



RICHMOND · HOSPITALITY · LOCAL LIFE

ROYAL SAXON.

A revived neighbourhood pub where furniture helps historic fabric, new space and everyday service belong together.

The venue in context.

Royal Saxon sits on Church Street in Richmond, a neighbourhood where the local pub has long been part of daily social life. The venue's significance is less about monumentality than familiarity: it must welcome regulars, destination diners, groups, functions and a changing day-to-night crowd without losing its sense of being a local.

The 2009 transformation by Six Degrees Architects revived a derelict building and added green space to a dense urban setting. Published project material describes a demographically inclusive pub where old and new are deliberately difficult to separate. Remnant walls, infilled openings, fireplaces, timber and black ironwork create a setting that feels accumulated rather than newly imposed.

The walled garden was conceived to become increasingly enveloped by planting—an 'urban ruin' atmosphere in which the building and landscape grow together. That idea has a direct furniture consequence: pieces need enough warmth and texture to belong to brick, timber and foliage, while remaining practical for a busy contemporary venue.

A short history of a long-lived place.

2009

The renewed Royal Saxon opens in Richmond.

6°

Six Degrees Architects leads the architectural transformation.

OLD + NEW

Historic fabric and new interventions are deliberately interwoven.

**MANY
MOODS**

Dining, drinking, courtyard and function settings share one venue.

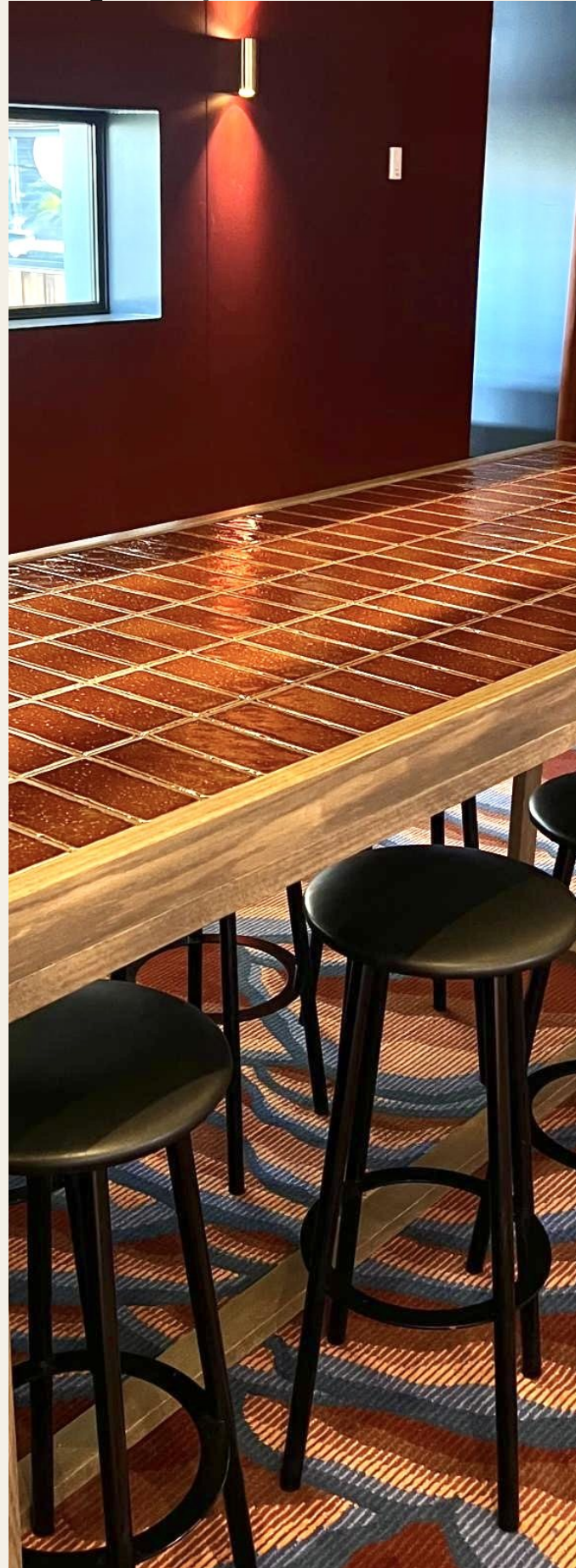


A local pub revived through layers, not imitation.

