

UNUSUAL OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE HIGHLIGHTS YOU MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED VISITING...



FOLK ARCHITECTS, NICHOLAS BUILDING

If your only encounters with the Art Deco-tiled corridors of the Nicholas Building are Retrostar raids, then there are secrets here – including this high-rise design studio. *Nicholas Building, Studio S15, 37 Swanston St, Melbourne 3000.*



MEDIBANK DOCKLANDS

Yes, really. Architectural firm Hassell worked with a group called Fytogreen to install vertical gardens and planter-box facades on this 18-level building. It's the first of its type in Victoria and a positive step toward sustainable design. *720 Bourke St, Melbourne 3000.*



VICTORIA POLICE MOUNTED BRANCH

This is your last chance to visit the original stables of the Mounted Branch – built around World War I and capable of housing 50 horses – before they relocate to a new facility. *Cnr Grant & Dodds Sts, South Melbourne 3205.*



GOVERNMENT HOUSE

With an imposing staircase hall, 145-foot tower and State Ballroom, not to mention a collection of historical antiques and artwork from the NGV, it doesn't get much grander than this Victorian period-style residence. *Government House Dr, Melbourne 3004.*



HARRY BROOKES ALLEN MUSEUM OF ANATOMY AND PATHOLOGY

This museum offers a slice of medical history, complete with anatomical models, real human tissue and criminal death masks. *University of Melbourne, Medical Building, Cnr Grattan St & Royal Parade, Parkville 3052.*



Alan Pert

MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

The first thing that comes to mind is that, appropriately, the Melbourne School of Design is a thoughtfully constructed building – all the way from the huge wooden structure suspended from the ceiling of the atrium (which has around 280 perforations to dampen sound) through to the tranquil Japanese garden on the roof.

When Melbourne-based John Wardle Architects and Boston group NADAAA won an international comp in 2009 to design the new space for Melbourne Uni's faculty of architecture, building and planning, the design brief was for a "pedagogical building" – meaning that every aspect of the building was to be instructive. Accordingly,

everything from beams to ventilation units is on display. One surface of the building even incorporates a heritage-listed wall from the former Bank of Melbourne on Collins Street. In fact, that façade bears the scars of a few errors, which deliberately remain uncorrected as an illustration of the challenges associated with old buildings.

Professor Alan Pert, director of the Melbourne School of Design, describes the building as akin to a "good book". "It might sink in five years down the track," he says. "A student may be working on something in the future, but hopefully remember back to aspects of what they see here." *Building 133, University of Melbourne, Parkville 3010.* ●

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