

# BUILDING STUDIO.

LANTERN BUILDING  
Melbourne Docklands

*Client* **Walker Corporation**  
*Contractor* J Hutchison  
*Construction Value* \$42m  
*Consultants* NDY  
Surface Design  
Winward Structures  
ADG  
BVN (Internal Fitout)

Located on Collins Street at the gateway to Melbourne's Docklands precinct, the Lantern Building is a sparkling landmark announcing the entry into the refurbished 1880's Railway Goods Shed below.

Initial discussions with our client revealed a remarkable opportunity: to develop a building that could act as a 'lantern' or 'beacon' to the entry of the historic Goods Shed, providing a key marker on the journey from Melbourne's CBD to the Docklands precinct and announcing the fast developing urban fabric of Collins Square.

The site presented many urban challenges, including the low-lying heritage building which created a distinctive gap in Dockland's urban fabric. This called for a design response capable of mediating the relationship between the Goods Shed and the adjacent modern high-rise towers.

In fulfilling key brief requirements, the Lantern evolved into an elevated, faceted 'jewel', sensitively incorporating the rich cultural history embodied in the Goods Shed below. The raised entry and colonnade reinforces the prominent Collins Street address, whilst clear glazing ensures public views of the Goods Shed's intricate truss framing and roof are maintained. The junction between old and new, experienced via an articulated atrium leading to the building's lower levels, offers the opportunity to encounter the Goods Shed's fabric up close. The atrium is carefully detailed to provide the lightest possible touch and allow a seamless connection between historic and modern.