Royal Saxon's architecture works by preserving ambiguity. Some old elements are retained, while new walls and openings refer to the traces commonly found on inner-city sites. The result does not rely on a single heritage gesture; it creates a sequence of familiar and unexpected spaces behind the original façade.

The owner described wanting to offer different dining and drinking moods under one roof. That ambition is visible in the furniture mix: compact two-person tables, long communal formats, bar-height settings, dining chairs, perimeter banquettes and courtyard arrangements. Each changes the social behaviour of the room.

For a venue intended to feel inclusive, furniture must avoid signalling that only one kind of guest or occasion belongs. A useful range of seat heights, group sizes and degrees of enclosure lets people choose between a quick drink, a meal, a larger gathering or a more private corner.



The Yellow Design furniture response.



Yellow Design supplied commercial furniture across Royal Saxon's indoor and outdoor hospitality settings. Timber tables, black bentwood-style dining chairs, stools, banquette seating and communal pieces sit naturally against brick, tile, timber and planting.

The collection was planned around the venue's real operating needs. Table spacing supports service, repeated chair families create visual order, and a considered mix of two-person, group and bar-height settings gives guests an easy choice of how to gather.

Warm materials and robust construction help the furniture feel established within the building while remaining ready for daily hospitality use. The response supports the architectural idea without overwhelming it, allowing the original fabric, new interventions and garden setting to remain clearly legible. Architecture by Six Degrees Architects with the credited project team.

The collection, seen throughout the venue.



Five principles visible in the project.

01 **SOCIAL RANGE** Two-person tables, communal settings, banquettes and stools give different group sizes a natural place to settle.

02 **MATERIAL BELONGING** Timber, dark metal and restrained upholstery connect with brick, tile and the building's layered character.

03 **OLD + NEW BALANCE** Furniture feels established without resorting to theatrical reproduction or visual clutter.

04 **INDOOR + OUTDOOR FLOW** Related forms and finishes help courtyard, bar and dining spaces read as one hospitality experience.

05 **RESETTABLE ROOMS** Movable tables and repeated chair types allow staff to adapt settings without losing visual order.



HOW THE FURNITURE SHAPES EXPERIENCE

Furniture is a form of wayfinding.

The furniture photographs reveal a venue organised around social choice. Perimeter banquettes give groups a defined home and use wall space efficiently. Small tables preserve flexibility through the centre of rooms. Communal tables create a stronger shared energy, while stools keep bar zones active without occupying the depth of a dining setting.

That mixture helps the venue move through the day. Lunch can feel settled and conversational; later trading can become more fluid and energetic. Furniture supports that change without requiring the entire interior to be rebuilt between service periods.

The strongest visual connection is material rather than identical form. Dark frames, warm timber and robust surfaces repeat across different pieces. This gives staff the operational benefit of varied settings while guests experience a coherent whole.

What an operator and specifier must resolve.

01

GROUP SIZES

A useful spread of two-person, four-person and communal settings reduces awkward joins and unused seats.

02

BANQUETTES

Perimeter seating improves capacity but requires careful table alignment, access and upholstery planning.

03

WEATHER + LIGHT

Courtyard furniture and finishes must account for exposure, planting, shade and changing natural light.

04

STAFF RESET

Repeated chair families and manageable table sizes make room changes faster and visually controlled.

Why the venue matters beyond its walls.

