NEIL CHRISTOPHER

1-1922 25a Street SW
Calgary AB T3E 1Y5
Neilchristopher.consulting@gmail.com
+1 (403) 617 5350



GLOBAL WORKPLACE
ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY
GLOBAL PORTFOLIO LEADERSHIP
PEOPLE, PLACE & EXPERIENCE
LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION

PROFILE

Global workplace, design and experience leader with 20+ years connecting business and people strategy with space. Former Gensler Design Director and APME Technology Firms Practice Area Leader, with extensive experience developing workplace strategies and design standards, implementing global workplace frameworks, and leading major portfolio projects for organisations including Meta, Microsoft, Adobe, Johnson & Johnson and the Asian Development Bank. My work increasingly brings together people, place and program, from global workplaces and organisational transformation to large-scale entertainment environments, with a consistent focus on how strategy becomes experience.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Global Workplace Strategy & Design Standards

I have more than 20 years' experience translating business and people strategies into workplace. This includes developing workplace strategies and design standards for organisations including Johnson & Johnson and Cochlear, as well as interpreting and implementing established global standards for Meta, Microsoft, Adobe, Citrix, Xero, Accenture and Philips. I understand both sides of the equation: how to create a useful global framework, and how to make it work in different locations, cultures and businesses.

Organisational Strategy, Change & Visioning

My work often begins before there is a design solution. I work with leadership to understand where an organisation is going, how its people and ways of working are changing, and what that means for workplace. At ADB, this meant working directly with senior leadership and HR through significant organisational change; at Zeidler, it meant applying design thinking to the organisation itself and, importantly, turning strategy into something that could actually be implemented.

Global Portfolio, Program & Design Leadership

I have led multiple projects, teams and client relationships simultaneously across countries and time zones, from individual workplaces to major portfolios and a 150,000 sqm workplace campus. My roles have typically sat across the whole journey, connecting strategy and vision with design teams, consultants, vendors, project delivery and senior client leadership. I know how to keep the original idea intact while still getting it built.

People, Place, Brand & Experience

I think about places through the people who use them: how they move, meet, work, connect and experience an organisation's culture and brand. My recent work at Calgary Stampede in entertainment and festival experience has added programming to that thinking, bringing together people, place and program. For me, the best environments don't just function well or look good. They create connection, engagement, productivity and, importantly, a bit of joy.

Leadership, Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement

I have spent much of my career bringing together people with very different expertise and priorities, from executive leadership and HR to real estate, operations, designers, consultants and delivery teams. I am comfortable leading multidisciplinary teams, building consensus around a clear direction and presenting ideas at senior level, while giving talented people enough space to do their best work.

NEIL CHRISTOPHER

1-1922 25a Street SW Calgary AB T3E 1Y5
Neilchristopher.consulting@gmail.com
+1 (403) 617 5350

SELECT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

2024-present Manager, Entertainment & Festival Experience
Calgary Stampede | Calgary, Canada

- Leads programming, venue design and experience planning within major festival environments, bringing together people, place and program across entertainment, brand, operations and guest experience.
- Plans environments spatially, considering venue design, infrastructure, circulation, capacity, programming and how people move through and experience the park.

2024 Director, Firmwide Strategy
Zeidler Architecture | Calgary, Canada

- Led firmwide strategy, taking the thinking and problem-solving inherent in design and applying it to organisational design.
- Worked across leadership, practice and operations to turn inherent design knowledge into practical organisational strategy - with a particular focus on how ideas are understood, adopted and implemented.

2023 Design & Strategy Director
Asian Development Bank | Florence / Manila

- Led design and workplace strategy for the transformation of ADB's 150,000 sqm Manila headquarters campus, including approximately 100,000 sqm of traditional working floors alongside cafés, gardens, galleries, sports facilities and social and collaborative spaces.
- Worked directly with senior leadership and HR through significant organisational change to understand new workflows and delivery processes and realign the workplace around how the organisation needed to work next.
- Translated organisational strategy into workplace design across a complex international campus, considering both traditional workplace and the broader places where people meet, collaborate and connect.

