

+

Research interests include design processes, workflow strategies, immersive collaboration tools, commercial interior design, workplace strategy, end user experience, AI integration, computational workflows, tangible user interfaces, and BIM technologies.

Jessica Micallef's path into research began with years of professional practice in commercial workplace interiors, where she worked from strategy to construction administration on projects of every scale. This experience sharpened her awareness of how time frames, deliverables and workflows shape design outcomes—and how much potential there is for improvement. A research scholarship with Warren and Mahoney Architects allowed her to investigate how spatial experience could be measured, sharpening her ability to translate qualitative experiences into measurable frameworks. Her Master's thesis at Victoria University of Wellington, recognised with Gold and Silver Best Awards, envisioned a new model for client–designer collaboration through immersive technologies and tangible interfaces. Her current research ambition is to investigate how Artificial Intelligence and computational tools can transform early-stage workflows, fostering design processes that balance collaboration and creativity with efficiency and evidence-based practice—all to better the end user experience.

# Jessica Micallef

+64 02108100046  
j.a.micallef@outlook.com

## // education

2022-2024 **Master's of Interior Architecture**  
Victoria University of Wellington

Thesis: Tangible Interaction: physical to digital collaboration for the design of commercial workplace interiors.

Supervisors: Dr. Antony Pelosi, Tane Moleta

Awards: Passed with Distinction, Gold Pin (Student Digital) & Silver (Spatial – Academic) at 2023 Best Awards, Designers Institute of New Zealand. Finalist for the Resene Next Gen, New Zealand Building People Awards 2024.

Methods: Prototyping with Augmented Reality, Tangible User Interfaces, BIM integration, performance criteria projection, sprint planning.

2014-2018 **Bachelor of Science in Interior Design  
Minor in Architectural studies**  
Arizona State University  
Herberger Institute of Art and Design

Relevant Coursework: Design Build Studio - Perspectives of Hope Project, a group project working with low income communities with at risk youth. Objective was to determine what «hope» means to them, translate it into a design build and implement it on their campus.

Awards: Summa Cum Laude. Design Excellence Award – Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts (2018). Woodland Arts Center project, shortlisted for Gensler Brinkman Scholarship Award Competition.

## // academic + research experience

2022-2023 **Summer Research Intern**  
Warren and Mahoney

Developed a methodology for evaluating spatial experience through both quantitative and qualitative metrics. Conducted site visits across 12 completed projects, gathering and analysing user and spatial data. Produced an internal report synthesising findings, providing critical analysis, and delivering strategic recommendations to enhance the firm's future measurement processes.

2023 **Tutor**  
Victoria University of Wellington

SARC161: Intro to Design Communication

Lead tutor for two streams of 20 students, guiding conceptual development and design communication skills. Delivered lectures, critiques, and grading aligned with academic standards.

2015-2016 **Tutor**  
Arizona State University

INT121: Intro to Computer Modelling  
INT131: Design and Human Behaviour

Delivered critiques, grading, and held office hours for individual guidance.

## // publications

2024 **Master's Thesis**  
*Victoria University fo Wellington*

Micallef, J. (2024). *Tangible interaction: Physical to digital collaboration for the design of commercial workplace interiors* (Master's thesis, Victoria University of Wellington).

2017 **Student project design feature**  
*Re-thinking The Future*

Micallef, J. (2017). OFS Brands Headquarters. Re-thinking The Future. <https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/institutional/of-brands-headquarters-by-jessica-micallef/>

## // professional practice

2021-present **Interior Designer,  
Digital Strategy Lead  
[contractor during Master's]**  
*FUZION Architectural Design*

Translates site survey models into test fits and complete architectural drawing sets, coordinating documentation from concept through permit approval, including management of city review comments.

Applies building codes and accessibility standards across multiple U.S. jurisdictions, ensuring compliance for national-scale rollout programs.

Develops internal BIM guidelines, prototypes, and standards. Integrates BIM modelling and processes into efficient Revit-based documentation workflows.

Develops digital marketing, website design, visual identity, and graphic content to align with the firm's strategic goals.

