

AMICUS

Re-Socialising the Workspace



ARTICLE

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Re-Socialising the Workspace

As many workers will agree, it feels great when your employer agrees to let you work remotely. While these arrangements are becoming more common, the primary workplace is becoming increasingly valuable as a central hub for productivity and collaboration driving the business forward.

The way we work has changed but what is the impact on culture, which represents the values, attitudes, and behaviours of your employees? Workers are spending less time socialising with their colleagues and although the introduction of virtual meetings has enabled support from anywhere, social spaces aren't going away any time soon, so it's a valuable opportunity to reimagine the physical workplace.

According to new data from [Clutch](#), 63% of workers have spent less time socialising with colleagues – both in-person and virtually – since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.

Experts agree – the transition to remote work has hindered office socialisation, despite efforts to improve.



We're seeing a clear pattern in our research – while teams report enhanced solidarity during the remote working chapter, they feel dislocated from their broader organisation. They miss the casual connections that occur throughout the day with a wider set of colleagues. Over time this is eroding a sense of cohesiveness and shared purpose. Staff describe the result as disorientating.

- Steve Collis – Head of Workplace Strategy, Amicus.

Let's discuss your project!

1300 360 877 | info@amicus.com.au

Why you should be giving your employees more than just a place to work – Let's discuss over a coffee...

Many of our clients have reimagined their workplace, incorporating an inviting, tech-enabled work café, creating a place workers love coming to every day. This design integration is becoming more of a priority for forward-thinking businesses looking to transform their workplace. There are also many cost-effective ways to create incredibly agile spaces with the ambiance to facilitate socialisation, allowing your business and employees to enjoy the benefits. You're in control. You choose the furnishings, design and technology to suit the exact needs of your people.

Workplaces now are designed to empower people to work at their desk, complete tasks as a team in a small collaboration space, enjoy lunch away from your desk, as well as designated

spaces for meetings large and small. You may also need somewhere to greet clients and visitors. Remote work reiterates the need for the workplace as a space where work happens, and productivity and collaboration are assured.

We all know how important it is finding a good work/life balance. Bringing a sense of home into the workplace can also support the wellbeing of your employees physically, cognitively and emotionally.

We've selected our favourite projects that are reaping the benefits of an agile workspace.

Moving boldly into the future



With a mission to create knowledge for tomorrow's transport challenges, and solutions for today, the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) wanted to define their own strategies and create their own standards across their industry through a complete workplace transformation.

We understood the importance of this partnership with ARRB, to not only support the ongoing cultural and brand change process, but also to design and build an environment that will help to strengthen their position as industry leaders, creating a space that will foster innovation and provide a workplace that will attract and retain the best talent.

Given the complex nature of the project, with large client/partner facing areas, flexible office space, laboratories, warehouse and outdoor areas, plus a focus on change management throughout the entire process, we were well placed with our offering to add real value to this project.

During an intense 5-month design phase, various specialised materials underwent a vigorous testing period to ensure functionality and compatibility within the new space. Having limited pre-existing construction drawings proved challenging, however, was overcome due to additional exploratory site examinations including slab scans and CCTV cameras of the entire lab floor space.

The laboratory space has two distinct areas, the clean/front of house laboratory and the dirty/back of house laboratory which leads to 2 external sheds. Within the dirty lab, there are 5 purpose-built rooms, made from cool room panels to ensure sufficient soundproofing and ensure containment of messy works. While both spaces adhere to Australian Standards, additional safety measures were implemented to ensure ARRB exceeded the standards. These included eyewash stations at each sink, additional emergency showers and eyewash stations.

The workflow for ARRB was critical. Equipment was meticulously positioned to ensure the best functionality of the space. To compliment this, all joinery including steel framing, stainless steel benchtops, and balance benches were custom built by local suppliers to respond to the specific activity and requirements of the laboratory.



The environment has been designed to be dually functional, effectively utilizing the space to its best advantage. The impact of efficient service and space optimization has already been huge. Teams that have been with the company for 15 years who previously had not interacted are now are working cohesively and collaboratively.

The laboratory space included the usual power, data, CO2, nitrogen, butane, hydrogen and compressed air services. Due to the combination of these highly volatile gases, strict adherence and coordination with Energy Safe Victoria was required, who also inspected the site upon completion. Working in space with 9m high ceilings added another level of complexity. With safety in mind, early planning and service coordination ensured that working from heights was carefully coordinated between all trades, to ensure a safe and efficient installation process.

With world-class research labs and state-of-the-art facilities, the National Transport Research Centre and Headquarters will be where ARRB shapes Australia's transport future.



