

BATES SMART DESIGNS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST HIGHRISE CLT HOTEL



*The Adina Southbank Melbourne uses CLT to add 10 levels to an existing commercial building.
Image © Bates Smart*

Bates Smart's design for the new Adina Apartment Hotel Melbourne Southbank is the first cross-laminated timber (CLT) highrise hotel in Australia.

According to Julian Anderson, the Bates Smart Director behind the project, "Approximately 5,300 tonnes of CLT were used to add 10 levels to an existing commercial building, offsetting nearly 4,200 of CO₂ from the atmosphere."

CLT Pushes Urban Adaptive Reuse Even Further

CLT presents a more sustainable approach to increasing density within our cities. With a limited supply of developable sites, lightweight timber structures can increase yields, which would not be achievable using traditional concrete and steel construction. At the Adina Southbank, the additional levels translate to 220 hotel rooms spread across 13,000 square metres of new floorspace.

The building below the Adina Southbank was designed to support an additional five steel and concrete floors. However, CLT is approximately 20% the weight of concrete, essentially doubling the number of levels that could be built above the existing structure. Using CLT also allowed for components to be prefabricated

off-site, resulting in increased construction efficiencies and decreased impact on surrounding buildings.

A Striking, Contemporary Design

The design of the new CLT levels complements the curved architecture of the existing building without overtly expressing the timber, as is typical in many CLT buildings. A large recessed balcony helps celebrate the corner and the building's new height. It also gives guests a place to take in expansive Melbourne skyline views. Inside, the ground floor lobby is lined with timber to create a warm and welcoming environment that also nods to the building's innovative structure. Curved walls also distinguish the space, and work in accordance with the curved façade and sinuous lines of the new extension.

Timber for the hotel was sourced from suppliers with Forest Stewardship Council certification—one of only two internationally recognised forest certification networks, reaffirming the commitment the Adina Southbank makes to achieving high sustainability standards.

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For more information and images, please contact:

Dominique Broomfield
Caro Communications
+61 0413 515 090
dominique@carocommunications.com

About [Bates Smart](#)

Bates Smart is a multidisciplinary design firm delivering architecture, interior design, urban design and strategic services across Australia. With a staff of more than 300 people across Melbourne and Sydney, Bates Smart create award-winning projects that transform the fabric of a city and the way people use and inhabit urban spaces and built environments.