



WESLEY PLACE

Address: 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3003
Architects: COX Architecture and Lovell Chen
Landscape Architects: Oculus
Completed: 2021

Wesley Place offers an urban park and through-block link where visitors can unwind, making it a unique open space within the CBD. The precinct features a seamless mix of office towers and revitalised heritage buildings. Additional to seats and gardens that mould to the orthogonal layout of its buildings, the place is rich in materials that connect the new with the old. The open lawn near Little Lonsdale Street is centred around existing trees, including one of Australia’s oldest olive trees originating from Jerusalem in 1839.

- Features to observe:**
- Publicly accessible open space activated by small scale, mixed-use surrounding
 - Historic precinct adapted to various contemporary uses
 - Generous integration of public furniture, well-lit spaces and intimate scale



GUILDFORD LANE

Address: Guildford Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000
Landscape Architects and Urban Design: City of Melbourne
Completed: 2017

A rare pocket of Melbourne’s industrial heritage, this urban pocket was given a makeover through the Green Your Laneway pilot program. Endless plants have since taken over window sills, shopfronts and laneway walls. There’s also Mike Makatron’s towering mural of an overgrown factory painted on an old substation door. It’s a nod to Melbourne’s green future and the lane’s industrial heritage.

- Features to observe:**
- Transformation of historical industrial pocket into a green laneway, through City of Melbourne’s Green Your Laneway project
 - One of Melbourne’s most iconic fine-grain activation of heritage laneways



HARDWARE LANE

Address: Hardware Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000
Landscape Architects: City Design
Completed: 2024

Hardware Lane was once the centre of Melbourne’s racehorse industry, formerly occupied by Kirk’s Horse Bazaar. Over time, the laneway evolved into a hub of restaurants, cafes and small retail shops—rivalling those in Rome or Marseille. An upgrade to the streetscape was completed in 2024, where the well-worn bricks were replaced with Melbourne’s iconic bluestone pavers and complemented with new street furniture to cater to the laneways high volume of visitors. The upgrade also included new lighting, enhanced accessibility features and leafy jacaranda trees to provide respite from the sun.

- Features to observe:**
- A diverse offering of European-accented bars and eateries
 - Catenary lighting to set the nighttime mood
 - Leafy jacaranda trees lining the laneway



MEYERS PLACE

Address: Meyers Place, Melbourne VIC 3000
Landscape Architects: City of Melbourne

Meyers Place is one of the city’s oldest laneways and recognised as the site of Melbourne’s first laneway bar. Initially a social retreat space, Meyers Place has grown over time into a microcosm of all the things we love about Melbourne: outdoor dining, bars, coffee, street art and greenery. While all laneways have their own unique character, many features in Meyers Place have been replicated in other laneways. Check out the various street art featured in the laneway, including *Emma Donovan & The Putbacks* by Aretha Brown.

- Features to observe:**
- Intimate street section with partial laneway closure for a vibrant outdoor dining experience
 - Green wall, trees, planter boxes and a large mural *Jungle Funk* by Mike Makatron, as part of the Green Your Laneway project



RMIT NEW ACADEMIC STREET

Address: RMIT City Campus, Bowen Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Architects: Lyons, Harrison and White, MvS Architects, NMBW Studio and Maddison Architects
Landscape Architects: TCL
Completed: 2017

Over the past 20 years, RMIT’s public spaces have been upgraded and revitalised with laneways that convey Melbourne’s character both in scale and materiality, stitching the site into its broader city context. New Academic Street provides a vibrant civic experience that supports social opportunities, consolidating the precinct as the heart of the city campus, playing host to celebrations, markets, food and drinks services, and events.

- Features to observe:**
- Unique design collaboration by acclaimed architects
 - Diverse and vibrant mix of contemporary and heritage buildings
 - Dynamic textures, materiality and spatial experiences that seamlessly stitch the cohesive city campus experience



80 COLLINS

Address: 80 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Architects: Woods Bagot, Seventh Wave, UN Studio, Jouin Manku
Completed: 2020

80 Collins Street is now a retrofitted public space and mixed-use city block around the former Nauru House (1977). The design reinforces the streetwall character of Little Collins Street and addresses the human-scale through use of high-quality textural materials. The internal links are an excellent example of publicly accessible, privately owned space that improves ground floor connectivity and activation.

- Features to observe:**
- Improved safety through activation and elimination of dark undercrofts
 - Through-block laneways improve the walkability of the commercial precinct
 - Continuous grade public space connects seamlessly to its surrounding streets

Photo credit: Trevor Mein

SELF-GUIDED TOUR



THE POCKET BOOK OF MELBOURNE LANEWAYS



Melbourne’s laneway network supports the city’s vibrant dining, street art, cafe and shopping experience.

This pocket book comprises examples of Melbourne’s iconic laneways and walks along a collection of the city’s hidden gems. We invite you to go on a journey that unveil the diverse layers of experience Melbourne’s laneways has to offer, ranging from the old to the new.