A thriving powerhouse

Our friends at Enero needed to bring together their boutique network of marketing and communications businesses under one roof and without losing the identity of each. The various companies were previously situated around Surry Hills and Pyrmont until Enero saw the benefits of agile working consolidating their subsidiary businesses across one floorplate within neighbourhoods. The result; a transition from separate to together, from owned to shared.

Designed and delivered in collaboration with Amicus and The Bold Collective, the variety of spaces allows employees to select an area based on the type of activity they are performing. The result; optimised efficiency, enhanced functionality and significant savings on space and rent.



The arrival space also includes a series of informal meetings booths with finishes and colours designed to play on the notion of perspective. The breakout/bar was always a key component of the design as the Enero team love to socialise. Our designers drew inspiration from Enero's long standing association to Pyrmont and designed a wayfinding strategy and environmental graphics around key historical and contemporary elements.

Our experienced change managers who are highly at ease in cultural change programs, assisted Enero in implemented their activity-based working (ABW) policy allowing their employees the flexibility to work from home.

Co-locating Enero's businesses has transformed the space into a thriving powerhouse of collaboration and creativity. Key to the project was balancing the needs of each individual business. The result is an office broken into bite-sized neighbourhoods with bump spaces sprawled throughout to encourage connectivity.

Enero as an organisation have been practising high-flexibility and remote work since 2017, so were able to bounce quickly and adjust, not having to make significant updates to their patterns of work or technology to accommodate many of the required changes.

[Learn more →](#)

Get in touch

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Humdrum warehouse turned hub for creativity and collaboration

For close to two decades, Star Scientific has been working on how humanity can transition to a new energy economy. With recent growth of their breakthrough technology, the 'Hydrogen Energy Release Optimiser' – creating limitless, efficient, affordable, clean and reliable power and heat – Amicus was engaged to develop their new office space in Berkeley Vale, converting the existing warehouse into a multipurpose laboratory environment.

The brief was to create a professional, high-quality space comprising of a control room, wet laboratory, material preparation laboratory, material analysis laboratory, XPS room and administrative room. Amicus has a long-standing relationship with Star Scientific, having successfully delivered 5 laboratories in 2016 at their former premise at Mayfield West.



Amicus continued its close working relationship with Star Scientific, managing all aspects of the project from design, council approvals, construction right through to handover. Having relocated from a 150sqm space to a 670sqm space in Berkeley Vale, the key driver for the move was to not only replicate the services at Mayfield West, but to provide flexibility for impending growth, future-proofing the space.

[Learn more about our Laboratory Solutions →](#)

In many laboratory environments, there is an emphasis on function over the aesthetic, however, Star Scientific wanted a creative and sophisticated design, reflecting their brand and ethos to their team and clients. With a focus on flexibility, the concept was modular by design, providing an abundance of workspaces and moveable joinery pieces, also repurposing some existing furniture. It was important we understand the workflow process and how adjacent laboratories integrated. Due to our level of detail, we were able to effectively provide solutions, overcoming challenges, to ensure the design was compliant and fit-for-purpose.



Our understanding of our clients' vision, having analysed the function of their existing laboratory spaces, we were able to effectively incorporate design tweaks to improve functionality and performance within the new space.

Complimenting their expansion, an experimental bay was added to the scope during the construction process. We delivered bespoke fencing and furniture including Terrazzo balance benches, purpose-built gas cages and fume cupboards. This space also included power, data, hydrogen and oxygen services. Due to the combination of these highly volatile gases, strict adherence and coordination with a dangerous goods certifier was required, who assisted with compliance and design.

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Complete Laboratory Solutions

Amicus is Latin for friend, so as friends, wherever your strategy takes you, we're coming along for the ride. We'll translate and demystify a complex world of cutting edge and highly innovative fitout solutions into simple choices and clear outcomes. We'll help you rethink how your spaces can inspire your employees and your customers.

We work across a variety of spaces including Workspace, Laboratory, Education and Hospitality, offering a full suite of solutions including Strategy, Design, Furniture, Technology, Construction and Move Management.

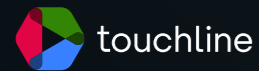
Our 'Labline' team provides specialist, best in the business laboratory solutions across Australia and New Zealand. Our consultative approach ensures that we understand our clients' needs and can deliver the most bespoke, productive and cost-effective solution that is functional, safe and aesthetically pleasing. We gain the trust of our clients and provide peace of mind throughout the project journey, owing to our over 30 years experience in the supply and installation of laboratory equipment and furniture across a range of sectors.

Amicus comprises multiple subsidiary brands that help bring your spaces to life. We create inspiring spaces that not only embody your culture and values but also foster productivity and wellbeing.

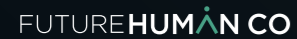
The Group



We inspire people and innovate spaces. Our Integrated Project Delivery Model includes comprehensive service offering of Strategy, Design, Furniture, Technology, Construction and Move Solutions.



