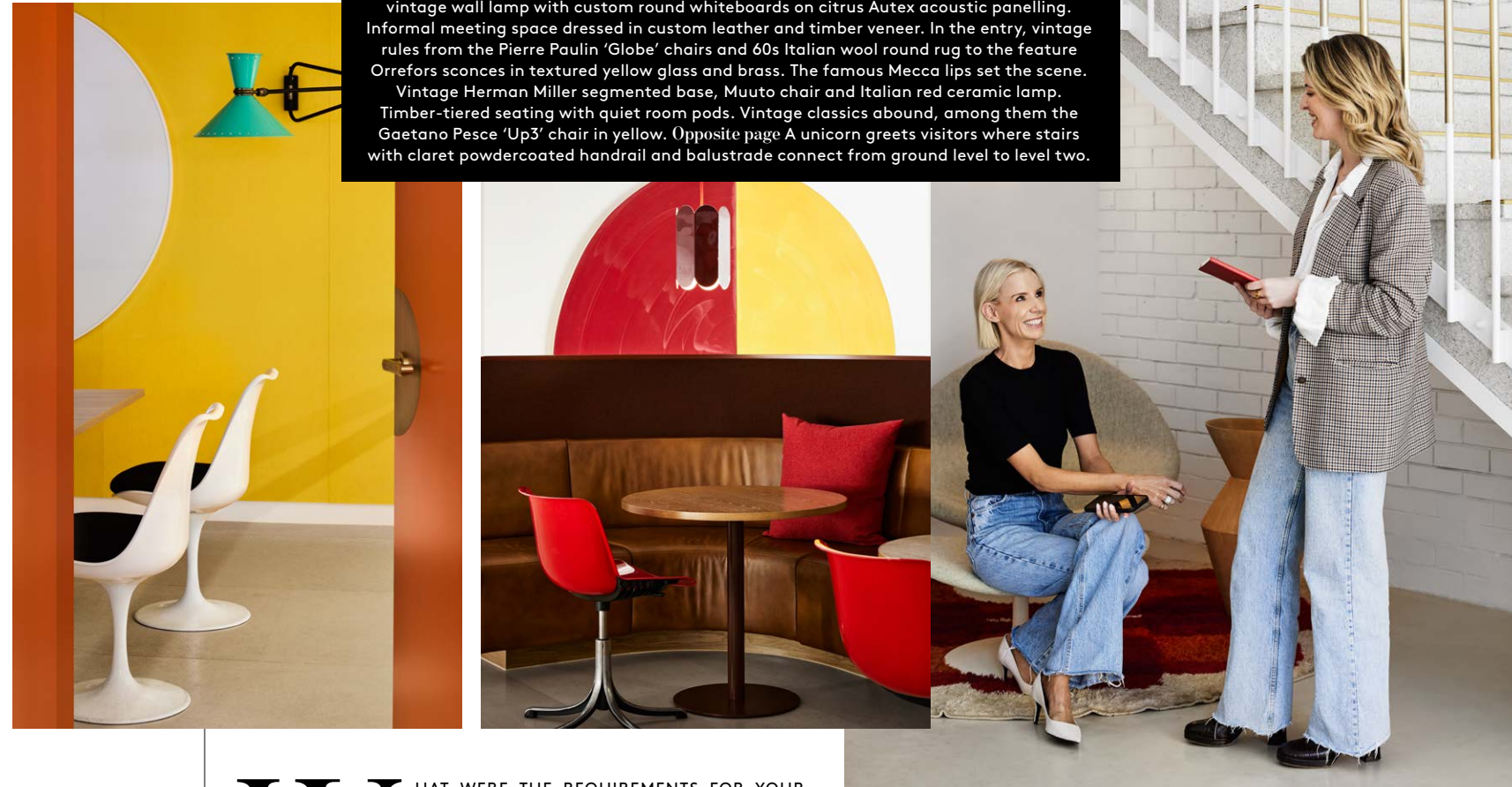


Prestige cosmetics retailer Mecca called on interior designers Studio Tate to re-imagine its mid-century warehouse offices. The result? Super-stylish premises that radiate the brand's values.

