

It's bespoke, it's brave, it's bold and it's nothing short of bloody amazing. And by the way.. it's a butchery. Hop in for a *chi chi* chop fresh off a v. stylish wooden block at this faaaaabulous new shop.

Victor Puharich and his son Anthony's vision to *own best butcher shop in the world* (and a very credible one given their industry knowledge and years of experience) reminded me of something I read on The Coolhunter recently: ***“Extraordinary is the new ordinary....innovation isn't an option anymore. It's mandatory. And to today's hyper-informed and perennially connected consumers, it's a basic expectation.”***

This brill butchery supplies Shannon Bennett, the Stokehouse and loads of Sydney's star restaurants (technically they're hats but you get the drift).

Spend five minutes in store and it's obvious Vic knows his Wagyu from his ragu. Salt brick and cow hide walls, and an Italian marble floor, is the backdrop to a kitchen with full time French chef, air dry aging room, rotisserie and charcuterie sections. The exclusive supplier for David Blackmore beef, June lamb and Kurobuta pork from Byron Bay... If you need help with cooking information or cuts go to Vic's very user friendly web site: [www.askthebutcher.com.au](http://www.askthebutcher.com.au).

**Victor Churchill, 132 Queen St, Woollahrah.**



# #12

a random update on cool things spotted in retail



What is it with Sydney and slick butcher shops? Hudson Meats opened on Crown St 2 years ago and is still doing it with style.

[www.hudsonmeats.com.au](http://www.hudsonmeats.com.au)



Whilst on the subject of cows... this one wows. A little wacky? Yes. Tacky? Nah. It's definitely designed for roll out so the attempt to capture the 'one-off quirky factor' feels a little forced, but overall it's fun and the frozen yoghurt was yum. Wowcow works right here, right now.





Miss Chu runs a crazy crew. The world definitely needs more deee-vine duck pancakes, deee-lish dumplings and impromptu fun from Ms Chu on her foghorn

dishing out directives to her staff. Pop in for a rice paper roll and green tea - you'll thank me.

**Miss Chu, 150 Bourke St, Sydney.**



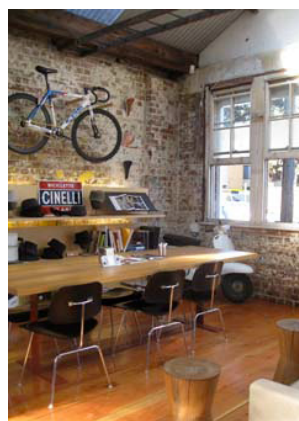
Further down Bourke you'll find Boris at work. Watch whilst the boys tune the torque or work via wifi whilst your spokes are serviced.

Striking graphics by David Pidgeon ([www.pidgeon.com.au](http://www.pidgeon.com.au)).

Melbourne would loooooove one of these. Boris promised me he's actively working on it and it's 6 months away - yay!

**Sable & Argent, 85 Bourke St, Woolloomooloo.**

[www.sableandargent.com.au](http://www.sableandargent.com.au)



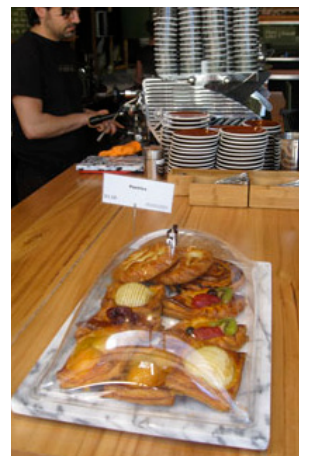


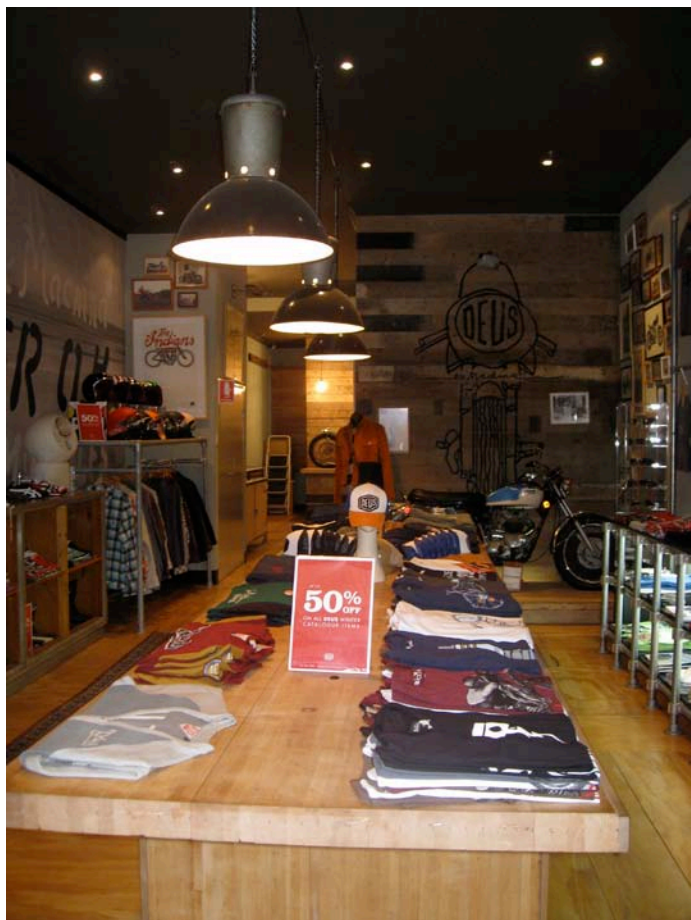
In this workshop you'll find Barry. He's no average Tom, Dick or Harry when it comes to genuine customer service and superb coffee (a Toby's Estate blend). Seriously good Sonoma bread and Sulfarno pastries show the attention to every detail is here.

