

# Silkwood



## IN THE ARCHITECTS WORDS ...

Relationship of Built Form to Context Silkwood is located on the fringe of the city centre occupying a disused triangular parcel of land between a robust turn of the century warehouse building and a mock Georgian styled apartment building. The design responds to the transition in scale between the warehouse and the taller apartment building creating a highly modelled and legible form. With a balanced tri-partite approach, the width and size of the openings maintain the rhythm and proportion of the warehouse grid whilst the metal clad box responds to the height and scale of the adjoining apartment building. Sentimentality with previous architectural styles has been avoided. Integration of Allied Disciplines Design workshops during the critical stages of the project were undertaken to develop the most effective strategy in moving forward. These 'hold' points enabled the team to firm up the design and where necessary, re-evaluate aspects that lacked rigour. Cost/Value Outcome Avoiding the typical speculative development model where the maximum profit is 'squeezed' out as soon as possible our Client, given that they will continue to own and occupy part of the building, had a vested interest in

ensuring that the profitability of the project is far reaching. Instead decisions made were based on cost effective long term solutions, including committing resources to developing the design and using a building contract that appropriately balanced cost with achieving a quality building. Sustainability Rather than the typical approach of having a building with a central core, a courtyard building typology was developed. This allow the commercial floors to have clear uninterrupted north-south facing floor plates and for the majority of apartments to be north facing, cross ventilated and multiple aspect. Response to Client and User needs The constraints of the site provided the best opportunities and ensured that the design extended beyond the pragmatics of a functional brief. The sites triangular shape together with achieving a high level of residential amenity informed the articulation and orientation of the building. The auditorium and relationship to Silkkit House provided the opportunity to create a segue between the two distinct building forms. The public nature of the commercial and auditorium functions ensured that the ground level was activated whilst the residential uses were separated.

## DETAILS

**Location**  
Surry Hills, NSW  
**Architect**  
Turner + Associates Architects.  
**Project Manager**  
[Cadence Australia Pty Ltd](#)  
**Facilities Manager**  
[Cadence Australia Pty Ltd](#)  
**Entered**  
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