# Beauty THERAPY

Photography SHARYN CAIRNS Styling LOUISE PATERSON

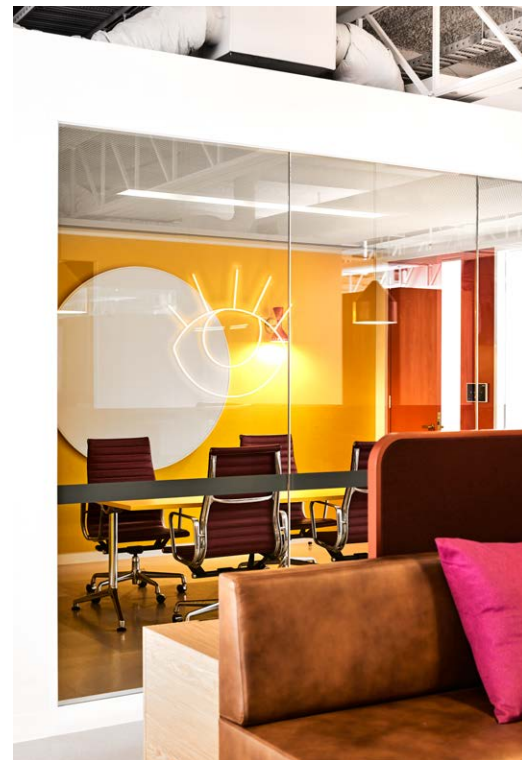
This page, clockwise from top left In the meeting room, vintage Knoll 'Tulip' chairs and vintage wall lamp with custom round whiteboards on citrus Autex acoustic panelling. Informal meeting space dressed in custom leather and timber veneer. In the entry, vintage rules from the Pierre Paulin 'Globe' chairs and 60s Italian wool round rug to the feature Orrefors sconces in textured yellow glass and brass. The famous Mecca lips set the scene. Vintage Herman Miller segmented base, Muuto chair and Italian red ceramic lamp. Timber-tiered seating with quiet room pods. Vintage classics abound, among them the Gaetano Pesce 'Up3' chair in yellow. Opposite page A unicorn greets visitors where stairs with claret powdercoated handrail and balustrade connect from ground level to level two.



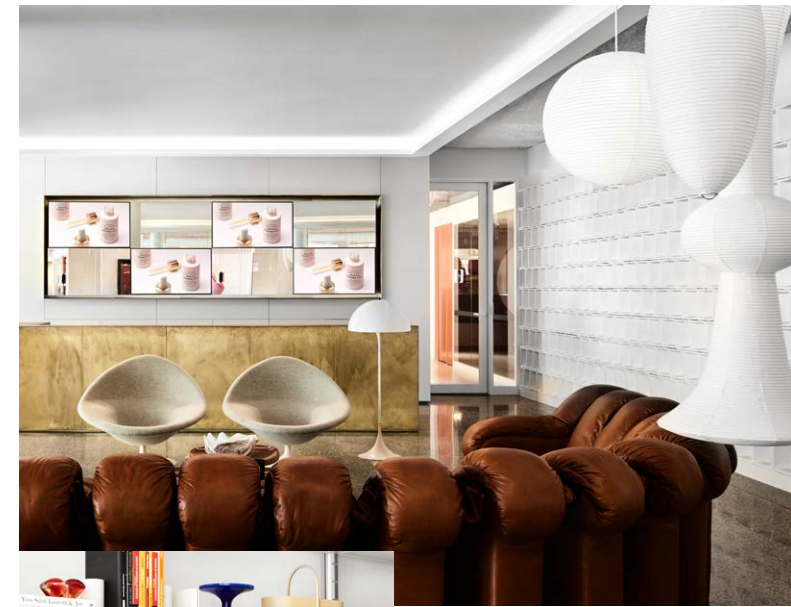
**W**HAT WERE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR SPACE, AND WHAT INITIALLY APPEALED ABOUT THE SITE? For the Mecca Support Centre project, our primary goal was to design a space that would embody Mecca's brand narrative while nurturing a sense of community among team members and visitors, explains Anita Zampichelli, associate director of interior designers Studio Tate, who envisioned an environment that exuded energy, warmth, and creativity, reflecting the essence of Mecca's identity. The site's mid-century warehouse location immediately appealed, offering an industrial backdrop that could be seamlessly integrated into our design concept. **WHAT DID THE ALTERATIONS ENTAIL (IF ANY)?** The alterations we undertook for the project revolved around refining and enhancing the initial aesthetic design concept, which was developed by a long-term Mecca collaborator. Our collaboration with the brand involved transforming this concept into a tangible reality. We embraced the raw characteristics of the warehouse, integrating built forms that nestled beneath the exposed truss roof. These modifications aimed to provide diverse settings for collaboration, concentration and relaxation, ultimately fostering a thriving work environment. **WHAT WAS THE CONCEPT FOR THE SPACE?** The concept for the Support Centre was a synthesis of various inspirations – a blend of university vibes, the inviting atmosphere of a cafe, the comfort of home cocooning, and spaces for quiet reflection. We envisioned an environment that would be not only light, airy and colourful, but also exude a sense of vibrant energy. Our goal was to create a place that naturally encouraged interaction, creativity and human connection, aligning with Mecca's collaborative culture. **WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT WORKING HERE [STUDIO TATE?]** Working at Studio Tate is a fulfilling experience due to the dynamic range of projects spanning our Live, Work, and Play sectors. I also value the close-knit team, where collaboration is seamless and leads to







