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Specialist in the psychology of design and planning joins Woods Bagot

Natalie Slessor



Caption: Natalie Slessor, Woods Bagot's Director of Consulting

Natalie Slessor is one of Australia's very few environmental or architectural psychologists, and she recently joined Woods Bagot in 2010 as Director of Consulting for Australia. Natalie has specialised in working with the Property Sector and has over 15 yrs experience in property strategy and managing the design process. She has a real a passion for problem solving and specific expertise on the workplace design of the future.

Prior to joining Woods Bagot Natalie spent 5 years as associate director of workplace strategy for Macquarie Group. For her real estate strategy setting for such a forward thinking organisation like Macquarie was an inspiring and challenging job. During her time there she was a key member of the team responsible for the aspirational briefing and communication solutions for 1 Shelley Street, a world-class transformational workplace. She was also based Hong Kong for 2 years during her Macquarie tenure, during which time the team she led relocation of the Delhi, Manila, Jakarta and Hong Kong offices.

Before joining Macquarie; Natalie spent 9 years with DEGW a well known and respected workplace design briefing practice, in their London and Sydney offices. As well as being involved in numerous amazing project outcomes as a strategic briefing expert and change management director – such as Westpac Place, ResMed and Woolworths headquarters, Natalie has also spent time on secondment to Ernst & Young, and prior to leaving London, worked with the BBC, driving their workplace change programs.

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James Calder, Woods Bagot Director of Research said of the new appointment; "I am very pleased to welcome Natalie to Woods Bagot, this is a new role which will help spearhead Consulting in Australia.

He continued; “This is a key appointment; one which reflects a strong commitment to our philosophy, which is that great design outcomes are underpinned by research and knowledge, and that this applies to every project.”

To this end the Woods Bagot Consulting team offer a ‘strategic research’ service our clients, primarily to capture the right knowledge for a project to achieve the optimum result. The approach is loosely termed ‘strategic research’ because it targets information gathering using a methodology that is tried and tested, inclusive but measured, and directly relevant to the design process which follows. Additionally, the outcomes of the research are strategic, insight expressed in tactical terms for a project.

This approach can add calm and control to any project managing multiple stakeholders, with political or economic uncertainty, or where there is an appetite for change but perhaps not a clear idea in which direction to take the outcomes.

Natalie’s experience of working inside a large corporation, as well as her past work with numerous tenant types, landlords and developers, puts her in a unique position to add value to projects of all kinds for Woods Bagot clients.

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ABOUT WOODS BAGOT

Woods Bagot’s commitment to global design excellence has resulted in a workforce of 500+ staff based in five regions, in cities such as Dubai, Sydney, Beijing, Hong Kong, London and most recently San Francisco, New York and Shanghai.

Woods Bagot has also announced planning permission for what will be one of the world’s most luxurious hotels at 10 Trinity Square, London and unveiled plans for the Middle East’s tallest tower – at more than 1km high – in Dubai.

Woods Bagot’s Australian studios have recently completed several award-winning flagship projects, including ivy, Sydney (with collaborative partners HP&G and Merivale), Qantas International First Lounges (with collaborative partners Marc Newson and Sebastien Segers) and the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre (with Joint Venture Architects NHArchitecture and the Plenary Group).

Woods Bagot is also currently designing the new \$200 million South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).

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