



core business

Lush colours and flowing layouts characterise the apartments in Melbourne's QV2 building, designed by McBride Charles Ryan with NH Architecture.

ARCHITECT
 McBride Charles Ryan
 in joint venture with
 NH Architecture
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PROJECT TEAM
 Robert McBride, Ray Fiele,
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DEVELOPER
 Grocon

PRODUCTS (SELECTED)
 Internal walls Plasterboard,
 painted; precast walls between
 apartments Joinery Crown cut
 pine veneer, stained with Dulux
 paints Flooring Wool carpets;
 timber

PHOTOGRAPHY
 Peter Clarke

ABOVE: Bold service cores inject these two apartments with character. Sliding doors can be used to partition spaces or open everything up. Deep balconies provide privacy and shade.



CIRCULATION IS A CONCEPT that McBride Charles Ryan loves to talk about. The firm's first large-scale multi-residential project, QV2, is a bright new addition to inner-city Melbourne – a sinuous, medium-height development nestled in beside venerable landmarks such as the State Library and RMIT's cluster of buildings. The design team explored ways that individual apartments might be invigorated via the use of colour, and arranged to produce a sense of flow between rooms.

A central service core containing bathrooms, laundry and kitchen operates as a pivot point in each apartment, around which living areas and bedrooms are arranged. These cores have been flexed and bent to suit the distorted shape of the building itself. "We imagined the service core as a kind of freestanding sculpture in a gallery space," the architects note. Sliding doors can be closed to create partitioned spaces when desired; otherwise, the apartments and their deep room-like balconies can be enjoyed as a continuous, integrated space.

Colour schemes based on the four seasons were selected by purchasers according to the "temperature" that suited them. The service cores are colour-rich, while the perimeter walls are cool white (in opposition to the building's black exterior). **H**