

WORKTECH™

Sydney

WORK / WORKPLACE / TECHNOLOGY / INNOVATION

EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF WORK AND THE WORKPLACE

TELSTRA, CUSTOMER INSIGHT CENTRE, SYDNEY

THURSDAY 31ST JULY

08:30 - 17:30

HOST PARTNER



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Isabel Dewhurst-Marks

**Managing Director,
WORKTECH Events**

A warm welcome to WORKTECH25 Sydney

We're delighted to welcome you to WORKTECH25 Sydney, Australia's leading forum for workplace visionaries, corporate innovators, and future-focused organisations.

At the heart of this year's event is a powerful question: how do we create workplaces where people truly thrive? From advancing well-being and human connection to rethinking hybrid work models, integrating AI, and designing with purpose, our programme explores the next chapter of work through the lens of thriving people, empowered cultures, and high-performing environments.

You'll hear from pioneering voices and industry leaders as they share bold ideas, new research, and practical strategies shaping the workplace of tomorrow. Whether you're reimagining real estate, transforming technology, or evolving organisational culture, this event will equip you with the insights and inspiration to design environments where people and businesses can flourish.

Join us in Sydney to connect, learn, and be part of the conversation defining the future of work in 2025 and beyond.

Warmest Regards

Isabel

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SPEAKERS



SESSIONS



CONFERENCE AGENDA




VENUE



WHO ATTENDS



KEY INFORMATION



MEET THE SPEAKERS

WORKTECH25 Sydney will attract some of the biggest and brightest names to debate, discuss, and divulge the latest thinking on the future of work and the workplace.

The conference will feature leading international thinkers from industry and academia. Our speakers represent some of the world's biggest brands and best universities and research departments, alongside radical visionaries from new innovative organisations.

Through interdisciplinary speakers and learning experience, we focus on bringing cutting edge ideas and inspiration to the workplace community to enhance creativity and move thinking forward. Instead of focusing on peer to peer innovation through imitation, we aim to curate a unique programme, bringing together experts in the fields of people, place and technology and relevant adjacencies to reflect on the future of work and workplace.

Alongside the conference series, the WORKTECH Academy knowledge hub explores the future of work through six key themes: people, place, technology, design, culture and innovation. Creating leading commentary, research and publications WORKTECH Academy places scientific research at the heart of key business problems.

www.worktechacademy.com

Full list of speakers

Kirsty Argyle [Davenport Campbell & Partners](#)
Connor Ashlakoff [HID](#)
James Bleakman [Perpetual](#)
Patricia Bondin [Architectus](#)
David Dewane [Geniant](#)
Katherine Divett [Puzzle Partners](#)
Kate Dodd [Intent Strategy](#)
Iva Durakovic [UNSW Sydney](#)
Charlie Fan [Yealink](#)
Scott Juza [Hall & Wilcox](#)
Tica Masuku [Spaceful](#)
Rizvi Mridha [Hampr](#)
Mark Nolan [Humanscale](#)
Simone Oliver [Architectus](#)
Daniel Rowe [Sennheiser](#)
Dr Libby Sander [Bond University](#)
Grant Saxon [BDO](#)
Rabinder Singh [Mastercard](#)
Catherine Sullivan [Westpac](#)
Joost Vos [Bentham Crowell](#)
Donna Wheatley [Gray Puksand](#)
Maria Zoras-Christo [Transgrid](#)



Dr Libby Sander, Bond University



David Dewane, geniant



Catherine Sullivan, Westpac



Grant Saxon, BDO



Iva Durakovic, UNSW Sydney



James Bleakman, Perpetual



Rabinder Singh, Mastercard



Scott Juza, Hall & Wilcox



Maria Zoras-Christo, Transgrid



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The future of work and the workplace is on everyone's agenda. This event brings together thought leaders to share cutting edge ideas on the future from the perspectives of people, place and technology. It will allow an understanding of the key drivers of change and enablers of innovation that will shape how, where and when work takes place.

Key themes we will be discussing at this event include:

Creating Workplaces Where People Thrive

Today's workplaces must do more than function, they must help people flourish. From wellbeing and creativity to collaboration and focus, we explore how design, behaviour, and purpose come together to create environments that unlock human potential.

