



QT

MELBOURNE

PRESS KIT



## QT MELBOURNE

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Perfectly groomed and immaculately accessorised, the QT Melbourne is at home in Australia's most creatively charged city.

Located in the heart of the Melbourne CBD near the exclusive Collins Street precinct, QT Melbourne is inspired by the 1920's rag traders from which the local 'Paris end' of Melbourne draws much of its flair and flavour. Transforming its Russell Street address, QT Melbourne brings a chic new designer landmark to the city's cultural heartland with a distinctly creative edge and eclectic experiences through its 188 rooms and newly inspired drinking and dining establishments.



## LOCATION

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Home of the former Greater Union Cinema site, the history of the Russell Street cinema spans decades of entertainment for the city of Melbourne. Greater Union opened in 1978 and was recognised as an architectural marvel; with its grand foyer of red and gold, striking ceilings and opulent crystal chandeliers.

The complex remained open as a popular city-centre multiscreen cinema, completely unaltered from its original 70's kitsch state until October 2013 when the red cinema curtains closed for the final time.

Today, the area is now occupied by loft style apartment conversions, bustling cafés and bars, galleries and arcades as well as connecting with a number of graffiti-stained laneways, full of character, which artfully weave their way through the city.

Positioned in the heart of Melbourne's hidden laneways, QT Melbourne is inspired by the nations lively rag traders of the early 1900's that populated nearby Flinders Lane and the French fashion influence of the 'Paris- end' of Collins Street; home to an abundance of luxury labels.

Guests of QT are encouraged to immerse themselves in Melbourne's rich and thriving creative culture.



## PUBLIC SPACES

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Step off Collins Street into a world of highly curated style where artists and designers have woven a sensory palette setting the scene for an eye-widening Melbourne playground. Inside, the design philosophy is industrial inspired with handcrafted steel, stone and timber, creating contrasting textures teamed with eclectic interiors of the hotel's public spaces.

Led by QT designers, renowned Interior designer, Nic Graham, and architect and design expert Shelley Indyk, the team worked collaboratively to create the visually intriguing spaces whilst still incorporating the signature QT style. Bespoke furniture, provocative graphics and a strong use of colour are some of the highlights, harmonised by glimpses of high-tech video art adding movement and intrigue to the space.

The façade draws on the classic geometries of the Melbourne street scape. Inside, there's a contemporary feeling of modern industry in the building; exposed concrete is set against black steel, bronze, brass, and this is offset by strong and bold visuals.

Fashion, art and a Euro-inspired mélange of old and new give QT Melbourne its eclectic style. Vintage elements blended with modern touches, and floral against pattern are some of the design highlights adding detail to the space.

Striking LED digital art is a feature of the public areas within the hotel, the works invariably imbued with a sense of European urbanism, adding a dramatic and intriguing display to the hotel's enticing surrounds.



## GUEST ROOMS

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Experience the eccentricity and creativity of QT Melbourne living, where industrial chic influences and bespoke designer furnishings blend seamlessly with carefully curated art.

Two contrasting colour palettes travel through the 188 boutique guest rooms. Evenly distributed, the hues move from deep electric blue and yellow gold to a turquoise and red for the remaining rooms. The bold colour schemes work within each room, detailed into the 'graffiti tagged' rugs, a collaboration between Melbourne Graffiti artist James Beatie and Indyk; the veneer of the joinery, the wallpaper within the wardrobe, the upholstery of the chairs and chaises, in the choice of curtaining, and the back-lit colour of glass in the mini-bars.

The character is one of refined industrial elegance, something that's evident in the engineered oak timber flooring, metal-framed benches, black-brushed slate bathrooms, unique matte black light fittings, and touches of brass.

Complimentary WI-FI and new release movies, a fully stocked minibar with plenty of QT quirk and world-class Malin+Goetz amenities complete the in-room offering.



## FOOD & DRINK

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An artisan playground in which lovers of the high life can satisfy their thirst for all things eccentric and innovative, QT Melbourne brings extraordinary indulgence through fresh dining, modern mixology and sensory temptations with three additions to the Melbourne food scene.

