

# WPP acquires majority stake in Made Thought

WPP has announced its acquisition of a majority stake in Made Thought, a branding and design agency founded in 2000 by Paul Austin and Ben Parker that employs 55 people across offices in London and New York, the latter of which opened in January 2021.



Source: © dezeen [dezeen](#) Made Thought's shop of the future, with an experimental pop-up in London

The acquisition of the majority stake is aligned with WPP's accelerated growth strategy and focused M&A approach to further strengthen its core creative capabilities in marketing, communications and design, and follows the acquisitions of Universal Design Studio and Map Project Office, which both joined WPP in 2018.

## An industry-leading collective

Made Thought will be integrated into AKQA and will join forces with Universal Design Studio and Map Project Office to form The New Standard, an industry-leading collective that provides clients with transformational design and creative thinking.

The partnership will enable each studio to maintain creative independence while facilitating greater collaboration to deliver connected, cross-platform work, harnessing the specialist talent from across all design disciplines.

“WPP is known for its creative excellence and our award-winning work that helps drive transformative growth for our clients. Bringing Made Thought together with Universal Design Studio and Map Project Office to create The New Standard will

further strengthen our position as a creative leader and raise the bar for design that speaks to people across different platforms,” says Mark Read, CEO of WPP.

Made Thought partners with clients including Pinterest, Unilever, LVMH, MoMA, Sonos, Paul Smith and Rosewood Hotels to produce work rooted in beautiful design that also creates a meaningful connection with consumers and drives behavioural change.

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