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HOME IN A HOTEL ROOM



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SYMBOL-KEY

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 PHOTOGRAPHY CASPER RILA



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WITH A NOD TO ORIGAMI TRADITION, THE FOLDED PLANES OF THE FISH 340 FUNCTION ROOM BY TERROIR PRODUCE AN URBAN TAKE ON SERVING FISH AND CHIPS.



2

¹/THE GEOMETRY OF THE RESTAURANT'S LOGO IS RECOGNIZED IN THE FOLDED PLANES OF THE ROOM'S PLYWOOD MEMBRANE.

²/GEOMETRIC TONGUES OF PAINT SPILL ALONG THE FLOOR AND CEILING OF THE FUNCTION ROOM'S ENTRANCE.

³/PENETRATIONS IN THE SKIN OF THE ROOM FOR SKYLIGHTS, WINDOWS AND A PROJECTION SCREEN FIT NEATLY, LIKE ANGULAR PUZZLE PIECES.

⁴/IN THE ORIGINAL RESTAURANT, THE POLISHED CONCRETE FLOOR AND GRAFFITI-STYLE MURAL PRODUCE AN URBAN TAKE ON SERVING FISH AND CHIPS.

If you were visiting Hobart and wanted a serve of fish and chips you would probably wander in the direction of the docks on the Derwent River – yes? But if you were a local and not fond of the late afternoon sea breeze, you might head offshore to North Hobart, where you could enjoy a similar meal in slightly more glamorous surrounds. In the last few years, this strip of restaurants has grown to resemble a miniature Lygon Street, with fare ranging from budget noodles to nouvelle cuisine. Sitting somewhere between these poles of consumption is Fish 349, serving what you might call contemporary fish and chips. Opening a little over three years ago, the distinctive urban branding of the restaurant and the style of service have helped to establish a business that is regularly standing-room-only and is steep competition for both adjacent eating houses and its fish-and-chip-cousins by the river. Wanting to expand on this success, owner Nick Kalimnios returned to the architects of the main restaurant – Terroir – to design an extension that would increase the dining space during peak periods and also be a unique room for groups to gather in.

Sitting in the middle of the four-hundred-metre commercial strip, Fish 349 commands a prominent corner position in North Hobart. Terroir's design for the main restaurant does not include the standard fold-back doors that blur the division between street and interior. Rather, the design sets the diner away from the street behind large, fixed-window openings with deep, angled reveals. From here customers can observe, rather than participate in, the passing parade – a "privileged" position, as the designers call it. Apart from window penetrations, Fish 349 has retained the external shell of the Georgian building it's housed in. The intersecting lines of the origami-styled Fish 349 logo is striking against the building's warm grey facade. Inside, the look is slick and simple, with the predominant colour of black being picked up in stained floors, spray-finished furniture, a timber ceiling and a solid, surface serving. Polished concrete entry flooring, a stainless steel kitchen and a graffiti-style wall mural complete the picture of a very urban take on serving fish and chips.

The strategy for the new function room has built on – and diverged from – the language of the original

restaurant. To create a distinctive feel and minimize an ordinary outlook onto a side street, the new space is internally focused. Externally, the new room reads as a boxy and somewhat quirky ground-floor addition to the existing two-storey building. A nod toward the geometry of the existing painted logo is made via the diagonal joints of the precast panels and the corresponding glazed penetrations and divisions in the painted membrane. Internally, the space is carefully separated from the main restaurant without losing the potential to link through when required. The finishes of the restaurant flow through to the new space – the suite of stained floor, painted walls and tables, and upholstered benches reads as one black element lapping to the underside of a faceted skin of white, lime-stained plywood. In a return gesture, geometric tongues of paint spill back along the floor and ceiling of the restaurant's main entry, announcing the room's existence. Penetrations in the skin of the room for skylights, windows and a projection screen fit neatly, like angular puzzle pieces. A bar sits against the wall adjoining the main restaurant – completing the autonomy of the room with a black finish.

As with all simple designs for small spaces, the success is in the consideration of detail. Using colour to link all of the elements clarifies the visual experience of the room, successfully collecting together assorted items and cleverly disguising the fact that the furniture is simple and inexpensive. Setting the plywood skin out from the black wall clearly delineates this membrane from its base while accommodating perimeter lighting and allowing for concealment of the electrical requirements. The data projector is hidden by folds of plywood and even the air conditioner has been disassembled, sprayed black and reassembled – every element falls within the language of either the base or the graphic skin. While the space suffers from the classic issue of the modern restaurant, where the dearth of soft surfaces makes it particularly loud (an aspect currently being considered), it is refreshing to experience a space that is resolutely experimental but still carefully crafted. This is a casually elegant room that further diversifies choice for diners along the North Hobart strip.



