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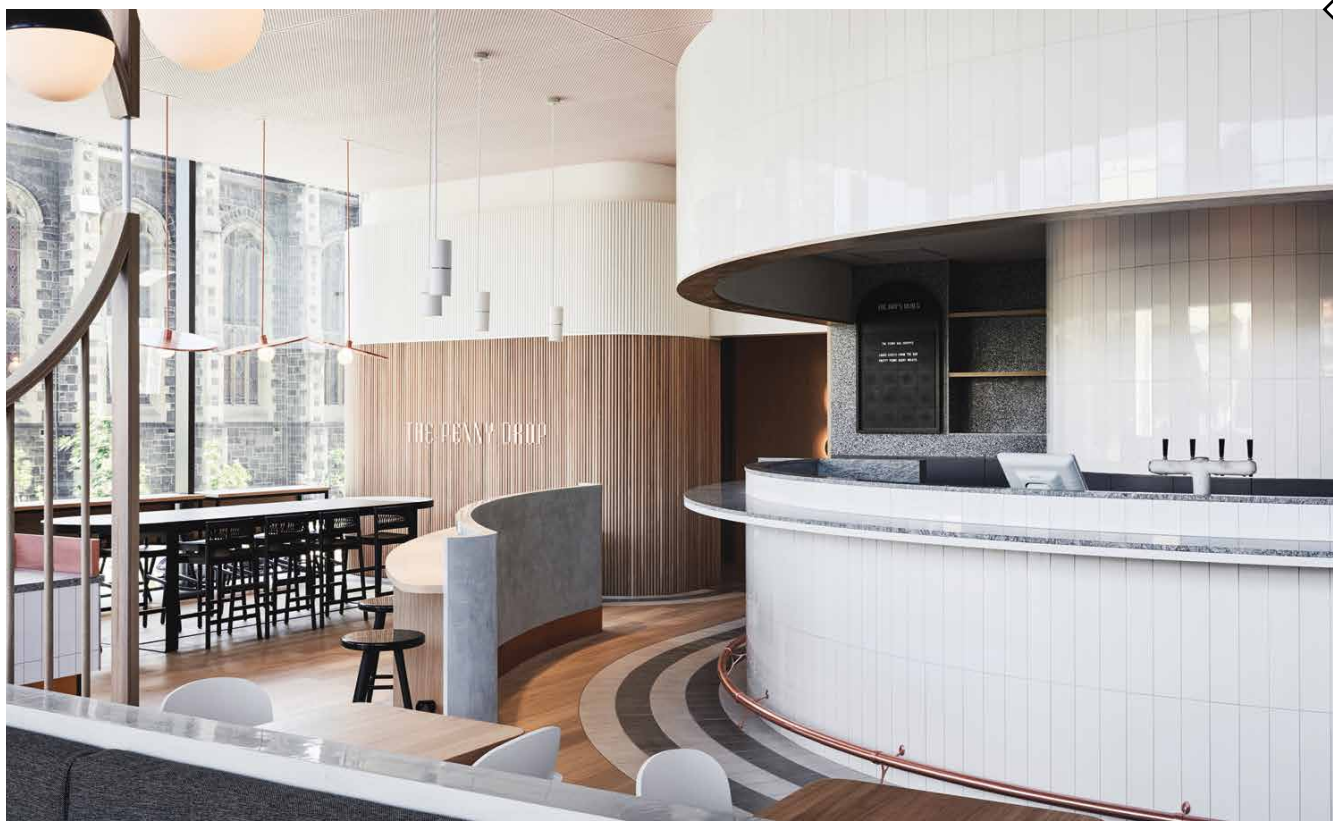


**Design
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NEWSLETTER
#38

WE ARE HUNTLY

Alicia Mattingley and Kylie Dorotic are the Directors of We Are Huntly, winner of the Emerging Interior Design Practice Award at the 2016 Australian Interior Design Awards.



The South Melbourne design practice were praised by the AIDA judges for bridging ‘the gap between architecture and visual arts and are far from one trick ponies.’ Their ‘beautifully resolved’ Richmond Residence also received a commendation in the Residential Decoration category.

“We are always searching for ideas that are not being replicated; not the norm,” says Dorotic speaking in Artichoke recently. Mattingley adds, “It’s about listening to the brief, designing with intent, and coming up with solutions that are true to our concept.”

What are your backgrounds and how did you come together to form We Are Huntly?

Prior to We Are Huntly, we both worked at high end Melbourne based interior design firms. We studied together and followed a similar career path maintaining a great respect for each others design aesthetic along the way.

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When designing focus on one big idea and the honesty of a concept rather than a trend.

How do you characterise your design approach and your aesthetic?

The We Are Huntly aesthetic is considered, functional, minimal and warm. We stand by the fact that we are not a one trick pony and are dedicated to bringing something exclusive to each project. To us, beauty is not only found in the way something looks, but also in the way it works. Every aesthetic decision should be grounded by purpose, so that we can create a space that we would want to be in, live in, work in; not just look at. We’re focused on the details. After all, that’s what makes up the bigger picture.

Cover:
Richmond Residence.
Photographer: Tom Blachford. Styling: Marsha Golemac.

1 The Penny Drop.
Photographer: Brooke Holm.

2 Hampton Penthouse.
Photographer: Tom Blachford. Styling: Marsha Golemac.

3 Kylie Dorotic and Alicia Mattingley.



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Can you give us a little insight into the inner workings of We Are Huntly?

Every day is different in our office however the common denominator is that is always busy and fast pace. Coffee is a must to start the day, we are spoilt for choice in Windsor therefore the morning conversation is often about where we got it from and if it hit the spot. Second to that is music choice, once the two are established we hit the ground running. The days are filled with design workshops, client meetings and suppliers frequenting the office.

Where are you based, how is your office structured?

Our studio is based in Green Street Windsor and we are a team of six. This consists of two directors (Alicia and Kylie) three designers and an office/accounts manager who keeps the cogs turning. When establishing our team, it was important to bring on board people who were instinctively "Huntly" and all rounders. In a small office you need to be able to jump onto a project to assist if needed at any given time.

How do you go about establishing a concept and an overall direction / look and feel for your projects?

We begin the creative process with a workshop together to achieve balance in the design intent. Kylie Dorotic has an intuitive approach to work, and will never settle for normal. A background in visual arts developed her keen eye for detail and interiors with longevity. Alicia McKimm brings an understanding of form and business sensibility to her work at WAH. Interpreting a client's brief into a design intent is one thing, while sourcing one off items that speak to the end user is another.

Who or what are some of your influences?

The list is endless however a few of our favourites are: Studio Peppe, Piero Lissoni, Ryue Nishisawa and Ricardo Bofill.

What other designers, artists and other creatives do you admire?

Aparatus Studio, Victoria and Woods, Alain Capelleres, Brooke Holm.

What advice would you give to emerging designers who want to follow your path?

When designing focus on one big idea and the honesty of a concept rather than a trend.

What was one of your biggest lessons learned since starting your practice?

That while the end result needs to be beautiful it also needs to be commercially viable.

What would be your dream creative project or collaboration?

To work along side one of our mentioned influences to create a conceptual installation at the Milan furniture fair within existing amazing architecture.



wearehuntly.com.au

Please note: this interview has been edited for length and clarity.