2022-2023 **Summer Research Intern**  
*Warren and Mahoney*

Developed a methodology for evaluating spatial experience, combining site visits to 12 completed projects with both quantitative performance metrics and qualitative user insights.

Analysed floor plans, spatial layouts, and observational data to identify patterns, benchmark outcomes, and visualise findings through performance metrics.

Produced a graphic report synthesising methodology, data analysis, and strategic recommendations, strengthening my ability to translate qualitative experiences into measurable outcomes and reinforcing my interest in evidence-based design frameworks.

2022-2023 **Graphic Designer**  
*Red Pebble Events*

Designed visual content, branding elements, and large-format signage for multi-scale events, ensuring cohesive visual identity across all touchpoints.

Produced mock-ups, stage backdrops, and event collateral tailored to client requirements and venue constraints.

Coordinated print production and vendor management, overseeing quality control, delivery, and installation.

Assisted with on-site event setup and takedown, ensuring seamless execution under tight deadlines.

2018-2021 **Interior Designer**  
*SmithGroup*

Led projects from initial client meetings through to final photography, managing design, documentation, and coordination across all stages.

Participated in workplace strategy sessions to define spatial requirements and inform conceptual directions.

Created test fits, conceptual designs, and fully detailed construction documents for commercial workplace projects.

Developed cohesive material palettes and prepared specifications, coordinating FF&E procurement with vendors and manufacturers.

Implemented code analysis, life safety plans, and fire protection strategies, applying IBC and ADA guidelines to ensure compliance.

Collaborated daily with clients, consultants, and multidisciplinary teams to maintain design intent, budget, and schedule integrity.

2017-2018 **Interior Design Intern**  
*SmithGroup*

Contributed to construction documentation using Revit for commercial workplace projects.

Modelled and designed custom furniture pieces, coordinating with manufacturers to ensure feasibility and quality.

Communicated with product representatives for the collection of specifications and material selections.

## // professional credentials

NCIDQ

National Council of Interior Design Qualification

LEED GA

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Associate

## // awards + honours

2024	<i>DINZ - Best Awards</i>	Gold Pin - Student Digital
2024	<i>DINZ - Best Awards</i>	Silver Award - Spatial Academics + PhD + Masters
2024	<i>New Zealand Building People Awards</i>	Resene Next Gen Finalist
2023	<i>VUW Master of Interior Architecture</i>	Passed with Distinction
2023	<i>VUW Summer Research Scholarship</i>	Warren and Mahoney Internship
2022	<i>IIDA SW Design Awards</i>	Award of Merit for Commerical Office space - Project Axway
2019	<i>Steelcase Young Professional Development Series</i>	SmithGroup nominated candidate
2018	<i>Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts</i>	Design Excellence Award for Perspectives of Hope Project
2017	<i>Gensler Brinkman Scholarship Competition</i>	Shortlisted for The Woodland Arts Center Project
2014-2018	<i>Arizona State University</i>	Deans list (3.8 GPA or higher). Graduated Summa Cum Laude.
2014-2018	<i>Psi Epsilon Chapter of Chi Omega</i>	Joan Muller Scholarship (4.0 GPA or higher)

## // technical skills

*Design & BIM:*

Revit, ACC, SketchUp/Layout, AutoCAD, Enscape, Lumion, Blender

*Graphic & Communication:*

Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, WIX, Bluebeam

*Research & Analysis:*

Qualitative interviews, data collection, user experience benchmarking, AR/VR prototyping, BIM workflows, data synthesis, sprint planning

## // references

**Antony Pelosi**  
*Thesis Supervisor*

antony.pelosi@vuw.co.nz

**Scott Compton**  
*Summer Research Supervisor*

scott.compton@warrenandmahoney.com

**Tane Moleta**  
*Thesis Supervisor*

tane.moleta@vuw.co.nz

**Bradley Cantin**  
*FUZION Director*

bradley@fuzionad.com

+  
Scan or click the QR code to view  
my thesis publication: Tangible  
Interaction: Physical to Digital  
Collaboration for the Design of  
Commercial Workplace Interiors.