

ANIBOU BY TWO

PHOTOGRAPHY SHANNON MCGRIFF TEXT STEPHEN CRAFT

Anibou has been an important part of Sydney's design scene since it opened its doors in the late 1980s. It was time to put a face to the furniture retailer in Melbourne. And when the right space became available, the work to set up a southern showroom began.

Located below the offices of Denton Corker Marshall in Exhibition Street, the ground floor of the building was originally intended as a reception area for the architects. However, Sue Carr, Director of the Carr Design Group, who also has offices in the building, has always loved Anibou's Artek range of furniture and played an important part in their Melbourne move. "It was she who first suggested to Neil Burley (founding Director of Anibou) that this space would be ideal. Her firm ended up overseeing the tendering and construction," says Lara Johnston, the manager of the Melbourne store.

While the large glass window in the building's stainless steel facade was ideal, the 200 square metre shell required re-working. "We wanted it to be a recognisable relative of the Sydney showroom, without it being identical," says Neil Burley who worked with Jon Cullen of Cullen Feng on the design. Like Redfern, with its fully exposed "black" service zone in the ceiling and concrete floors, the Melbourne showroom has a similar feel. "We removed the ceiling and set the services against the same black backdrop. Jon suggested the L-shaped configuration. It allows the furniture to be discovered, rather than seeing everything at once," says Burley.

Large graphics on the showroom's white walls spell out some of the main players on the showroom floor: Artek and Iittala from Finland and Australia's Caroline Casey, who is now manufacturing in Germany and supplying some of Europe's leading retailers. The display case at the back of the showroom, inspired by Switzerland's Vitra Museum, showcases some of the classics, from the Bauhaus to the present. A recent chair by architect Norman Foster is perfectly framed, as is a chair by the German Designer Eddie Haritz from the 1950s. Equally impressive is the knowledge of the sales staff. "This piece is the speed stool. It's made of perforated vinyl and lined with white European Ash. The designer is a graduate of the Canberra School of Art. And he's only twenty-six," says Scott Brown. "We also have pieces from Johan Larsson, Jon Goulden, Frank Bauer and Paul Morris. There's also Neil's (Burley) work".

Showcasing masters of the 20th century, such as Alvar Aalto and Marcel Breuer, and introducing emerging new talent, Anibou is a welcome arrival in Melbourne. As Lara Johnston says, "people come in and can't believe that some of these pieces were designed in the twenties and thirties. They will always have a contemporary edge".

DETAILS ANIBOU 40 EXHIBITION STREET, MELBOURNE T (61 3) 9654 5222
E mel@anibou.com.au **DESIGN** NEIL BURLEY AND JON CULLEN FENG **COORDINATION**
ARCHITECTS JON CULLEN, MICHELLE FENG OF CULLEN FENG W cullenfeng.com.au
SITE ARCHITECTS NIGRO BAKER AND DANIEL STELLINI OF CARR DESIGN **GRAPHIC**
DESIGN CATHLEEN CHAN **CONSTRUCTION** BUILT INTERIORS **JOINERY** FRANZ
WOODWORK & DESIGN

DISSECTION FLOOR EXISTING CONCRETE FINISHED WITH CEMENT AID 'REXITE'
CONCRETE SEALER T (61 3) 9690 0487 **CEILING PAINT** MATT BLACK DULUX T 13 23
77 **CEILING PANELS** CUSTOM SLOTTED MDF PANELS, POLYURETHANE FINISH AND
DRESSED WITH ACOUSTIC ABSORBENT MATERIAL **LIGHTING** GIOVANNA LIGHTING
T (61 3) 9689 7833 **CONSPIRITS IN JOINERY** JOE T (61 3) 9877 8200 **LIGHTING**
CONTROLS Q ALUMINATION T (61 3) 9938 4300 **RECEPTION TABLES** RINKE-FOSTER
WITH CLEAR GLASS TOPS **CHAIRS** RINKE-FOSTER ANIBOU T (61 3) 9654 5222
SUSPENDED SCREEN FX SYSTEMS T (61 3) 9616 2010

