

Max Thomson, BA (hons) RCAD, MAIPM

I am a senior professional with in excess of 30 years experience in workplace design, strategies and project management. My experience includes periods of work in the UK, The USA, and Australia on a diverse range of projects and clients. I am a passionate advocate for good design but a harsh critic of waste and ignorance of the client's stated and implied goals.

I have a diverse skill set that includes design, project management, and construction management at the highest levels. This gives me a unique ability to understand and interpret all facets of the delivery process, and support my clients from feasibility through to completion.

I have a loyal network of clients, intermediaries, consultants and suppliers in Australia, and work hard to maintain my position in this regard. I am judged by my deeds.

Key competencies

- Demonstrated track record in stakeholder and client management at both senior and operational levels
- Established track record in managing project teams on complex projects
- Advanced project management / direction
- Respected experience within domestic CRE industry, including participation on industry associations and contributions to publications
- Highly skilled in space planning and workplace strategies
- Finely tuned ability to communicate at all levels from C-suite to sub-contractors
- Proven ability to see the big picture, and guide a team towards a common goal
- Business administration, budgeting and financial reporting
- Board and advisory board experience
- Technically proficient in most of the required software packages

Professional service: I was proud to be selected to chair the technical working group that wrote the first Green Star rating tool for Interior Fitouts which was a milestone for ESD. I have previously held committee positions on both CoreNet Global and the FMAA, plus membership of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I am a member of the Australian Institute of Project management.

Career path: My professional life started in London in the 80's designing pubs. From there I moved on to construction in both the USA and Italy before landing in Australia in the early 90's. I progressed from hospitality projects through to workplace as the industry matured culminating in principal level positions.

In 2004 the lure of project management took me to the "dark side" where I grew a practice to 15 staff working with major corporates including Citi, JPMorgan, and Bankers Trust. The opportunity to see both sides of the consulting coin has been unique and invaluable, and I am pleased to be able to share this experience



What I do

When I am not working with PSMJ and our clients I run a workplace project management consulting company, Spitfire Control.

This company manages complex interior fitout and building refurbishment projects for a diverse range of international names including DLA Piper, Morningstar, Clemenger, Diageo, and Revlon to name a few.

I have built an alliance network of professionals in both Australia and New Zealand to provide a consistent level of service to portfolio clients.

Project management software: Over the past five years, I have explored a number of the key proprietary software systems for project and design management, including active use on live projects. I can advise on their benefits and pitfalls.

Specialist skills

- Bid and proposal writing
- Project management training
- Design management training
- Strategic advisory and non-executive Board representation

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