

ELECTRIC DREAMS

K.P.D.O.'S KERRY PHELAN AND STEPHEN JAVENS IN THEIR CREMORNE, MELBOURNE, OFFICE, WHICH WAS FORMERLY A POWER STATION. LONG-DROP CURTAINS DEFINE WORKSPACES AND ARTWORKS BY JONATHAN JONES AND REKO RENNIE FEATURE.



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR WORKSPACE? *Stephen Javens, K.P.D.O. director of architecture:* It's largely white and neutral, with some beautiful, functional pieces such as our USM system, a particular favourite, and some not so functional pieces such as a 'Spring' table by Shiro Kuramata for Living Divani. We have artworks by Reko Rennie and a beautiful neon sculpture by Jonathan Jones. There's a stunning shelving system by Franco Albini, our meeting room chairs are by Eileen Gray and the meeting table is a sculptural K.P.D.O. creation. WHAT INITIALLY APEALED TO YOU ABOUT THE SPACE? DID IT REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT ALTERATIONS? Kerry [Phelan, founding director and director of interiors] and I love the volume and light. We opened up the space slightly, adding curtains in long drops to define spaces for the library and meeting room. The best thing is the address – it's on Electric Street! WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR OFFICE? Well, it's a fascinating old building and was originally the Cremorne power station. It's located on a train line, so coal could be delivered directly to the furnaces. But now it's an urban neighbourhood and our studio looks out to pocket parks through all the windows, so it's quite tranquil. WHAT ARE YOUR OFFICE ESSENTIALS? Being somewhat old school, we surround ourselves with books and magazines that we love. We have a collection of design magazines spanning back to the 60s, so the library is an inspiring resource. And, as for our materials library, we only select the things we really love. It's heavily curated – with mainly stone, timber flooring, carpet and timber veneer samples. DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS THAT COME TO THE OFFICE? Yes, we have two Australian shepherds – Penny and Lou Lou. They are either asleep or jumping on our friends and clients. With them it's all on or all off – it's very binary! WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO? We are designing some exquisite homes in Melbourne and Sydney, plus the interior of a superyacht. IS TRAVEL ON THE CARDS? At the moment we spend half our time in Sydney, which we love. It's been great to be able to travel freely again. We are hoping to visit Milan for the Furniture Fair this year, then Venice to revisit the palazzo Ca' d'Oro. DESCRIBE A TYPICAL WORK DAY? A few coffees to start then a team Zoom meeting with our Sydney studio. From there, the day is very varied and can develop into site visits, client meetings, sketching, more client meetings and presentations. In the past we have tried to block out time for specific activities, but free form works best for us. IF YOUR STUDIO WERE LOCATED ANYWHERE ELSE, WHERE WOULD THAT BE? We are quite enamoured of the new crop of French designers, so Paris would be nice. Or Milan, or Venice. Can we have a few? kpdo.com

The industrial history of their workspace captivated the dynamic duo behind interior design and architecture firm K.P.D.O.

Photography **RHIANNON TAYLOR** Production **CARLI PHILIPS**