

Building the Composer's Sanctuary

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The Artist's studio is a magical place. It beckons the muse's lips to kiss the ears of the creative force at play. For within those walls is a form of gestation. The gestation of creative ideas, coming to the fore from the ethereal realms of the universe. Though cloaked in mystery, the Artist's studio is more than a mythos. It imbues within the creator a pull towards excellence and creativity. Driven. It births the ideas and concepts from within the four walls of that sanctuary.

Initial Considerations

To build a space that is both sanctuary and workspace requires careful consideration. Namely, what workflow and creative output is required. Note carefully, rarely is a space a single use space. Often, a space may be required for multiple designations. In my article: *Composing from Anywhere* I outlined the future: an ability to compose from the far flung reaches of the planet. *The ultimate freedom and portability.*

See –

Composing from anywhere – emergence of the handheld composition studio - [6113ad_fe8032db0e524cbd87971d25df1ab8b4.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/35113ad_fe8032db0e524cbd87971d25df1ab8b4/pdf)

However, there are times where it is appropriate to have a custom designed space where one can work. My home base as an example encompasses multiple spaces within the one space including: Home office, writing space, recording space, mixing space, and teaching space. It can therefore be reasoned that the design of any new space would require some kind of intelligent design to create such a space.

The *Australian Guild of Education* is an emerging market force in both the International and Online education markets. Their home campus based in North Melbourne (Victoria) Australia is an ideal example of the considerations required to build a studio from scratch. The building refurbishment and in particular, the design of the *Composition Studio* will become the focus of several articles.

The Concept of Space

The concept of space within itself is complex. There are countless tomes written by Architects and Interior Designers outlining the requirements of how a space should be set out. Take for instance Mies Van Der Rohe: *Less is More*. This phrase became the war cry of many a minimalist including *The Minimalists*. Additionally, consider the adage of *Form over Function*. Conceptually, the use of a space and not the aesthetic of the space should take precedence. However, this can lead to brutalist, dehumanising architecture.

The ideals of a studio space should include both form and aesthetics. It is important to remember that a Composer, and in particular a Film and Media Composer will spend copious amounts of time working the craft. This can be done from anywhere. But it can also be done from a custom-built studio space. The space and its conceptual design therefore are more likely to be bespoke to the specific user. Or in the case of the *Australian Guild of Music*, the specific use cases that the space will encompass.

Limitations

The Artist can be the archetype of the dreamer. For them, budgetary considerations are not at the forefront of the mind in the creative moment. However, budgetary considerations are an important factor when designing a studio. It is easy to spend a million dollars (AUD\$1,000,000) on gear and equipment. The gear and equipment are however useless if it is not fit for purpose, or the user lacks the required technical skills to use the equipment. Considerations therefore should include what is required for use, the ability to scale equipment (upgrade) when acquiring new pieces, and the proposed budget.

The other core consideration is the physical space. The space itself will limit what can be achieved with equipment, furniture, and other accoutrements. What we may want and what is practical are two different considerations. It is easy to clutter a space, therefore making it difficult to work effectively. There is the notion that the 'creative genius' thrives in environments that are drawn to clutter and chaos. However, this is not always the case. A sense of order where a space is ready at a moment's notice is also important.

The sense of architectural and physical space are important factors when examining a Composer's studio through the contextual lens of Workspace sanctuary. To build requires both the physical and philosophical to ensure that the full needs of a space are met. A wholistic approach to studio design. The Australian Guild of Education is in its ascendancy. The series of articles intended will explore the process of building a purpose-built studio space over the coming weeks and months.

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