the Beverly rooftop, delivered a unique private residence for a young family in Malvern — think Palladiana floors with curved bricks and timber-lined ceilings — and completed our most significant pro-bono project to date, Youth Projects' The Living Room. DESCRIBE A TYPICAL WORKDAY? A typical workday involves sketching high-level space plans and refining intricate details on-site, curating furniture and finishes aligned with the design vision, and collaborating closely with architects to ensure a seamless design process. IS THERE A COMMON ELEMENT, AESTHETIC OR APPROACH THAT RUNS THROUGH YOUR WORK? Absolutely, our work at Studio Tate is grounded in the art of marrying design with functionality and brand identity. Through each project, we strive to transform conceptual ideas into tangible spaces that authentically reflect the brands we collaborate with. The Mecca Support Centre is no exception; it showcases our commitment to crafting environments that not only resonate visually but also foster meaningful experiences and connections. The fusion of diverse settings, lively colour palettes, and an eclectic mix of materials and furnishings encapsulates our design philosophy of creating purposeful and captivating spaces. WHICH OTHER DESIGNERS, ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, WRITERS AND ARCHITECTS ARE INSPIRING YOU AT THE MOMENT? After just returning from a European summer, I've been finding inspiration in all things Italian: Turin-based interior design firm Marcante Testa's authentic yet refined design approach; revisiting Italian classics such as Fabrizio De Andrè and Mina; and delving into *The Missoni Family Cookbook* — I'm fascinated by the success of their multi-generational fashion legacy. WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO? I'm eagerly anticipating completing a distinctive family residence in Western Australia we're working on and embarking on two captivating food and beverage projects on Collins Street, Melbourne, which integrate design and gastronomy. [studiotate.com.au](http://studiotate.com.au)



This page, clockwise from top left 1970s Omstak metal chairs lit by Hay 'Matin' table lamps. Meeting rooms are vibrant with colour and luxe materials. Vintage Eames segmented-base meeting table and 'Aluminium Group' chairs in burgundy leather. The boardroom with vintage 70s Italian chrome table lamp and vintage Castelli 'DSC-106' chairs in yellow fabric. Artwork by Diana Georgetti. Weaving work on wall by Tammy Kanat. Iconic Acerbis 'Sheraton' cobalt blue sideboard and Knoll Saarinen 'Executive' armchairs. Coco Flip 'Sequence' powdercoated table, Cambio pendant lights and fabric-wrapped wall panelling.

award-winning outcomes. WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR ENDURING CREATIVE INFLUENCES? Enduring creative influences for me include Dorothée Meilichzon, Roisin Lafferty, Vincenzo De Cotiis and Giancarlo Valle. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE COMPLETED SPACE AND HOW DOES IT REFLECT THE WORK THAT YOU DO? The completed Mecca Support Centre is a testament to our dedication to creating vibrant and functional spaces that encapsulate the essence of the brands we collaborate with. It stands as a dynamic environment where lively colour palettes, diverse materials, and eclectic furnishings intertwine to form a harmonious whole. This design resonates with the energetic and engaging atmosphere found in Mecca's retail stores, offering a consistent brand experience. The space is designed to cater to collaboration, events, networking and personal connections, while retaining an inviting and intimate atmosphere. WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE PIECES? While all aspects of the design hold a special place for us, I must say that the vintage furniture and wall lights curated truly add a unique character to the space. Pieces like the B&B Italia 'Le Bambole' armchairs and De Sede DS-600 sofa seamlessly connect the history of the warehouse with the allure of Mecca's sought-after beauty products. Their presence enhances the overall aesthetic, creating a bridge between the past and the vibrant present. TELL US ABOUT SOME RECENT PROJECTS THAT YOU ENJOYED WORKING ON? We recently finished an intricately detailed office fitout beneath

This page, from top Luxe seating in reception in the form of classic Pierre Paulin 'Globe' chairs and a De Sede sofa updated in leather with a trio of Noguchi 'Akari' pendant lights. Vitsoe modular shelving system in the library. Vintage 'Montebello' chairs by Kazuhide Takahama mingle in the meeting room which sports an orange and chrome vintage Lyfa 'Pandean' sconce. Studio 65 La Bocca 'Lips' sofa, 'Albus' floor lamp by Jonathan Ben-Tovim, Planex cobalt-blue powdercoated locker system. Custom leather and timber veneer snuggery with vintage Vitra Eames 'Eiffel' chairs in Sky Blue. Planex orange powdercoated locker system and Autex acoustic panelling in Citrus.

