

S H E L F L I F E



The Architect Says: Quotes, Quips and Words of Wisdom by Laura Dushkes.

Princeton Architectural Press

A pocket-sized trove of wisdom and wit, *The Architect Says* collects quotations from more than 100 of history's brightest thinkers in architecture and design, presented in a simple and engaging graphic design. Both enlightening and entertaining, this little book provides thought-provoking insights alongside humorous observations, often presenting contradictory statements side by side.



Black & White: New Monochrome Graphics by Viction:ary.

The elegance, drama and creative possibility of monochromatic design is showcased in this stylish new book, bringing together 130 striking examples across print art, brand design, advertising, art installation, fashion and more. The first edition in a new series on colour, *Black & White: New Monochrome Graphics* demonstrates the diverse and expressive effects that can be created with a limited palette, drawing attention to elements such as scale, pattern, linework, typography and the effects of positive and negative space.

Q+A

DR KIA PAJOUHESH

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SMILE SOLUTIONS DENTAL PRACTICE AND CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE MANCHESTER UNITY BUILDING OWNERS' CORPORATION

Melbourne's art deco masterpiece, the Manchester Unity Building, is now 80 years old. Dr Kia Pajouhesh has overseen much of the building's significant restoration.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN GOLLINGS AND ARSINEH HOUSPIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

How did you come to own a significant part of a Melbourne icon?

I needed more space for my fast-growing dental practice. All the typical modern premises available on Collins Street were terribly uninspiring and didn't match the particular image I had in my mind. When I came across the first floor of the building after searching for over three years, I knew I had found it. It was mostly disused and needed a lot of work but it fitted my concept. I loved the building so much that I seized every opportunity to gradually purchase and restore its most prominent parts – the intact Level 11 boardroom and several adjoining apartments; and the Level 12 penthouse apartment with its iconic tower.

Many parts of the building were in a state of disrepair by the time you bought into the building in 2003. How would you describe the condition? The condition was patchy and

the services were outdated. The lift doors and interiors needed restoration and the lift mechanisms needed updating. The roof leaked and the whole building needed electrical rewiring. The building's prominent decorative awning was quite dilapidated and some of the terracotta cladding was loose. Inappropriate redevelopment had seen some of the heritage features of the building lost and the building's beautiful facade had been punctured by ugly box air-conditioners, installed to cool individual suites.

What are the challenges that come with restoring a much-loved 80-year-old building?

The main challenge is funding. To re-point the cladding alone we will need more than \$3 million. This is above and beyond other capital expenses as well as the maintenance efforts demanded by an 80-year-old building. But



the committee of management of the owners corporation, which I chair, is limited in the special levies it can raise from members for restoration and repairs; we therefore need a level of government assistance that reflects the huge public interest in, and love for, this iconic building.

This is surely a labour of love. Why does art deco design appeal so much to you?

I love art deco design because it

represents a blend of elegance, glamour, functionality and modernity. The MU Building takes art deco to a new level: it's actually "skyscraper Gothic" in style, and I think this is what makes it so distinctive and appealing. Perhaps the most satisfying outcome of my labour of love is that, by returning disused and residential sections of the building to their original commercial usage, I'm now able to give the public access to significant interiors of such a beautiful architectural masterpiece – as long as they need dental services!

What are your plans for the five-storey tower?

I'm going to fit it out as an orthodontic and paediatric centre where the next generation of Melburnians can be inspired and have their teeth cared for at the same time.