

A photograph of the Melbourne General Post Office (GPO) building, a historic structure with a prominent clock tower, situated in the Melbourne CBD. The building is surrounded by modern skyscrapers, and its reflection is visible in a pool of water in the foreground. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Melbourne GPO

The Melbourne GPO occupies the Bourke Street Mall frontage between Elizabeth and Swanston Streets, the block that has held the city's General Post Office since the 1850s. The existing building, with its clock tower and colonnade, was completed in stages from 1859 and is one of Melbourne's most recognised heritage buildings. The project is the conversion of the GPO into a retail centre, completed in 2005 at \$100 million, delivered with Baracon as project manager and project superintendent. The conversion opened the building's interior as a retail arcade behind the retained facade. The governing constraint is the heritage building. A converted GPO has to keep its facade, its clock tower and its public interiors while new retail floors, escalators, services and fire systems are inserted behind them, and the building sits on the busiest pedestrian corner in the city. Baracon's role was project management and project superintendent. The appointment covered the consultant team, the construction contract and the certification of the works, with the project manager and superintendent roles held by the same practice across the conversion. It is the heritage retail project in Baracon's portfolio, and it set the model the practice later applied at 299 Bourke Street and Centrepoint.

PROJECT LOCATION

Melbourne CBD, VIC

PROJECT YEAR

2005

STATUS

Completed

BARACON'S ROLE

Project Management and
Project Superintendent