- × **project**
Fish 349 Function Room
349 Elizabeth Street
North Hobart Tasmania 7000
T 03 6234 7788
W www.fish349.com.au
- × **design practice**
Terroir
181 Elizabeth Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000
T 03 6234 6372
W www.terroir.com.au
- × **project team**
Scott Belmforth, Gerard
Reinmuth, Richard Blytha,
Matthew Skirving, Bonnie Herring
- × **builder**
Tascon Constructions
- × **time frame**
Design and documentation:
4 months
Construction: 6 weeks
- × **products**
 - walls**
PAA Hoop Pine Plywood with
A-grade veneer, Tasmanian Paints
"Pearl White" stain and Polycoat,
H2O clear seal satin gloss
 - windows**
Pilkington Comfort Plus clear
fixed glazing, Custom-made
aluminum channel framing
with Dulux "Precious Onyx Pearl"
powdercoat
 - doors**
Dorma Transom closer and
floor pivot, Frameless toughened
glass sidelight
 - flooring**
PAA Structaply, Tasmanian Paints
"Ebony" woodstain, Clear gloss
and satin polyurethane
 - lighting**
Terroir custom-designed lighting
supplied by Casa Monde
 - furniture**
Terroir custom-designed furniture
and joinery by Kingstan Joinery
with upholstery by Caswell's
Upholstery, Café Culture Metro
chair with custom upholstery,
Magis Stool One by Konstantin
Grcic supplied by Arp Shop,
Screen Goo projector screen
paint over primed MDF substrate
 - kitchen**
Skope Backbar chiller,
Washtech GM glass wash cabinet,
Reece sanitary fittings
 - cooling**
Fujitsu High Mount air
conditioning unit with custom
paint finish installed by
Sackett Services

- × **design statement**
The existing dining room at
Fish 349 (a project previously
completed by the practice) was
conceived as a place that carefully
mediated the relationship with
its external context – the popular
commercial strip of North Hobart.
The opportunity to add a function
room to this already complete
space, immediately suggested a
quality of otherness for the addition
– a simple enlargement would
have destroyed the identity of the
existing dining room. The function
room extension was to occupy a
space previously used for car
parking, facing a less active side
street, thus giving way to the notion
of an internalized space – focused
solely on its internal character.

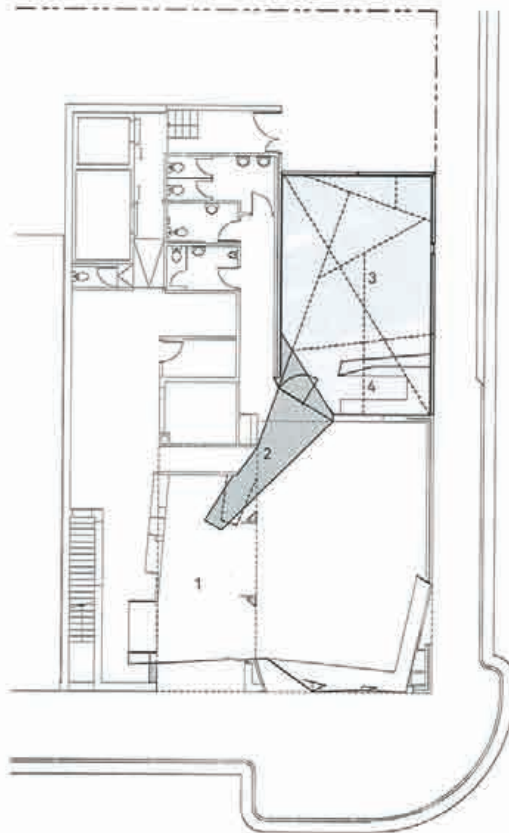
The project was envisaged as a
fractured external container,
struggling to contain the vibrancy
of the interior space, with precise
fragments giving way to form
windows and skylights. The
internal lining reinforces the
fractured quality, taking further
queues from the origami-like
patterning of Fish 349's logo.

The desire for an anonymous external appearance allowed for simple construction methodology and consequently minimal construction time. The very tight budget was therefore freed-up to focus on internal materials selection and construction.

Light-stained plywood wall and ceiling lining forms the internal envelope. Sections of plywood are strategically arranged in a shattered pattern, separated by expressed panel joints – as though the assemblage is coming apart at the seams. Some sections of plywood have been removed to form windows and skylights and one section on the rear wall is a painted projection screen.

The dark-stained plywood floor of the existing dining room flows through from the newly formed entry, lapping up the rear wall of the new interior. This device acts to collect all of the miscellaneous furniture items into a single, consolidate volume.

Terroir



PLAN 1:300

- 0 1 2
- 1 Existing restaurant
- 2 Function room entry
- 3 Function room
- 4 Bar