

ANDRE POREBSKI And Associates, Architects

37 Shepherd Street,
Chippendale, NSW

Architect and interior design

Andre Porebski & Associates:

Edward Szewczyk

Contractor

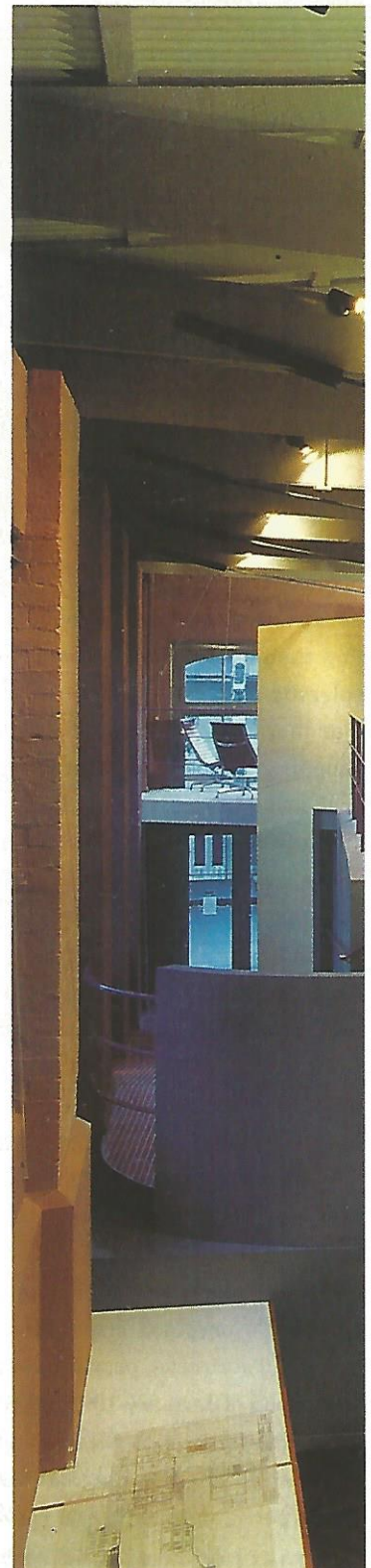
Greig Hunter

Colours

Virginia Carroll

Lighting

Flannigan & Lawson



The project was to convert an early 20th-century industrial warehouse in inner Sydney into an architectural office that would provide both a comfortable and a stimulating environment for the architectural practice of Andre Porebski.

The most critical part of the design was that the outer shell, or envelope, of the warehouse be maintained. All introduced elements had to accommodate the existing rafters, pipework and brickwork; in essence it was to be a building within a building.

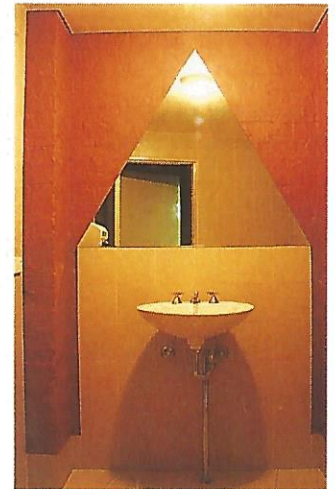
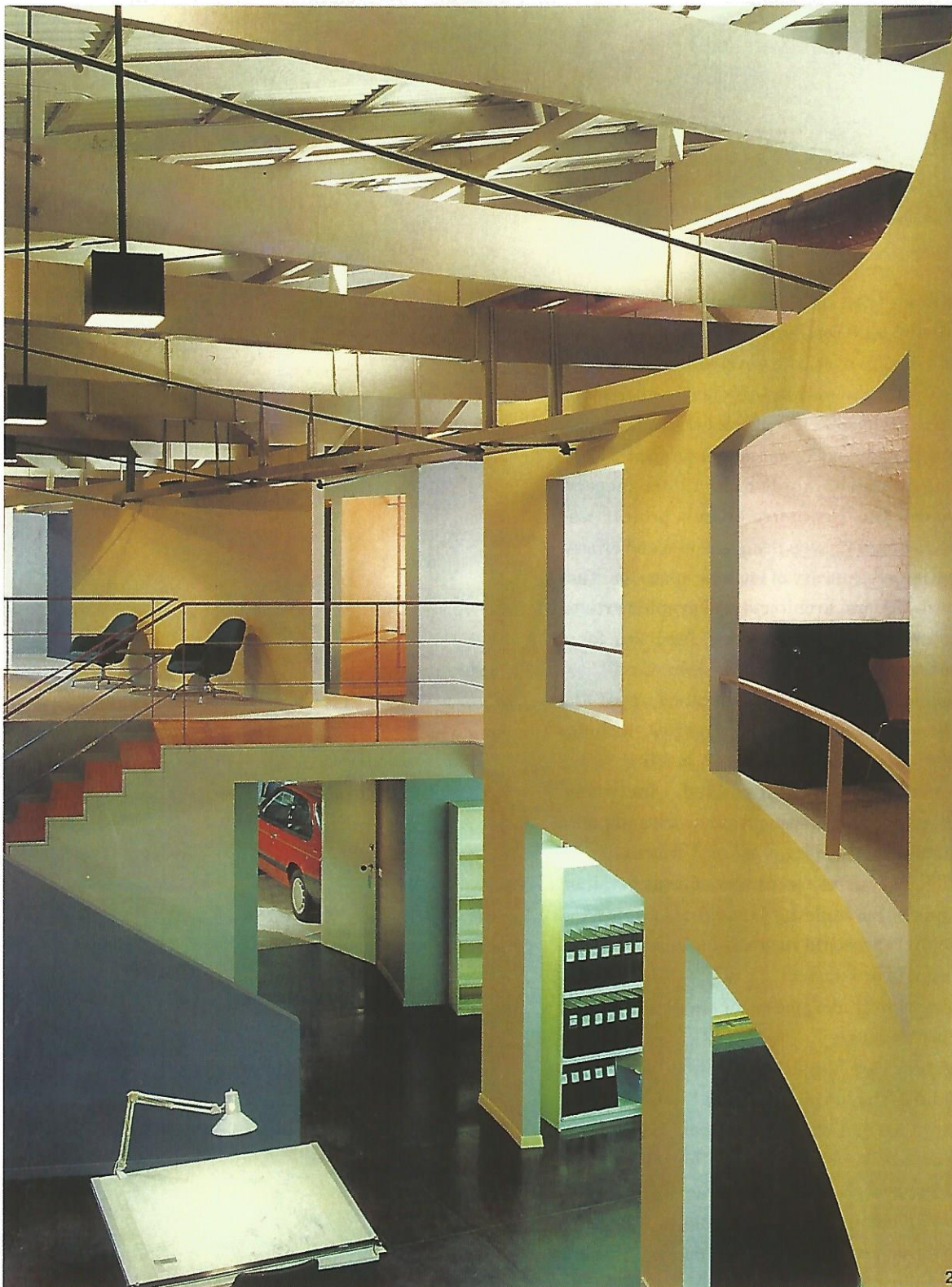
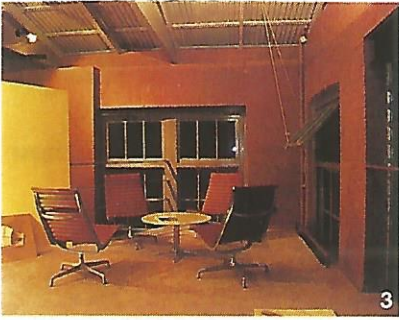
An interior sculptured wall winds around from the front of the building to the rear. The irregular-shaped 'windows' within the wall allow natural light deep inside the building. The windows also give the appearance of a gallery, allowing the visitor brief glimpses of what lies behind. 'In a building such as this,' says associate director Edward Szewczyk, 'it is important you have an overall picture of the entire office. Nothing is isolated or out of view.'

There is no evidence within the space of any allegiance to the traditional hierarchical system of spatial division. Each area is defined by its activity not its activator, which is something about which both Andre and Edward feel strongly.

The colour scheme was the work of Virginia Carroll. 'Andre wanted to use primary colours,' she says. 'I disagreed, so we developed a palette that belonged to the original masonry of the building.'

The result is a striking mix of colours that brings drama and definition to the space.

WRITTEN BY NICOLA O'HANLON. PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL SAGGUS.



1: When developing the colour scheme, colour consultant Virginia Cal worked within the framework of original masonry of the building. **2:** Inside of the building has been remodelled leaving the outer walls untouched. A curved wall retracts the windows allowing natural light to enter deep inside the building. **3:** The internal curved wall also defines functional areas such as this meeting room. **4:** The building prior to renovation. **5:** In the main bathroom, the wash-basin and mirror have been recessed into the existing brickwork.