Interpreter Services
We cater for people of all backgrounds
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melbourne.vic.gov.au

EXPLORING MELBOURNE'S LANEWAYS

(1) Wesley Place is a vibrant precinct where history meets modern life. Home to Caretakers Cottage, this historic bluestone cottage-turned-bar is ideal for a cosy evening drink. Take a seat beneath one of Victoria's oldest olive trees and look up to find Axionome, Stanislava Pinchuk's mural mapping climate data.

Explore hidden thoroughfares near Chinatown, including **(2) Cohen Place, Market Lane** and **Paramount Centre**.

At **Cohen Place**, explore the secret gateway into Chinatown and the Melbourne Chinese Museum. Pass under the 'Facing Heaven' Archway—one of five handmade in China and gifted by Jiangsu Province in 1985 for Victoria's 150th anniversary. Beneath the vibrant neon signs, these laneways come alive at night.

Market Lane is home to a cluster of award-winning restaurants. Enjoy Bavarian fare at Hofbrauhaus, renowned Xiao Long Bao at HuTong Dumpling House, traditional Japanese cuisine at Shoya, or indulge at the well-loved Melbourne classic Flower Drum.

Visit **Paramount Centre's** vibrant post-modern 90's retail centre. An alternate pathway from Bourke Street to Little La Trobe Street, enjoy the quirky post-modern interiors while browsing an extensive range of dining options at its iconic food court.

(3) Meyers Place is recognised as Melbourne's first laneway bar, bursting with greenery, nightlife and art. Look out for Mike Makatron mural, *Jungle Funk*. At night, tuck into traditional Italian at the Waiters Club, or a drink at Loop Roof rooftop bar.

Nestled behind the historic 1867 façade lies **(4) 80 Collins Street**, a precinct with high-end fashion, fine dining restaurants and a luxury hotel, accessible through an internal laneway. Coffee lovers can grab a cup from Maverick, People's Choice, or Upstate Coffee, then relax under the precinct's sweeping glass towers in the cosy courtyard.

On weekdays, stroll through the grand classical pillars of **(5) 101 Collins Street** to uncover one of the city's most exciting art-filled foyer. Look out for French artist Céleste Boursier-Mougenot's floating porcelain installation *Duplex*. Don't miss a coffee break at Binary, and unwind in the lush East Garden. End your journey with a peek at *Barerarerungar* by Indigenous artist Maree Clarke, before exiting to Flinders Lane.

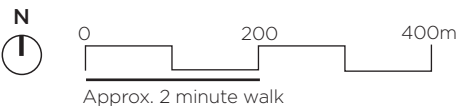
(5) AC/DC Lane honours Australian rock legends AC/DC, who filmed the video for It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock 'N' Roll) on nearby Swanston Street. Enjoy ever-changing music-themed art before heading to **Duckboard Place**, home to restaurants like Tonka, Lee Ho Fook, and A Hereford Beefstouw.

Transforming the old Gothic Bank Complex, **(6) Queen & Collins** is a series of contemporary workspaces and intimate squares, connected by a laneway that leads you from the old to the new. Stop for a coffee at Rustica before making your way into the new office foyer—a distinctly Melbourne space with a Venetian-Gothic spin.

From asphalt to bluestone, a 2024 streetscape upgrade to **(7) Hardware Lane** has added vibrance to this renowned food destination. Enjoy Al Fresco dining of food from all around the world. Drop-in to the popular Kirk's Wine Bar for its European-accented menu and fine wines.

With its industrial past visible in the red-brick buildings, **(8) Guildford Lane** is lush and green, adorned with hanging plants and a giant mural by Mike Makatron. It's a peaceful city sanctuary, and the posterchild of the Green Your Laneway Program.

Lastly, **(9) RMIT New Academic Street** is an exciting collaboration between an acclaimed team of architects, transforming RMIT into a truly urban university. This project boasts new laneways and gardens that sit alongside historic and contemporary buildings, creating an inviting and vibrant city campus.



Access and opening hours for all venues and spaces may vary. Please check with the venue before arriving.

Information correct at time of printing, July 2025.

THE POCKET BOOK OF
MELBOURNE
LANEWAYS

This pocket book highlights a selection of laneways that will lead you down the city's less traversed routes.

Melbourne is a big city defined by its historical Hoddle grid. Despite its scale, the city establishes a very human experience thanks to its network of interconnected laneways that are valued public spaces.

Built during the Victorian era, the city's laneways were once neglected and underused spaces that were designed for service access only. Today, they are destinations in their own right, internationally recognised for their street art, hidden cafes, secret shops and iconic restaurants.

Since the 1990s, the City of Melbourne has worked to revitalise and protect the city's laneways and arcades through proactive policies and initiatives, more recently the Green Your Laneway program.

The city's award-winning Central Melbourne Design Guide also supports the design of high-quality walkable laneways and precincts that contribute to Melbourne's unique urban spaces.

Legend

- 1 Featured sites
- 1 Additional sites
- Train station

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.