2018-2023 Design Director | Regional Practice Area Leader - Technology Firms, APME
Gensler | Sydney, Australia / APME

- Led workplace strategy, design and senior client relationships for major technology and global organisations across APME.
- Interpreted and implemented global workplace standards for Meta, Microsoft, Adobe, Citrix, Xero, Accenture and Philips, adapting global principles to different projects, cultures and locations.
- Developed workplace strategies and design standards for firms such as Johnson & Johnson and major government clients, translating business and workplace objectives into practical frameworks.
- As APME Technology Firms Practice Area Leader, connected sector knowledge, emerging workplace thinking, client development and design leadership across markets.
- Led projects from visioning and stakeholder engagement through concept, design development and implementation, coordinating multidisciplinary teams, consultants, vendors and specialist expertise.

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor Interior Architecture, Hons 1
University of NSW, Australia 2003

A+ registration
Australian Royal Institute of Architects
(not current as required to be employed in Australia)

AutoCAD User
Working familiarity with Revit
Skilled in Adobe Creative Suite, Google Workspace, Microsoft
Working understanding of Momentus Accounting Software

NEIL CHRISTOPHER

1-1922 25a Street SW
Calgary AB T3E 1Y5
neilchristopher.consulting@gmail.com

CLIENT SNAPSHOT (sqm)

555 Collins Street, Building Interiors, Melbourne, Australia	3,000
Accenture Workplace Interiors, Perth, Australia	1,000
ACT Government Accommodation Strategy, Australia	85,000
Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines	150,000
Australian Department of Customs & Border Protection Canberra	28,000
Australian Department of Human Services, Canberra	2,500
BAS, Sweden	8,000
Camden Council, Sydney, Australia	8,000
Chevron, Perth, Australia	44,000
Cisco, Workplace Interiors, Canberra, Australia	1,000
Cochlear, Sydney, Australia	24,000
Deloitte, Auckland	11,000
Ebsworth & Ebsworth, Sydney, Australia	3,500
EY, Multiple Locations, Australia	65,000
EY, Multiple Locations, Australia	65,000
First Data Corp, Workplace Interiors, North Sydney, Australia	2,600
FM Global, Workplace Interiors, Sydney Australia	2,500
HP Cyber Security Centre (SCIF) , Sydney, Australia	1,000
HP SCEC (SCIF) Environment, Canberra	800
HP, Multiple Locations	18,000
Intercontinental Hotel (IHG) Adelaide	370 keys
JLL, Canberra, Australia	1,450
Johnson & Johnson HQ, Sydney, Australia	7,000
Meta (Facebook) Sydney Australia & Seoul Korea	11,000
Ministry of Primary Industries, Wellington	16,300
Mizuho Bank, Workplace Interiors, Sydney, Australia	2,000
New Zealand Department of Treasury & Finance, New Zealand	12,000
New Zealand Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand	18,000
New Zealand Parliament, Ministerial Offices	7,500
NSW Fire & Rescue, Sydney, Australia	3,500
NZ Department of Defence (SCIF), New Zealand	1,200
Philips Innovation Campus, Bengaluru, India	60,500
Shell, Workplace Interiors, Brisbane, Australia	8,500
Trenchant (SCIF), Sydney, Australia	1,200
Two24 Bunda Street Co-working Hub, Canberra, Australia	1,000
University of Adelaide, Barr Smith Library, Adelaide, Australia	23,000
UTAS Urban Precinct Master Planning, Hobart, Australia	n/a
Xero, Sydney	800

EMPLOYMENT

2024 - present
Manager, Entertainment & Festival Experience, Calgary Stampede

2024
Director Firmwide Strategy, Zeidler Architecture (contract), Calgary

2023
Design & Strategy Director, Asian Development Bank (contract), Florence Italy and Manila Philippines

2018- 2023
Design Director, Regional Practice Area Leader, Gensler Australia, Sydney

2016-2018
Principal & Partner, NZ and Australia, Warren and Mahoney, Wellington & Sydney

2014-2016
National Principal, GroupGSA, Sydney

2011 – 2012
Lecturer & Course Convenor (contract), UNSW Interior Architecture

2011-2014
National Interior Design Leader, peckvonhartel, Canberra

(2003 – 2011 Geyer Various)

2008 - 2010
***Regional Leader** (Studio Principal), Geyer New Zealand*

2007-2008
***Designer – workplace strategy, Project Leader**, Geyer New Zealand*
Appointed Geyer Associate 2008

2006-2007
***Designer – workplace strategy**, Geyer Sydney*

2006
Senior Interior Designer, Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners Architects, Sydney

2003-2005
Interior Designer, Geyer Sydney