

# SIMPSON GRIERSON INTERNATIONAL/ SYSTEMS

## SECTION 3 GALLERY



### Reaping the Rewards

In most cases, a successful fitout is reward enough for the designers and their client, as the design process itself can be protracted and complex. However, Simpson Grierson's new Wellington premises, which challenge traditional notions of a legal practice, have also won two New Zealand Institute of Architects awards.

The combined efforts of Geyer, JASMAX and Schiavello/KADA proved award-winning when Simpson Grierson moved into the HSBC Tower in the heart of Wellington's CBD, a move which Simpson Grierson partner Mike Scannell has dubbed both smart and strategic. "Not only does it make commercial sense for our organisation," he says, "but the building, its views and our office fitout are also smart. Working from such efficient, well-designed floor space and facilities has a positive impact on teamwork, workflow and the culture of the organisation, and this directly benefits our clients."

Peter Geyer, of Geyer Pty Ltd, built on Simpson Grierson's dynamic, professional outlook in developing the concept through Strategic Briefing Workshops, designing intersecting spaces to flow into one another, integrating the research centre with

a cafe, and including a 'cultural hub' for Simpson Grierson's people, so that social interaction and research can be combined.

Rather than 'finite boxes' for rooms, a continuum of space has been created to allow for the firm's constant movement and progression. Walls have been kept low where possible and modular workstations have been designed to allow privacy, without compromising staff communication, workflow or views. Layouts and groupings can change with staff growth and different needs for certain long-term projects.

The choice of materials is consistent with the project aims. Timber on slats, doors and dividing screens conveys warmth and a connection with the natural environment. Glass – colour-backed and frosted – represents openness, while maintaining privacy and discretion. Stainless steel – used in credenzas and on bench tops in the laptop area and breakout zones – reflects Simpson Grierson's modern, progressive approach.

Overall, this award-winning fitout debunks the myth about conservative legal practices, in its approach to its workplace environment, without losing any of the essential qualities such as a practice needs to thrive.



#1  
Enclosed office featuring Sesto MK3 desk frame, Unimet panels + metal shelves.

#2  
Sesto desktops, laminate tiles on the Unimet panels + timber panelling on the workstation.

#3  
Oak slat wall fitted to Schiavello Unimet panels.

### Project details

**Project location** Level 22-24, HSBC Tower, 195 Lambton Quay, Wellington NZ  
**Client** Simpson Grierson – Mike Scannell **Design** JASMAX – Warren Young; Geyer – Peter Geyer **Schiavello International** Stephen Rando, Aaron Scott  
**KADA Commercial Furniture** Tony Hooper, Prue Lamason **Area** 3100 sq.m. **Products** Unimet Tile System, Sesto 3 user adjustable + fixed height workstations. Systemet metal storage.