Ascending the Yves Klein Blue carpeted staircase into Pascale Bar & Grill, Executive Chef Andy Harmer has designed an expansive menu that heroes the modern day bar and grill concept. As with every aspect of QT Melbourne, the design is prominent featuring rich interiors, curated lighting and in-house music combine to stimulate all five senses adding to the sophisticated, yet relaxed atmosphere redefining this modern day dining experience.

On entry level, The Cake Shop presents Melbourne's newest purveyor of temptation, offering decadent treats, mouth-watering pastries and a bespoke drink selection. On the flip side, the Rooftop at QT is the highlife bar to see and be seen at in Melbourne.

And for those looking to experience Melbourne's infamous laneways, Tanto Japanese knife store connects with the local hospitality roots of the city selling expertly crafted knives sourced by 10th generation sword makers.





## PASCALE BAR & GRILL

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With fresh produce pulled straight from the rooftop garden alongside locally sourced ingredients unearthed by the culinary team, this bustling modern day bar and grill offers discerning foodies an expansive dining experience within the buzz of QT Melbourne.

A feeling of bold industrial chic runs through the lively 120 seat open-plan dining room, with an open kitchen fuelling the theatrics, offering flaming glimpses into dish creation. The rich interior, curated lighting and in-house music combine to stimulate all five senses adding to the sophisticated, and captivating atmosphere.

Positioned at the entrance to the restaurant, Pascale's Bar acts as the hotel's social hub with a cocktail menu inspired by the lively New Orleans 'French Quarter', an extensive wine selection and a home-made collection of syrups, fusions and shrubs, invigorating the Pascale offering.



## ROOFTOP AT QT

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Nestled amongst the city skyline, the Rooftop at QT is the destination for decadent soirées – a place to quench your thirst while taking in the heart and soul of Melbourne from above.

Hosting up to 185 guests, the split indoor/outdoor space evokes glamour and passion through sensual designer décor and cutting-edge sound made for igniting pleasure at Melbourne's newest highline bar.

Boasting a list of local spirits and house-made tonics, The Rooftop at QT offers an array of hand-crafted cocktails by some of Melbourne's elite bartenders.



## THE CAKE SHOP

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Modern day Marie Antoinette's can rest their well (red) heeled toes and treat themselves to an indulgent pick-me-up in Melbourne's little purveyor of temptation. With only the best seasonal beans, brilliant baristas pour exquisite espresso, batch and cold brew coffee to accompany the baguettes, bircher muesli, croissants, cookies and tarts. For those on the go, seize the day and enjoy our temptations on your way.

And of course, if it's that time of day already, something a little stronger is only a wink away.



## TANTO

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Tanto is a high-end Japanese knife-lovers' paradise with purveyors who will walk you through the intricacies of their wares with passion and precision. The store sells expertly crafted Suisin Japanese knives sourced by 10th generation sword makers from legendary Sakai; the heart and soul of traditional Japanese knife production.

With their razor-sharp edges and unmatched elegance, Japanese knives are some of the best in the world, and in Sakai, craftsmen, or shokunin, have been making them for hundreds of years. Sakai is famously known across Japan as the place shokunin forged katanas for samuari in the 14th century, and these age-old practices influence how knives are made today.

The Suisin Collection was born from creator Junro Aoki; the second son of the Aoki Knife Craft family. During the twenty years he spent learning his craft, the young and energetic knife craftsman dreamed of someday creating knives that would combine the traditional qualities of Sakai-style knife-crafting techniques with more modern designs. The exclusive Suisin Collection is now available at Tanto; the first of its kind in Australia.



## MEETINGS & EVENTS

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For those bored of the boardroom, QT Melbourne features two private spaces boasting floor to ceiling windows, offering an abundance of natural light in a relaxed and sophisticated setting.

Paying homage to the old cinemas that used to reside on Russell Street, the Barclay and Paramount rooms boast state of the art technology, chef-made culinary packages, and an array of configurations, making them well suited to dining events, meetings, conferences, social soirees and cocktail parties of groups of up to 50 guests.





## THE ART COLLECTION

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Orchestrated by specialist art curator Amanda Love, a wildly eclectic collection of new medium art has been curated throughout the hotels public areas, lifts, lobbies, dining spaces and guest rooms.