Insight to Impact: Data, Culture and Change

Forward-thinking organisations are transforming insight into action. This theme explores how data-driven decisions can shape workplace strategy, align with culture, and deliver environments that are both flexible and effective, driving real business outcomes.

The Future Workforce and Workplace

As generational shifts and evolving expectations reshape work, we look at what's next. From engaging Gen Z and prototyping new models to integrating AI and digital tools, discover how leading companies are designing workplaces built for the future.

Connection, Community and Belonging

The modern office is a hub for human connection. We explore how food, place, experience, and emotion play a vital role in creating vibrant communities, turning workplaces into spaces where people choose to be, not just where they're expected to go.

KEY THEMES

CREATING WORKPLACES WHERE
PEOPLE THRIVE

INSIGHT TO IMPACT: DATA, CULTURE
AND CHANGE

THE FUTURE WORKFORCE AND
WORKPLACE

CONNECTION, COMMUNITY AND
BELONGING



From Languishing to Flourishing

David Dewane, Chief Experience Officer, Physical Space, geniant and Adjunct Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology

This lecture argues that many contemporary workplaces are stuck in a rut that social scientists describe as “languishing.” This talk breaks down the characteristics of languishing and describes how to elevate employee experiences in the direction of flourishing. Then takes a deep dive into metrics that create a basis for a data-driven approach to creating high-performance working environments.

I Wish I Worked There! Novel Methodologies to Examine the Effects of Workspace on Creativity and Performance.

Dr Libby Sander, Assistant Professor of Organisational Behaviour, Bond University

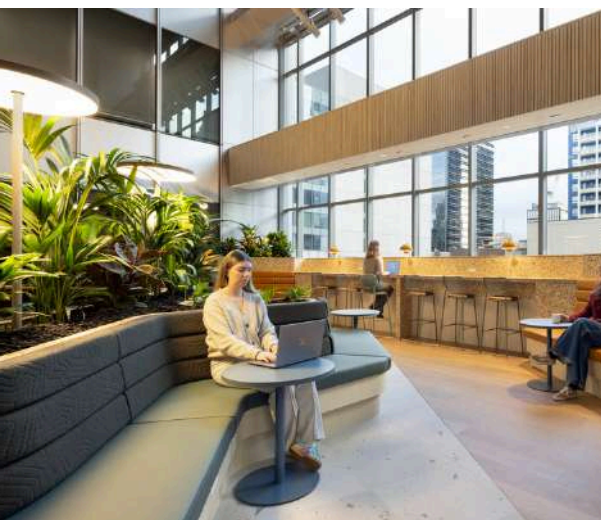
As organisations reimagine the workplace in a post-pandemic world, we use novel methodologies to explore how the physical environment influences creativity, engagement, and performance. Our latest research examines how workspace design, creative styles, and environmental factors affect employee outcomes. In a global multi-national organisation, we analyse how different spaces align with task demands to enhance creativity and performance. Discover evidence-based strategies to design workspaces that foster innovation, well-being, and the future of work.



Perpetual HQ Sydney - World First 'Teaming' Workplace

James Bleakman, Workplace Design Lead, Perpetual and Donna Wheatley, Partner, Gray Puksand

Perpetual and Gray Puksand co-created a visionary new ‘teaming’ workplace in Sydney, designed to boost teamwork, ideation, and space utilisation—and early data shows it's working. Focused on teams over individuals, the concept was tested through a pilot space to gather feedback and refine functionality. The final multi-floor fitout features in-demand teaming pods and higher occupancy, despite a reduced NLA. With no change to the building, it offers a unique, controlled environment to test this bold new work model.



08:30 | CONFERENCE OPENS

08:50 | OPENING PLENARY: WELCOME AND AUDIENCE PULSE

Patricia Bondin, Principal, National Design Lead Interior Architecture, Architectus
Simone Oliver, Group Director Living and Working, Architectus

architectus

09:10 | FROM LANGUISHING TO FLOURISHING

David Dewane, Chief Experience Officer, Physical Space, geniant and Adjunct Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology



This lecture argues that many contemporary workplaces are stuck in a rut that social scientists describe as “languishing.” This talk breaks down the characteristics of languishing and describes how to elevate employee experiences in the direction of flourishing. Then takes a deep dive into metrics that create a basis for a data-driven approach to creating high-performance working environments.