A tiny temple of good taste (25m2) designed by Ed Kenny at Giant Design.

Now here's a thought... maybe Boris should put this Barista on the back of his bike and bring both Workshops to Melbourne? And what about Brissy... they definitely need a cool bike shop and more good coffee up there... on yer bikes boys - your country needs you.

**Workshop Espresso, 500 George St, Sydney.**





Deus Ex Machina has been around for a while but it's still weely weely good. I popped into the Oxford St outpost. [www.deus.com.au](http://www.deus.com.au)



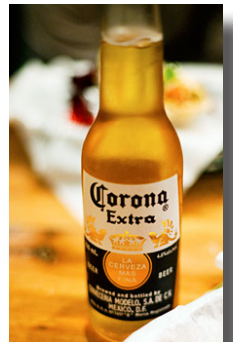
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A stack of books is a pretty cool look whilst right next door the beer chandelier makes me think this taco joint is alright.

You'll find this quirky pair (Vinothek and Mad Mex) on Crown St (just up from Oxford St), Sydney.



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Vintage reigns down this end of right royal good shopping on Crown St.

Grandma Takes a Trip  
263 Crown St Surry Hills



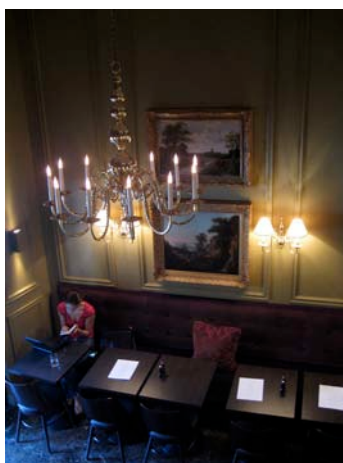
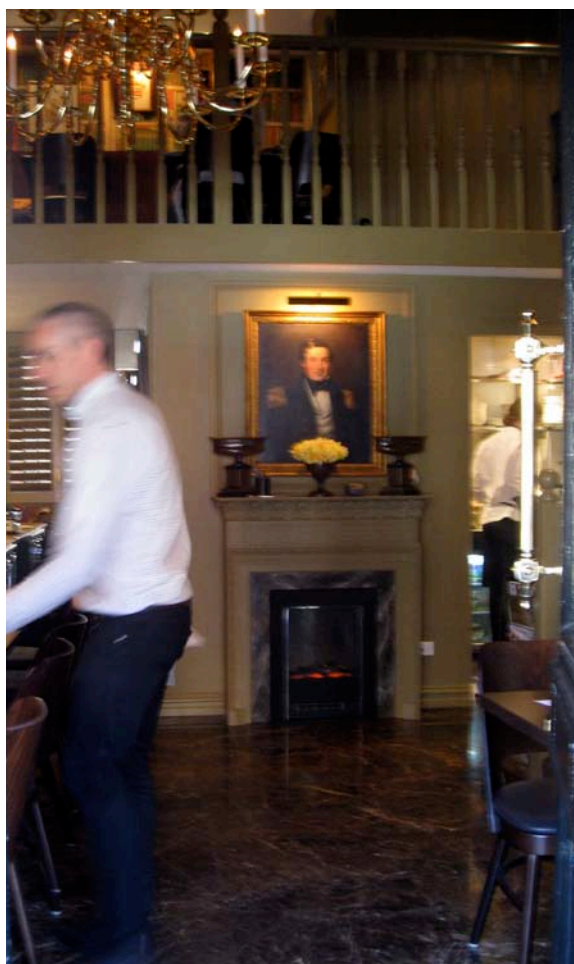
Minty Meets Munt

(it's a few doors down from Granny's if my memory serves me correctly).