Touchline is a diagnostic and planning model for human-centred design. The framework identifies powerful insights and strategies for transforming workplace culture, employee experience (EX), or client experience (CX).

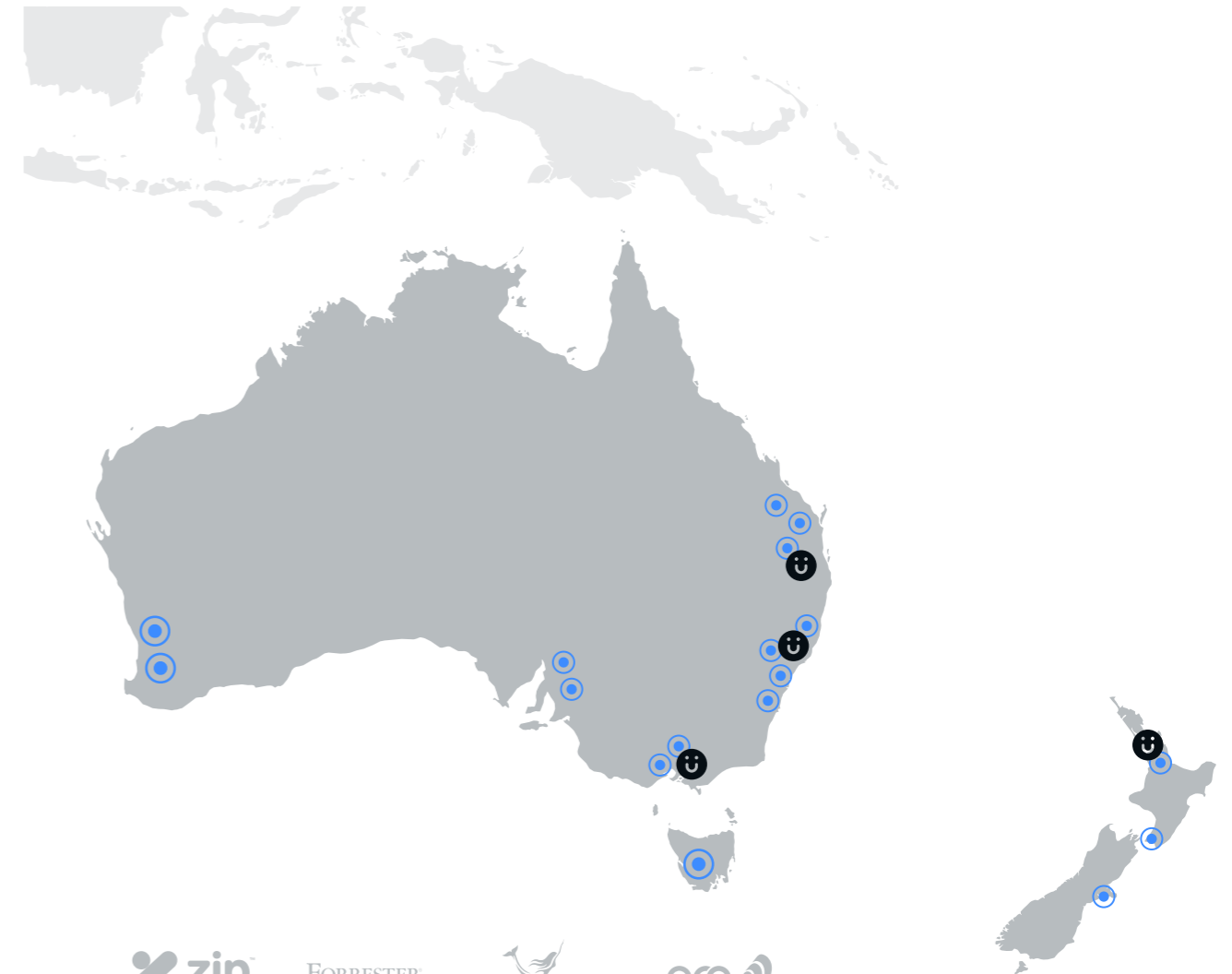


At Future Human Co. we develop and showcase solutions that drive better wellbeing in spaces where people work, learn, sleep and play. We work with you to develop the right strategy to achieve your wellbeing goals.



The United Workplace is a network of likeminded businesses, sharing a passion for the workplace – inspiring design, innovation and a culture of collaboration underpins everything we do.

Our Presence



We are proud to say that our clients choose to work with us time and time again, which often means we deliver projects for them across their Australia and New Zealand portfolios.

Regardless of the location of a project, every client receives a dedicated project team and the same consistent service. We have a wealth of experience across all industries. Talk to us today to find the right solution for your business.

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