09:50 | I WISH I WORKED THERE! NOVEL METHODOLOGIES TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF WORKSPACE ON CREATIVITY AND PERFORMANCE

Dr Libby Sander, Associate Professor of Organisational Behaviour, Bond University



As organisations continue to reimagine the workplace in a post-pandemic world, we use novel methodologies to explore how the physical environment influences creativity, engagement, and performance? Our latest research explores the impact of workspace design, creative styles, and environmental factors on employee outcomes. In a global multi-national organisation, we examine how different spaces interact with task demands to enhance creativity and performance. Join us as we uncover evidence-based strategies to design workspaces that foster innovation, engagement, and well-being, empowering organisations to optimise their environments for the future of work.

10:15 | INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

WITHOUT AUDIO, THERE IS NO MEETING

Daniel Rowe, Business Development Manager ANZ - Business Communications, Sennheiser



THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF WORKPLACE ACCESS CREDENTIALS

Connor Ashlakoff, End User Business Development Manager, Physical Access Control Solutions, ANZ, HID



UNLOCKING THE FUTURE OF SMART LOCKERS

Adrian Brossard, Founder & Head of Partnerships, Yellowbox



10:30 | NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK

11:15 | BREAKING UP WITH OFFICE – IT’S DEFINITELY YOU

Iva Durakovic, Senior Lecturer, Interior Architecture, UNSW Sydney



Humans are hardwired to form connective bonds which both anchor us and motivate needs for solitude and individualism. Translated to the workplace, there is an inherent creative power in being together, and apart, but what are we failing to learn from high performance environments in the pursuit of occupancy? Showcasing research from Australian organisations and knowledge workers this presentation proposes a temporal framework grounded in space-time methodology and person-environment fit to inform responsive, sustainable, and meaningful design of future workplace environments.

11:40 | WORKPLACE TOPOPHILIA – THE ROLE OF PLACE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Tica Masuku, Director, Workplace Strategy, Spaceful



Biophilia has been a buzzword for years (and rightly so), but a new term has been emerging to take the spotlight: Workplace Topophilia. While topophilia sounds similar to biophilia, it represents a distinct concept: our connection to place. The way we experience places, and the way we connect to spaces, is deeply rooted in human beings. Yet in our increasingly digital world, our spatial awareness is diminishing - affecting how we perceive, navigate, and connect with our physical environments. This shifting dynamic might not only impact how people experience the workplace, but also how we experience & perform work itself - including our emotional and intellectual capabilities. In this interactive keynote session, we'll uncover how digital-physical tensions reshape our cognitive patterns and workplace behaviours, and explore strategies to enhance our spatial connection in the modern workplace.

12:20 | INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

AI YOUR WORKSPACE: POWERING EVERY WORK SCENARIO

Charlie Fan, Senior Technical Sales Manager, Yealink



HOW FOOD DRIVES CULTURE, CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY

Rizvi Mridha, Co-founder, Hampr



ERGONOMICS IN THE MODERN WORKPLACE

Mark Nolan, Managing Director, Australia and New Zealand, Humanscale



12:35 | NETWORKING BREAK AND LUNCH

13:35 | AUDIENCE INTERACTION



13:40 | INSIDE THE ENTERPRISE: HOW LEADING ORGANISATIONS ARE REFRAMING WORKPLACE VALUE

Scott Juza, Head of Workspace, Hall & Wilcox / Kate Dodd, Founder, Intent Strategy / Rabinder Singh, Director, Workplace Experience, Mastercard / Catherine Sullivan, Head of Workplace, Westpac



What does workplace strategy look like from the inside? In this panel, senior leaders share how their organisations are rethinking the role of place—from reshaping employee expectations to balancing culture, performance, and flexibility. Expect candid insights into what's working, what's changing, and where they see the biggest challenges ahead. With perspectives from across industries, this session offers a grounded view of how end users are navigating hybrid models, digital transformation, and the human side of the workplace.

