

# GRIMSHAW

## PRESS RELEASE

### 664 Collins Street tops off on new city block for Melbourne

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grimshaw Architects has celebrated the topping off of 664 Collins Street, the practice's second commercial building in Melbourne, with a rooftop ceremony hosted on Monday by Mirvac and major tenants, Pitcher Partners and ExxonMobil.

Guests included Mirvac's General Manager of Commercial Development, Simon Healy; Pitcher Partners Managing Partner, John Brazzale; Grimshaw Associate Principal, Damon Van Horne; and ExxonMobil.

Conceived as part of the Southern Cross Station master plan, the new workplace is built 16m in the air upon a vast concrete and steel slab, erected in place of the station roof to create a new city block. It shares this with its sister site to the north, 699 Bourke Street, the first of the two buildings designed by Grimshaw for Mirvac and completed in 2015 for AGL Energy.

Together the site spans 200m metres along the rail corridor, joining the Bourke and Collins Street bridge extensions, and reaching more than 64 metres above the tracks.

Grimshaw Partner, Neil Stonell said, "664 Collins Street is the final piece of the Southern Cross Station master plan, completing over 15 years of design and construction with the dual aim of providing contemporary workplace while helping to stitch together the two halves of the city fabric across the chasm of the rail corridor."

Within this new city block a much-needed pedestrian link has been created for the precinct with open-air views of the city skyline above the silver undulations of the station roof.

Grimshaw Associate Principal, Damon Van Horne said, "Constructing over live rail poses significant challenges due to limited access and complex connections to mains services. The existing slab allowed for much of the construction to proceed without interruption, but key elements, such as the vehicle access ramp from the street, required challenging over-rail craning in the dead of night."

Mirvac's General Manager of Commercial Development, Simon Healy, said "Mirvac is proud to reach this significant milestone at 664 Collins. The development showcases the strength of Mirvac's integrated model, managing the end-to-end journey from initial conception and planning to construction, with the delivery of the building on schedule for 2018.

"664 Collins will feature innovative smart technology, allowing us to better understand the building's utilisation, collecting real-time data to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Focusing on tenant experience, we're creating connectivity throughout the building; developing adaptive and intuitive workplaces.

"The Topping Off ceremony today acknowledges a successful collaboration between partners, tenants and stakeholders in the ongoing delivery of 664 Collins, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for being involved in creating this unique building."

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Since Grimshaw's British Pavilion for Expo 92 in Seville, Spain, sustainability has been a core value for the practice and so the design of 664 Collins Street seeks to balance the tight commercial demands with occupant amenity. Rebates within the elevations increase daylight and views, while the overall dimensions of the floorplates maximise natural light into the heart of the building. The internal environment is an integral point to score in ESD rating systems, for which 664 Collins is targeting a 5 Star Green Star Design and 5 Star NABERS Energy rating.

The form of 664 Collins is a simple and efficient box, covered by vertical fins which act as solar shading and blur the surface of the building. The hard-working infrastructural context of the site is referenced in the muted tones and material selections of glass and steel. By contrast the lobby finishes have been selected for their timeless qualities, with basalt stone floor and walls of travertine and American walnut. As a placemaking element, a large media display wall in the lobby will entice visitors and staff with curated imagery. At roof level, an event space and outdoor terrace provide sweeping views of the city skyline to Port Phillip Bay.

The completion of 664 Collins Street is expected by early 2018.

## ENDS

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### NOTES

#### About Grimshaw

Grimshaw was founded by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw in 1980. The practice became a Partnership in 2007 and operates worldwide with offices in London, New York, Melbourne, Sydney, Doha and Kuala Lumpur. Grimshaw's international portfolio covers all major sectors and has been honoured with over 150 international design awards including the prestigious Lubetkin Prize.

[www.grimshaw.global](http://www.grimshaw.global)

#### Commercial projects

664 Collins Street adds to Grimshaw's portfolio of workplace projects, which includes 333 George Street (2017) and 699 Bourke Street (2015) in Australia, The St Botolph Building (2010) and Lloyds Banking Group Headquarters (2002) in the United Kingdom, and Five Boats (2005) and Ludwig Erhard Haus (1998) in Germany.

Grimshaw is currently working on Olderfleet in Melbourne, and Martin Place in Sydney.

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