

# The Commercial Project

Centre for Higher Education Studies by Fieldwork and Brand Architects • Bruce Street by Carr • July by Ewert Leaf  
Aesop Collins Street by Clare Cousins Architects • Francis Gallery Los Angeles by BC • Century City Law Office  
by And And And Studio • Darebin Intercultural Centre by Sibling Architecture • Light Years Asian Bar and Diner  
by Studio Plenty • Firkbank Sandringham Curiosity Centre by Studio Bright—and more



# A Global Phenomenon— NOROCK by Chris and Toby Heyring

Words by Brett Winchester • Photography by Dion Robeson and Triianos Pakioulafakis







Father-and-son duo, Chris (left) and Toby Heyring (right) of NOROCK.

The global phenomenon NOROCK – from father and son team Chris and Toby Heyring – has changed the experience of dining out with its innovative self-stabilising table base technology. Having received multiple awards for its design, NOROCK is forging forwards with tables that provide style and comfort for both patrons and venue owners.

Backed by years of experience, the duo created NOROCK in response to the all-too-common challenge of the wobbly table. In creating the design, Chris drew on his 25 years of innovating in the automotive industry, where he invented Kinetic, a hydraulic car suspension that is now factory-fitted in prestigious vehicles like McLaren supercars, Toyota and Nissan. For his part, Toby brought a passion and expertise in creating, refining and advancing new technologies. With NOROCK now at the vanguard of design in the global market, the Heyrings have established partners worldwide, supported by warehouses in Illinois and Sydney. Distinguished with both a Red Dot Design Award and Good Design Award for product design in furniture and lighting, NOROCK has been implemented in many hospitality spaces due to its winning form and function.

Most recently, NOROCK partnered with award-winning Australian interior designers Tom Mark Henry on a limited release of NRxTMH, a designer-led collaboration that was launched at the world-renowned FuoriSalone Milan Design Week 2023. The pairing saw NOROCK reinvigorated through a palette that references the shades of the West Australian coastal landscape. NRxTMH features colours such as Peppermint Green – a nod to the native peppermint trees along the coastline – and Pindan Red, which is inspired by the rich soil of the Kimberley region. Forging NOROCK on a new path, the designer-led NRxTMH collection sees a union of technology and design culminating in a rich and vibrant dining experience.

At its core, the NOROCK technology has been changing patrons' dining experiences since 2012. Using a simple mechanical system with four interconnected pivoting legs, the table is steadied by all four feet, as they reach an average weight loading once placed on uneven ground. NOROCK is available in dining, counter and bar designs with options of four legs, a T-base or in a rounded base. Among the many restaurants, cafes and bars throughout the world to feature NOROCK are The Wild Tavern in London, England, Hutton Brickyards in Manhattan and The Aster in Los Angeles, United States, Rafi and Pellegrino 2000 in Sydney, Australia, and Nando's restaurants globally. A recent addition to this prestigious list is Tim Hortons, Canada's iconic coffee and donut chain, where each cafe is fitted with the self-stabilising Lunar disc base and Trail T-Base tables to withstand the fast-paced environment.

Not limited by geographical boundaries, NOROCK is available for purchase and integration in venues around the world. Coupled with its patented technology – which provides a stable dining experience no matter the surface – each NOROCK table is made to last with no maintenance or replacement parts required and a five-year warranty on the mechanism, providing a sustainable choice for all venues. Determined to bring an end to the worldwide issue of unsteady tables, Chris and Toby have imparted their knowledge and experience into NOROCK's form and function, unveiling an ingenious modern design that is highly functional and supports hospitality venues of all sizes.





# The Shy Guy by Izzard Design

Victoria Park, New Zealand

Words by Camille Khouri • Photography by Jono Parker



At this late-night members' lounge in Auckland's Victoria Park, the unassuming exterior covertness of a speakeasy is elevated on entry, as revellers indulge in a sparkling and deeply textured palette of colours and materials within an atmosphere that, despite the name, calls for lively interaction and a touch of extravagance.

Hidden behind Victoria Park Market's original brick façade and indicated only by minimal, subtly placed signage, The Shy Guy provides an exclusive club atmosphere for those who want to avoid the bustle of the city's bar life. In creating the interiors, Izzard Design used the external walls as a starting point, with Venetian glass bricks forming semi-separated zones within the space. These opaque walls allow light through with interesting, skewed effects and are complemented by a range of flooring and upholstery treatments. Chequerboard tiles alluding to *Alice in Wonderland* are peppered with opulent bamboo silk rugs, and banquette areas are encased to the ceiling with rich moss green velvet.

Arched openings and art deco-esque curves lend sophistication and curiosity to spaces, inviting exploration through the venue's zones. This is added to by a combination of low lighting, golden-hued lamps and black strip lights, which combine to activate certain areas while providing a quieter vibration in others. These are designed to be easily controlled and altered for different occasions within the space.

The Shy Guy simultaneously exudes both privacy and extroversion, with spaces to let loose on the dance floor, to lean in and converse undisturbed and those that allow a little of both. The success of this duality is in the materials as well as the spatial planning, which provides for a range of moods and occasions.

# An award-winning product meets an award-winning designer.

NR<sup>x</sup> TMH  
LIMITED RELEASE

NOROCK are celebrating the unique West Australian coastline we call home with a limited-release collaboration with designers Tom Mark Henry. Our self-stabilising table base tech will embody a new form representing the curves and colours of our environment while ensuring an elevated dining experience.

[ NO-ROCK.COM ]