14:10 | DESIGNING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS: BUILDING WORKPLACES WITH TOMORROW IN MIND

Maria Zoras-Christo, **General Manager People & Culture BP & Workplace Relations, Transgrid** / Kirsty Argyle, **Managing Director, Davenport Campbell & Partners**



This panel explores how we can design workplaces that meet the evolving expectations of future generations. Bringing together leaders in design, strategy, and workplace experience, we'll examine what it means to create inclusive, sustainable, and purpose-driven environments. From engaging Gen Z to embedding flexibility, tech, and collaboration at the core of the workplace, panellists will share practical insights and bold ideas. As work continues to shift, this session offers a forward-thinking lens on how to create spaces that not only serve today but inspire and empower generations to come.

14:40 | NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK

15:10 | PERPETUAL HQ SYDNEY - WORLD FIRST 'TEAMING' WORKPLACE

James Bleakman, **Workplace Design Lead, Perpetual** / Donna Wheatley, **Partner, Gray Puksand**



Perpetual and Gray Puksand co-created the recently completed new 'teaming' workplace for Perpetual in Sydney. Without precedent, it was developed to enhance teamwork, ideation and utilisation – and data shows it's already working. This new occupancy model focuses on teams rather than individuals. Due to the visionary nature of this concept considerable investment was put into the creation of a pilot space to record stakeholder feedback and stress test functionality. The final multi-floor fitout has resulted in consistently booked teaming pods and overall more people in the workplace – despite occupying less NLA. As there has been no change in building, the project offers excellent 'controlled' experimental conditions to test the efficacy of this new work model.

15:35 | LAB42

Joost Vos, **Partner, Benthem Crouwel Architects**

LAB42 is an international hub for knowledge and talent development in digital innovation and AI. It brings together academics, entrepreneurs, businesses and researchers to work on addressing the challenges of the future. Find out more about office space at LAB42 and how to take advantage of the exciting opportunities this collaborative environment offers.

15:55 | FROM DATA LAKE TO DECISIVE ACTION: THE CULTURE-LED WORKSPACE AT BDO

Katherine Divett, **CEO, Puzzle Partners** / Grant Saxon, **Managing Partner, BDO**



BDO Sydney has recently moved into their new, purpose-designed space at Parkline Place. This session presents a compelling case study of how a great workspace can serve as the starting point—not the solution. Learn how BDO engaged its people to be ready for the move, created an environment that attracts rather than compels office presence, and built a flexible value proposition that allows individuals, teams, and offices to intentionally choose their own adventure—aligning personal preferences with organisational goals.

16:00 | CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Patricia Bondin, **Principal, National Design Lead Interior Architecture, Architectus**
Simone Oliver, **Group Director Living and Working, Architectus**

architectus

16:15 | KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND NETWORKING DRINKS

Over drinks, we invite delegates to reflect, connect, and share ideas sparked throughout the day.



17:15 | CONFERENCE CLOSES

EXCLUSIVE ON-DEMAND INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES | AVAILABLE POST-EVENT



THE FUTURE OF WORK: GLOBAL INNOVATIONS AND TRENDS

Philip Ross, **Futurologist, Founder and CEO, UnWork and Cordless Consultants**

Join Philip for a deep dive into international workplace innovation, featuring ground-breaking examples from leading global organisations that have created innovative new HQs, like Booking.com in Amsterdam and Lego in Billund, as well as emerging technologies and trends transforming work.



SUCCESS AT SCALE: WHAT RESEARCH AND LEADING ORGANIZATIONS CAN TEACH US ABOUT BUILDING HYBRID WORK PROGRAMS THAT ACTUALLY WORK

Brian Elliott, **Leadership advisor, best-selling author, Forbes' Future of Work 50**

In this session, Brian Elliott, a leading expert on the Future of Work, will explore recent research on the benefits and challenges of hybrid work. He'll present case studies from leading organisations to demonstrate how to create successful hybrid work programs that enhance utilization & employee engagement. Highlighting the shift from "facilities" to "facilitation" and the growing importance of collaboration between Workplace, People, and Tech leadership.



