



## Gascoigne Associates Office Ponsonby

As architects, designing for ourselves, we wanted a stylish, yet practical and comfortable work space that reflects the culture of our firm. The fit-out had to be completed in two weeks (including sourcing of all products) due to the requirements of the previous owners with whom we swapped premises.

We created a flexible and fun work environment by combining architectural simple lines and white surfaces with some quirky but easily changeable elements and plenty of colour that reflects our firm's interior design speciality.

The space comprises the interior of a late

90s developer building, spread over a main floor plate with a small mezzanine. The largely open-plan studio was created by demolishing the carrels left by the former real estate agency tenants and dividing their auction room to form a meeting room and library/work area. The existing enclosed office spaces and the mezzanine balcony were converted to meeting spaces and a lunchroom. Time, structural and consent constraints didn't allow for moving any walls.

Like most design studios we wanted to keep a neutral palette as a backdrop for the work we do and to preserve a timeless feel. To create a sense of individuality

for each workstation and to allow us to share inspirational images, we created a number of pinboards and blackboard walls, which staff regularly update as they discover and share new ideas.

Colour is very important to us so we added Resene Funk walls along with coloured accessories and furniture to the studio area and the principal's office and a touch of Resene Refresh to the cupboard in the reception area. Black also features strongly as a foil for all the white, which is accentuated by the huge amount of natural light that floods our space.

While we can change the wall colour easily, we needed the carpet to last. This is also an area where we didn't need to worry about colour reflecting onto materials we are working on so we decided to make a statement. We picked our favourite seven colours and managed to source reasonable amounts of black, which is used as a neutral background and red which is our corporate colour. We defined a coloured 'rug' area in the centre of the studio on which our main workstation sits. The reception area is fully striped as this space had less other colours to compete with. Throughout we try to keep things changing but

always highly relevant to our business and ourselves, not just meaningless decorations.

Our office is definitely a working space, not a minimal showpiece. Every surface, piece of furniture and light fitting was chosen to be practical as well as beautiful. All our files, books, magazines and samples are kept close at hand. Nothing is hidden other than 'dead files'. Overall we wanted to make a comfortable and inspirational space in which we could spend long hours working or partying hard. All visitors and new staff members comment on what a great 'feel' the space has, so we feel we have succeeded.

Alabaster

Blackboard  
Paint

Funk

Refresh





Resene Bondi Blue



Architectural Specifier: Mark Gascoigne and Naomi Rushmer, Gascoigne Associates  
[www.gascoigne.co.nz](http://www.gascoigne.co.nz)  
 Building and Painting Contractor: Gulf Projects  
 Photographer: Patrick Reynolds

Other Key Contributors: GDM Group, MN8 Lighting, ECC Furniture & Lighting  
 Colours Used: Resene Alabaster, Resene Funk, Resene Refresh  
 Products Used: Resene Blackboard Paint, Resene Lustacryl, Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen