

# designing lines

**RED BLUE IS A BOUTIQUE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE FOCUSED ON PROVIDING DESIGN DRIVEN SOLUTIONS THAT SUIT THE NEEDS OF OUR CLIENTS**

november 2014



## why red blue?



Why are we called red blue? The red blue chair was designed by Gerrit Reitveld in 1917 and is known as one of the most recognisable pieces of the De Stijl art movement (1917-1931). Artists most notably associated with De Stijl were Theo van Doesberg and Piet Mondrian.

De Stijl emerged largely in response to the horrors of World War I and the wish to remake society in its aftermath. It embraced an abstract, pared-down aesthetic, partly a reaction against the decorative excesses of Art Deco.

De Stijl's influence was perhaps felt most noticeably in the realm of architecture, helping give rise to the International Style of the 1920s and 1930s.

For us, it reflects a purity of thought and a focus of design from a period where its leaders believed that they were able to have a tangible influence on the lives of every person.

## the skinny on micro apartments

The growing trend across the globe is the increase in micro apartments. Units that have been commonplace in cities like Tokyo and New York are starting to spread to cities all around the world.

San Francisco has recently passed legislation allowing apartments as small as 20m<sup>2</sup>. Not contained to just 'big' cities; Nashville, Austin, Portland are all reducing the minimum size requirements for apartment design.

The Office of the Victorian Government is considering new regulations limiting studio apartments to 37m<sup>2</sup>, in response to negative commentary about exploitation of renters, falling urban design standards and over development.

In NSW, SEPP65 controls the minimum size of apartments. The proposed amendments (on exhibition until the end of October) prescribe a minimum size of 35m<sup>2</sup> for studio apartments. So where is the appeal?

For the occupant it is a choice of lifestyle over unit size. They are happy to

## the archibull prize

Wendy has begun the arduous task of judging the extraordinary artworks in the Archibull Prize competition.

Over four weeks, Wendy will travel over 6,000km visiting more than 40 schools across New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.



The Archibull Prize is an integrated program which will engage secondary + primary school students in agricultural and environmental awareness through art, design, creativity and teamwork by:

- Providing a blank, life-sized fibreglass cow for students to create an artwork on or to use as the subject of an artwork.

*the skinny on micro apartments, continued...*

forego the space because they spend the majority of their time out and about, in bars, cafes or socialising. It's a lifestyle decision. For the developer, in a market that is increasingly dominated by investors, particularly overseas investors, size and amenity aren't necessarily the driving force.

From the architect's perspective it's about quality of design. A well designed 40m<sup>2</sup> apartment can be substantially better than a poorly designed 60m<sup>2</sup> apartment.

## flexibility is the new black

As apartment size is driven downwards, flexibility becomes the key. Being clever with how to adjust to a small space. Often architects turn towards naval architecture to find ways to fit all of the necessary elements into a space that doesn't appear to allow enough room.

This is where ingenuity and creativity come in to play. Using flexible spaces or spaces that can be converted from one use to another is a way of creating space where there was none.



## about



Craig has worked in architecture for 25 years. He has a broad range of skills across many different building typologies. He has designed many multi - residential projects, totalling thousands of units.

He has a systematic approach to each project through a thorough understanding of the brief and the client's desired outcomes.

**red blue** architecture + design

*the archibull prize, continued...*

- Giving each school their own primary (food or fibre) industry to explore and showcase. Beef, Dairy, Grains, Wool or Cotton.

- Pairing schools with Young Farming Champions.

- Connecting farmers, natural resource managers and industry and community experts with students.

Wendy has been an integral part of the program, run by Art4agriculture since it was established by Lynne Strong in 2010.

Wendy has used her design skills and knowledge to help open a new world of knowledge and inspiration to hundreds of school children across Australia.

The awards ceremony to declare the 2014 winners will be held on the 14th November.

[www.art4agriculture.com.au/archibull](http://www.art4agriculture.com.au/archibull)

The Sanctuary On The River development in Abbotsford, Melbourne by Rothelowman and developer Hamton have used a clever palette of materials, pull down bed and interesting sliding wall that opens the space up in the tight studio apartment to allow for when the occupant is entertaining.

[www.sanctuaryontheriver.com.au](http://www.sanctuaryontheriver.com.au)

## changes to sepp 65

SEPP 65 has been in force since 2002 and is often promoted as one of the best performing pieces of legislation the state government has brought in.

However, it is being reviewed and updated. The public exhibition ends on the 31st October.

The proposed changes look to reinforce the original intent of the Residential Design Guide and the SEPP, which was to provide a series of guidelines to steer residential development along an improved design path, however over time, councils took the guides and used them as prescriptive rules to allow or refuse applications. The changes alter the language and allow the SEPP to overrule councils in some areas.

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