Director of LoveART, Love is an international art advisory based in Sydney and New York, specialising, in the commissioning, acquisition, display, cataloguing, valuation and collection management of the best contemporary art from all over the world. Love has over 20 years' experience in providing bespoke, confidential and independent art advice for corporations and private collectors in Australia and overseas. She has over 20 years experience in providing bespoke, confidential and independent art advice for corporations and private collectors in Australia and overseas.

Voted Best Art Advisor 2010 in Sydney's inaugural Art Month Awards, Love has served on the board of the Biennale of Sydney, Australia's largest contemporary art event for the past 10 years during which time critical acclaim has increased and attendance more than tripled.

A passionate collector, Love has played a founding role in the now flourishing contemporary benefaction groups at Sydney's Art Gallery of New South Wales and Museum of Contemporary Art, and spoken as an expert on contemporary art in Australia and overseas, including at the National Gallery of Scotland, Arco in Madrid, the MCA, Sydney, the AGNSW and Melbourne's Heide Museum. Having commissioned customized moving image installations for QT Hotels & Resorts throughout Australia, Love is working with QT Melbourne from education to acquisition, commissioning and display of the public spaces.

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## GABRIELLA & SILVANA MANGANO

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Gabriella and Silvana Mangano live and work in Melbourne. The sisters exhibit a Single channel high definition digital video, 16:9, colour, sound, duration variable.

Installed across 9 digital screens in the hotel's lobby space, Performance Compositions for Sculpture (1-9) 2014 are still and filmic, until they move. Suddenly the works turn into a performance – a ballet in which found objects are the dancers and the artists hands are the props.

The Mangano's style and aesthetic is compelling, engaging and succinct. However, this seemingly minimal work is also complex, encouraging dialogue and discussion. On their walks throughout New York, the claiming of unclaimed objects became a way of claiming their place in the city and forging a connection with unfamiliar surroundings while the clinical aesthetic of the work has no reference to any place at all.



## CLAIRE HEALY & SEAN CORDEIRO

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Cordeiro and Healy's joint practise relies on humorous visual language of fragmented gradient and form to build larger images, impressions and meaning. Double Horizon, 2016 amalgamates the spines of discarded books, in such tonal variation, that when viewed from afar, you find yourself gazing at the cosmic. Form completely belies content in this work which echoes the artists' more traditional practise of reclaiming consumer waste and transforming it into something new, beautiful or thought provoking.

The work is showcased in the hotel's lobby space, parallel to the stairs ascending Pascale Bar & Grill.



## JENNIFER STEINKAMP

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Steinkamp lives and works in Los Angeles. She employs computer animation and new media to create moving image installations that explore ideas about architectural space, motion and phenomenological perception. Here a virtual image of falling material reveals an invisible surface beneath the cloth. The Invisible Man (1A, horizontal) 2016 is a site specific video installation, inspired by H.G Well's film of the same name, creatively interprets the connection between cloth and surface in rendering the Invisible, visible.

The layers of animated falling cloth exude a texture and surface of their own, while simultaneously revealing a previously unnoticed surface behind them. The work exemplifies many of Steinkamp's key artistic concerns including the relationship between negative and positive spaces, animated surfaces and film culture. Fascinating and masterful, you will find this digital piece located in the hotel's lobby space.



## GRANT STEVENS

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The larger-than-life digital video The Drift (2010) explores the fine lines between public and private, the isolation and socialisation of our online lives. Floating orbs swirl in hues of green, pink, blue and yellow, an apt fit with the vibrant interior design of QT Melbourne.

It is a work that continues Steven's lengthy investigations into consumer culture and the internet, which interrogates how meaning is constructed and circulated.

Steven's work will be showcased on screens in all of the hotel's 188 guest rooms.



## JANET BURCHILL & JENNIFER MCCAMLEY

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Burchill and McCamley both live and work in Melbourne and have collaborated since 1985. They work with a diverse range of materials such as wood, metal, paint and neon. Their practise is equally diverse and utilises photography, film, drawing, furniture, sculpture and painting.

Interpretations of dreams mobile (2001-2015) which features in the Pascale Bar & Grill alcove has been constructed using neon, electric cable, wood and Perspex. This work exemplifies their materialist approach with its tantalisingly bright neon colours and swirling spirals which are at once garish and hypnotic.