Spotted this fab light fitting from the other side of Crown Street. Good food, service and wine list. Shame my pics are not to the same standard.



Teenie tiny No 9 is simply divine.

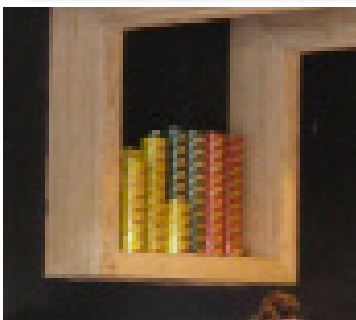
9 Ward Ave, Potts Point.



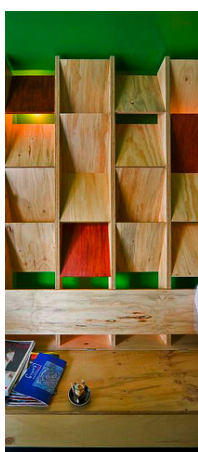


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This place was right next door to Victor Churchill. I liked the dark backdrop and wood ceiling feature that folded down the wall to form a mini pantry. No idea what it was called but it's on Queen St Woollahrah.



More good use of reclaimed wood. Another tiny hole in the wall (30m2) and how could you resist Steve Dyer's megawatt smile? Take a detour to Detour, William St Darlinghurst (miss chu is just around the corner on Bourke). BTW Guy Wilkinson took the 3 middle pics cos mine were crap.

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Some will adore the General Store. Perhaps a tad too tidy for my liking, but it's Donna Hay so what can I say...



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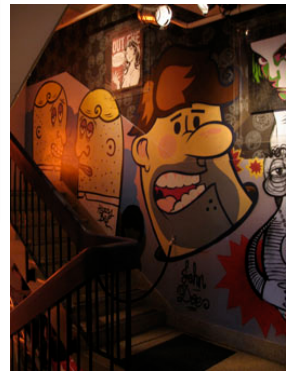
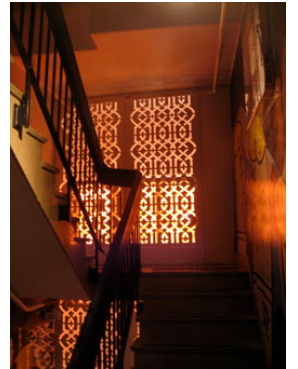
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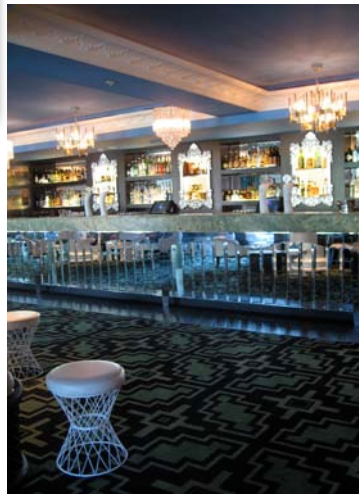
Toko is fab-oh.  
Sublime sashimi and superb saki cocktails. Take a seat  
at the sushi bar and stay a while, I think you'll like it.

[www.toko.com.au](http://www.toko.com.au)





It's lacquered, its luxe and seemingly all very shanghai chic on level one. The floor above is less gilded and gold and garners shades of deep green. Downstairs it's casual and captures the cool crowd plus the common man (no mean feat). Stair wells are temporary art spaces with the current graffiti by Ben Frost ([www.stupidkrap.com](http://www.stupidkrap.com)) and sponsored by Absolut.



David Hicks has dipped into his bag of interior tricks to create a feel good spot in the midst of the mishmash of trash that is The Cross.

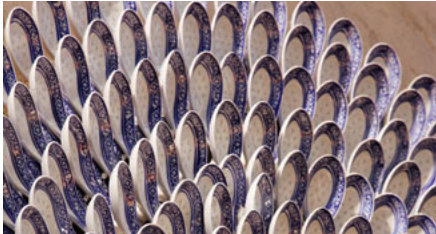


Surprisingly this was a seventies bank building that lay unloved for a couple of years. It's screamingly obvious this crew have a serious clue about what they do.

I like that a lot.

Sugar Mill Hotel  
Kings Cross

If you're in Perth you must pop in and see my latest project. Part new, part heritage it appears the food podium is a hit with the locals. *Brett Coelho* is the artist who cut up pailings & road signs for a fab feature wall & recycling receptacles. A fave thing is the chrysanthemum flower made from chinese spoons which can be found at *Phi Yen* along with a good bowl of Pho.