THE LIFE FORCE OF WATER: REINVENTING MEDIBANK'S HYBRID WORKSPACE

Duncan Harper, **Project Director, Medibank** / Heidi Smith, **Lead Partner (VIC), Gray Puksand**

Designed to align with Medibank's commitment to fostering health and wellbeing, hand in hand with authentic connection to Country, Medibank reinvented its workplace and established a bold new way of working. This presentation will outline how genuine consultation with Medibank employees resulted in "layer upon layer upon layer" of human-centric design decisions integrated into a responsive, paradigm-shifting workplace.



DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK AT LE TRUC

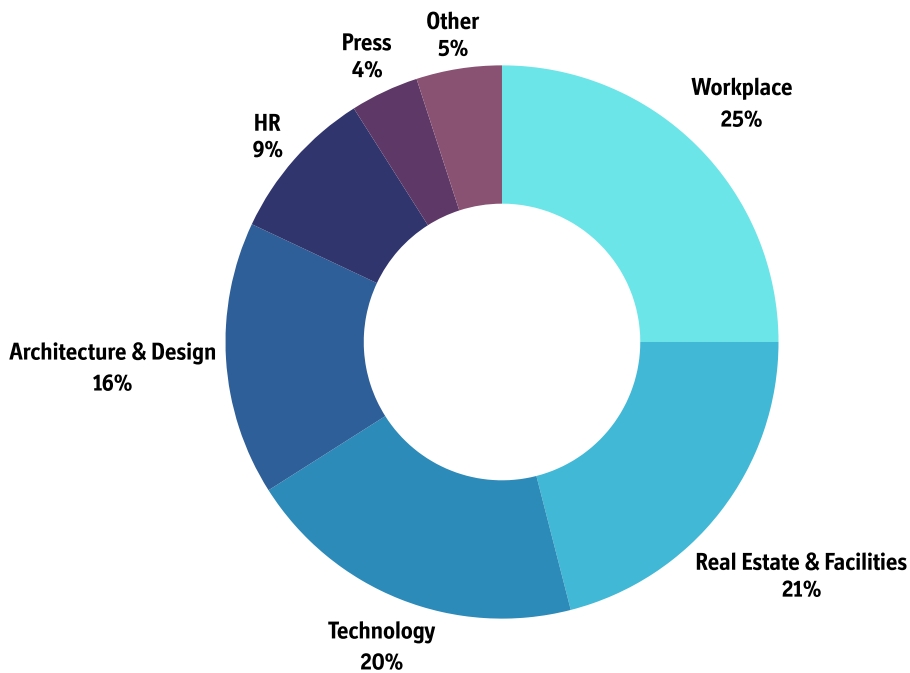
Peter Knutson, **Chief Strategy Officer, Architecture Plus Information (A+I)**

Architecture Plus Information (A+I) will present Le Truc, a cutting-edge workplace innovation within Publicis' New York flagship building. Designed as a 'Clubhouse for Creativity,' Le Truc challenges traditional office structures by prioritizing the creative process. The space features vibrant, diverse areas for ideation, each with unique colors, lighting, and functionality. This innovative design enhances creative agency and fosters a strong sense of community, creating a dynamic environment where creativity flourishes.



WHO ATTENDS

Attracting senior level professionals from Workplace, CRE, IT, HR and Architecture & Design



A well-spoken and experienced group of presenters providing leading edge subjects current topics and statistics. A great place to learn about new ideas.



WORKTECH DELEGATE, DELOITTE

Informative, interesting views on workplace design, planning technology and workers.



WORKTECH DELEGATE, BANK OF MONTREAL



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KEY INFORMATION

Date

When: Thursday 31st July

Where: Telstra, Customer Insight Centre, Sydney

How to book:

Visit: www.worktechevents.com/events/worktech25-sydney/

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Become a marketing partner for this event and qualify for a special rate for your colleagues, complimentary passes for yourself, logo exposure for your organisation, and more.

If you are part of a group that would like to attend and are looking for a joint group rate please get in touch to arrange a bespoke ticket price.

Become a WORKTECH Ambassador

We're looking for people that love the future of work and the workplace and social media. People who are willing to become part of our team and help spread the word to the masses. There will be a free event ticket available to successful applicants. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/3jiHC4b>

For more information on the above initiatives, please contact:

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