# COLLABORATORS

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With a rich history in hotel design, management and community projects, the management and creative heads of QT Melbourne have targeted yet varied experience.



**NIC GRAHAM**

PUBLIC AREAS DESIGNER & STYLIST

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Nic Graham has made a name for himself delivering the cool and quirky interiors of QT Hotels & Resorts.

Graham has been running his own studio in Sydney with a small team and has worked in all of the traditional design categories including architecture, furniture and product design and interiors.

Nic and his team are passionate about the finer details in their projects, and continue to collaborate with artisans, artists, furniture makers, graphic designers and engineers to make memorable spaces and noteworthy design 'moments'.



**SHELLY INDYK**

GUEST ROOMS DESIGNER & STYLIST

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A registered architect, Shelley Indyk has worked with communities from diverse cultural backgrounds since the 1980s and brings over 20 years experience in architecture and design.

Indyk is interested in diversifying in all aspects of design, planning, cultural expression and travel. This diversity she brings to the studio atmosphere, working on a variety of projects from community based to commercial, hospitality and private houses. Most recently in 2015 Shelley was one of five jurors on the Australian National Jury awards for all architectural categories..



**FABIO ONGARATO**

BRANDING AND IDENTITY

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Melbourne-based Fabio Ongarato is at the forefront on innovation when it comes to branding, positioning, image, art direction, interior environmental design, installations and signage. His team is compelled by the idea that design is a cultural imperative, taking responsibility for the creation of heightened experiences that engage both emotionally and intellectually.

For QT Melbourne, Fabio Ongarato Design conceptualised and developed a rich narrative born of the hotel's historical, cultural and social context, which was brought to life across all guest touch points from the brand identity and collateral, to the environmental graphics and installations. Ongarato continues to succeed in bringing the QT experience to life..



## ANDY HARMER

EXECUTIVE CHEF

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British born, Andrew Harmer brings his vibrant take on chic modern Australian cuisine as Executive Chef of QT Melbourne. Harmer initially trained at Paul Heathcote Longridge in England, before taking his experience international working at various premium restaurants around the world, such as Les Crayerers in France – a two Michelin Star restaurant; and more notably, at D.O.M with Alex Atala, a Brazilian chef whose restaurant is rated no.16 by The S.Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants.

In Melbourne, Harmer has made a significant impact in the culinary scene. Before taking the helm at The Point in Albert Park, Harmer commenced his career as Chef de Partie at Vue de Monde and seven years later had firmly established himself as Executive Chef working alongside longtime mentor, Shannon Bennett.

Harmer's approach to food is elegant, sophisticated and bold, and throughout his culinary journey has been built on the foundations of professionalism, organization and maintaining the utmost respect for produce.



## JANET HINE

COSTUME DESIGN & SUPERVISION

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With a background in costume design for YTT at Granada Media and Costume Couture, Janet Hine was an obvious choice when it came to commissioning the right costumes for QT Melbourne staff attire.

Outfits were required to share the stage environment but not visually wrestling with it, so Hine worked on creating hotel characters' full of confidence and bravado.

Comfort and practicalities also needed to play a part as no one member of staff is the same shape or size.



## ANNA ROBERTS

STYLIST

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Anna Roberts has over 14 years experience in design and styling both in Australia and Internationally. After completing her studies in Melbourne, Roberts left to explore Europe and Asia, seeking inspiration and spent nearly a decade in the United Kingdom refining her opulent style.

Since returning home to Australia, Roberts has completed numerous design and styling projects along with lecturing at RMIT University.

Responsible for the buying and merchandising for Qtique boutiques and adding finishing touches to each individual guest room at QT Melbourne, Roberts sources the most unique, quirky elements to give the guest rooms a definitive guest experience.



## QT CONCIERGE

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The QT Melbourne concierge iPhone app links guests to their own personal concierge service the moment rooms are booked allowing guests to plan their perfect, bespoke trip before they even arrive.

A city guide in the palm of the hand, it couldn't be easier to find information on the best places to see and be seen in Melbourne, the newest bars, hottest restaurants and the not-to-be-missed events.



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