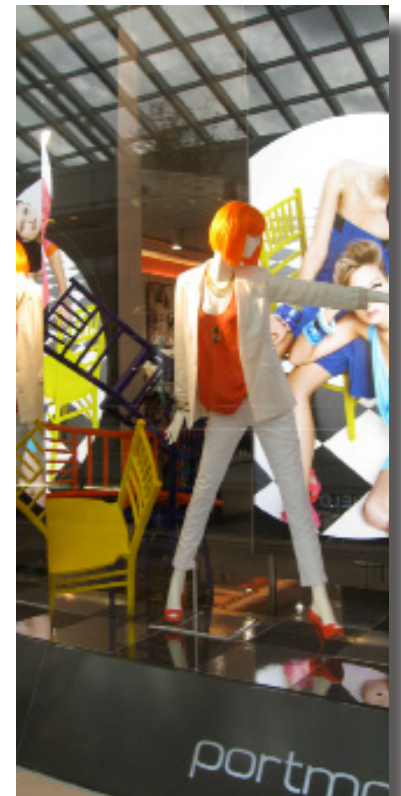
enex100  
100 St Georges Terrace Perth

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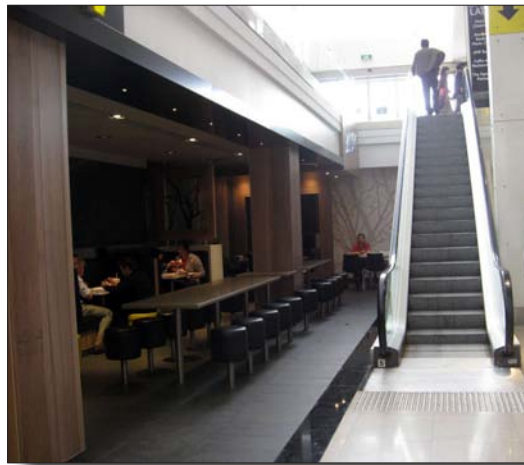
Chadstone's taken the covers off stage 1 of its zjoosh up. Sportsgirl has stepped it up a notch and is looking very 'international' - bet the groovy girls love it.



Portman's new windows are wow. 5m glass makes this shop front all class.



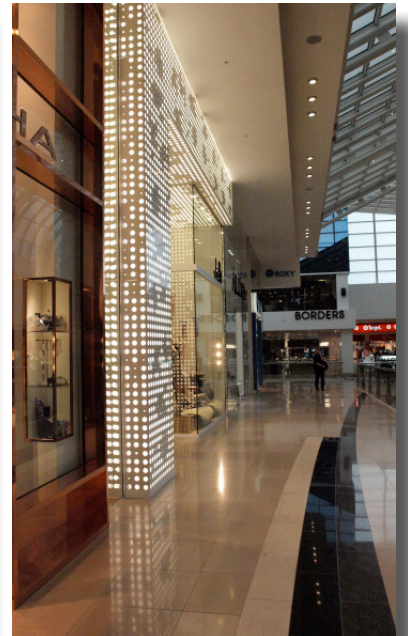
A slick looking Macca's has been neatly tucked near a stair - my snoop shots don't do it justice - head to Chaddy to check it out.



Liked Just Jeans moving media panel thing (soz - can't think what the technical term is for the store entry roof bit).



Ooh a lush green shoe oasis... Wittners will have buy a watering can.



I think we should all give Clare Cousins our best cheerleader impersonation for her pom pom covered ceiling and circle work.

Her new look for Dotti is stylishly spotti - I liked it aloti.

Chadstone, Melbourne.



Well that's just some of the things spotted in Sydney and surrounds. I did a quick dash around the Thomas Dux store in Surry Hills. First time I'd seen the concept and it was very disappointing in that locale... but I am delighted to report they redeemed themselves on Saturday when the new Armadale (Melbourne) store opened. They have done a good job re-laying the ex-Macro store and the range and stock weight was better than what I spied in Sydney.

Also checked out Trenergy. I'm no fashion expert but I couldn't help think Country Road has missed the mark, the point, the pretty much everything on this one. Time will tell...

'Gi-norm-us' thanks to Karen, Christine, Catriona and Ms Canceri for their clues about what to see and do... and to Boris and Ben and Barry and Miss Chu, who let me bowl in unannounced and do what I do. And to my cousin Kath who whipped up dinner before she dashed out the door to Copenhagen to shed more light on sustaining the planet.

As I tap this out Robbie Lea and I are enroute to Milan.

Here is a sneak peak of the book that has been designed by the tres talented ERD team in Melbourne.



Stand by for a euro clue in a week or two.

Right now I'm out the hotel door to explore Honkers in under 24hrs... with a filthy head cold I might add... I'm either mad or dedicated to the cause, or both. Shanghai Tang here I come...

Catherine



Quite a few new readers have joined the mailing list and I get inquiries asking about previous editions. Miraculously they be found on my work-in-progress website... [www.hotpod.net.au/podcasts](http://www.hotpod.net.au/podcasts)