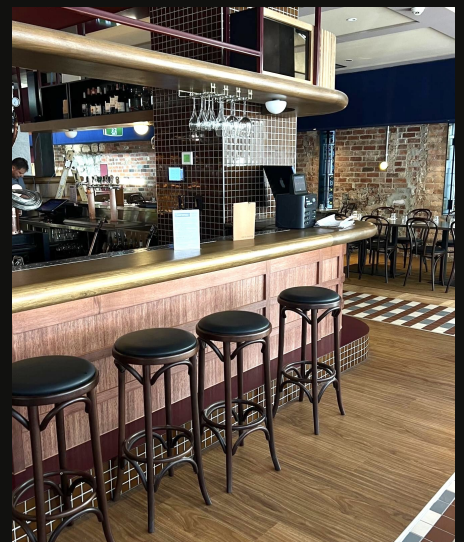
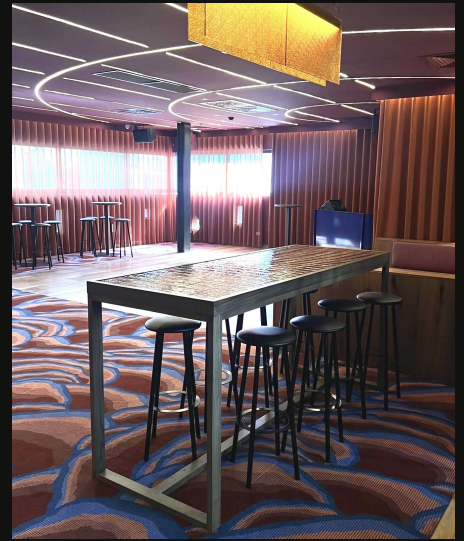
Design media recognised Royal Saxon for the way its renovation combined historic fabric with clean contemporary lines. IndesignLive highlighted parquetry tables, stained glass, timber cladding and ceiling panels, while the architectural press kit emphasised the revival of a derelict building and the creation of much-needed green space.

The venue's public identity has also been shaped by its adaptability. Official function material describes casual and exclusive spaces for different event sizes, reinforcing the value of furniture that can support ordinary trade and hosted occasions.

For commercial-furniture clients, the media story is useful because it shows that an inclusive venue is not produced by one dramatic object. It emerges through a considered relationship between architecture, landscape, seating choice, table formats and the practical choreography of service.



Scale, setting and atmosphere.



Five lessons for the next commercial brief.

01 **Design the social mix first** List the occasions a venue must support, then allocate furniture types and capacities to each.

02 **Use material as the connector** Different chair and table forms can coexist when a disciplined finish palette ties them together.

03 **Let the building stay legible** Furniture should reveal brick, openings, fireplaces and landscape rather than obstruct the architecture.

04 **Plan banquettes precisely** Resolve seat height, foam, table projection, access and service clearances as one coordinated detail.

05 **Specify for change** Choose pieces staff can safely move and reset while preserving the intended composition.



COMMERCIAL FURNITURE SHOULD DO MORE THAN COMPLETE THE ROOM.

It should help the whole venue perform.

Yellow Design brings furniture planning, sourcing, custom solutions and project coordination together. The goal is a finished environment that feels true to the design, works for guests and staff, and remains commercially dependable well beyond opening day.

A project shaped by many hands.

Great commercial spaces are collaborative. Yellow Design is proud to have contributed the furniture layer within this project, working alongside the venue, architects, interior designers, builders, consultants, makers and suppliers who brought the wider experience to life. Venue history and project context referenced in this story include:

— BowerBird, Royal Saxon Hotel architectural press kit

— IndesignLive, Royal Saxon House

— Royal Saxon official venue and function information

— Concrete Playground, Royal Saxon venue review

Creating a hospitality venue with more than one mood?

Talk to Yellow Design early. We can help develop the furniture brief, review an architect or interior-design schedule, source and customise suitable pieces, coordinate finishes and guide the furniture package through to delivery.