

**BUNNINGS SYSTEMS**

**Project Location**  
16-18 Cato Street  
Hawthorn East  
Melbourne

**Client**  
Bunnings:  
Lelania Currie

1\_Expansive view of QED work points featuring sail and integrated task light.  
2\_QED work environments complemented by Systemet mobile pedestals with upholstered seat top.

**Design**  
Gray Puksand:  
Peter Gray  
Paul de Podolinsky  
Jane Millington  
Amy McArthur  
Warren Wiggins  
Damien Gray  
Neil Clubb  
Peter Sharrock  
Joe Calipari  
Steve Jones

**Schiavello Vic Systems**  
Joe Curmi  
Rex Lambert  
Bill Goodwin

**Area**  
5,300 m<sup>2</sup>

**Products**  
QED desking with corflute dividing panels and sail with integrated task light.  
Systemet mobile pedestals with upholstered seat top.

# BUILDING A FUTURE

The well-known hammer motif emblazoned on the frosted glass facade of the new Bunnings building in Hawthorn East, Melbourne, makes no mistake about who resides there. As the hardware giant grows from strength to strength, the 5,000 square-metre purpose-built facility now houses 275 team members of its National Store Support Centre.

Bunnings boasts a company culture based on teamwork, approachability, openness and fun. So, when relocating to its new home from a well-established office in the CBD, it was a tall order for the new premises to continue to support the growth of the business as well as maintain a collaborative work culture previously enjoyed over a latte at Hardware Lane, in the heart of the city.

For the design team at Gray Puksand, the challenge was to create the appeal of a CBD address in the suburbs. The result is an open plan design that complements informal communication between different business functions and adds a contemporary vitality to the workspace.

According to Paul de Podolinsky, Senior Manager at Gray Puksand, Schiavello's QED work environment was a critical element in creating a contemporary studio feel within a high density workspace.

"They were coming out of a 'rabbit warren' space, made up of a lot of little smaller spaces, and into a big open, combined work environment," explains de Podolinsky. "We wanted the QED system to be an essential part of the look, feel and function of the space."

"We were also able to adopt the same system from basic workstations all the way through to management offices, senior and executive offices. That was another advantage of the QED system," says de Podolinsky.

The QED's sail and integrated task light was important to meeting the design objectives. It was able to instil a sense of personal space and comfort within an open plan environment. To meet Bunnings' particular requirements, Schiavello's product engineering team created a specialised mount for the sail and light that secured to the QED panel as opposed to the desk.

Consolidating the Store Support team into one building and the open design of the work environment have enabled good communication between departments within the company. "The studio style QED workstations are spacious and although they are conducive to teamwork, they still give the individual their own space," says Lelania Currie of Bunnings.

The move to the new centre has created a stronger team environment, with store operations and trade teams now working side-by-side. The lunchroom opens on to the outdoor terrace and together they emulate the Hardware Lane culture left behind.

