MIRANDA KERR takes us home

JEAN-LOUIS DENIOT smooth decorator

PRINCESS in PARIS

HANdSOME hOMES
LA PARIS MELBOURNE PALERMO SYDNEY

TRENdING NOW
Vintage redux Island life Powder blue

ON THE TABLE
Elegant objects luxe linens

APRIL 2016
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A Miele Steam Oven’s unique ability to whip up multiple dishes, without transfer of flavour, while retaining natural taste, texture and goodness, has already inspired Shannon Bennett to create a menu of amazingly innovative dishes, such as Steamed Asian Chicken... cooked simultaneously with fabulous desserts. And the new Miele Pressure Steam Oven, which can reduce cooking time by half, has this seriously busy chef very excited indeed. For flexibility and creativity, anyone who loves authentic food, perfectly cooked, will see a Miele Steam Oven as a necessity in their kitchen too.

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- BEST HOSPITALITY INTERIOR
- BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR
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HOMES

MELBOURNE Hotel-style amenities and low maintenance are key to this lock-up-and-leave house.

LOS ANGELES Contrasts in colour and decoration create a variety of moods.

WILLIAMSTOWN A desire for something different prompted the design choices in this new build.

PALERMO A former nuns’ quarters in a monastery have become an evocative home for a designer.

SYDNEY A Japanese aesthetic meets a Balinese sensibility in a waterfront residence.

PARIS Jean-Louis Deniot opts for opulence and theatricality in an apartment for a Middle Eastern princess.

SYDNEY A storybook transformation brings light relief to this family home.

GARDEN The owners of this Sydney property were content to let Peter Fudge have free rein in the design.
UNEARTH THE UNCOMMON

ADD OBJECTS OF INTEREST TO THE SPACES IN YOUR HOME WHICH REFLECT YOUR UNIQUE STYLE AND PERSONALITY

a. Origio Hexagonal Mid-Century Pendant Light in Galvanised Iron
b. Barlow Pendant Light in Envis. Bar Stool in Antique Ash with Black Steel Frame
c. Finnic Bar Stool in Rust Patina Legs

d. Triple Pendant Light in Copper, Brass and Nickel Plated finishes

e. Luxe Dome Pendant Light in Matt Black
f. Pressed Metal #3 (Set of 11) in Zinc White Wash

11. Pressed Metal #1 (Set of 11) in Antique Green
12. Pressed Metal #4 (Set of 11) in Antique White
13. Pressed Metal #2 (Set of 11) in Antique Ash

k. Vault Concrete Bench with Rust Patina Legs
l. Triple Pendant Light in Copper, Brass and Nickel Plated finishes
m. Luxe Dome Pendant Light in Matt Black

f. Astor Ceiling Rose

o. Industrial Rivet Pressed Metal Panel in Raw Finish
p. Astor Basin Set in Oil Rubbed Bronze
q. Barona Concrete Coffee Table with Rust Patina Legs

r. Astor Basin Set in Oil Rubbed Bronze

s. Stamford 3 Seat Sofa in Vintage Cigar Leather

t. Louis XV Chateau Marble Mantle in White, pictured with Lux Premium Cast Iron Insert and Cover in Black & Rust Patina Legs

u. Spot Encaustic Tile in Turquoise and Black
v. Amarello Pendant Light in Antique Black
w. Farmhouse Concrete Sink, pictured with Sophia Kitchen Top Mixer in Chrome (WELS: 3S/8L/m)
x. Riviere 12 piece Tile Set in Brushed Tumbled Grey

y. Isola Ceiling Panel
z. The Drip Cluster Pendant in Black

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CONTRIBUTORS

JENI PORTER

In this issue, Jeni wrote about a Sicilian-Australian's apartment in Sicily (p122). Typical of Palermo, a city of secrets, this home is at the top of rickety stairs in a rundown building. The apartment is a soaring space with two huge windows with a view over a church that is 500 years old. There are so many beautiful details it’s hard to know where to look first but it’s also a really liveable home. Who are some enduring creative influences? Mark Rothko for a sense of wonder, Le Corbusier for a philosophy of living, Lydia Davis for her power and precision, Jørn Utzon for working on the edge of the possible, Michelangelo Antonioni for cinematic magic, and John Steinbeck for epic gut-wrenching stories. Where’s home? Copenhagen – a cosmopolitan city with a village vibe where aesthetic values are prized over materialism. Favourite local haunt? Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, near Copenhagen, where art and nature intersect. Ultimate escape? Casa Malaparte, Capri before the summer hordes take over the island.

ANGUS McRITCHIE

Angus wrote the travel story on Havana (p172) for this issue. Havana was more ramshackle than I’d imagined. The difference between the exotic image and the dilapidated reality was forceful. Passing time there obliges you to consider what life might be like without certain material things seen in the ‘richer’ world as essential. What are some enduring creative influences? In photography, the list is long, but I always return to those with a strong personal aesthetic and world view: Viviane Sassen, Daido Moriyama and Wolfgang Tillmans. Where is home for you? Montreal. I love the sharply defined seasons: bitingly cold winters, a powerful sense of reawakening in spring, summers of dozens of shades of green and no humidity, and the blazing orange/yellows of autumn. What design items are you coveting? Danish company Bloomingville’s easy everyday classics, especially their ‘Carla’ coffee cups. On your reading list at the moment? Tokyo Infra-ordinaire by French poet/mathematician Jacques Roubaud.

DAVIDE LOVATTI

Davide photographed the Palermo apartment (p122) for this issue. What I love about this apartment is the idea of a big box where the floors stand with as little contact as possible with the walls. It’s a project so light and technically accurate. Who or what are some of your enduring creative influences? Artists’ studios and places lived in by creative people and, of course, the Nordic style that is very close to my personal taste. Where is home for you? I live in a big loft and use it as a stage, changing objects and furniture from time to time. Favourite local haunts? I’m addicted to fleamarkets in northern Italy. Your ultimate travel escape in 2016? I would love to go to Norway’s Lofoten Islands and Sweden’s Stockholm. What is on your reading/viewing list at the moment? Reading: the autobiography of Oliver Sacks, a photo book by Wim Wenders and Fool magazine, which is all about food seen in a different way! Viewing: a lot of films of every kind and the new series of X-Files that reminds me of a time a few years back.
MY LIFE DESIGN STORIES

My Planet Kitchen from $19,000, design CR&S Varenna. Flute Dining Table $3,835, design Roberto Barbieri. Ventura Dining Chair from $1,265, design Jean-Marie Massed.
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MEDUSA BY EMMA ELIZABETH DESIGN
Welcome to the April 2016 issue of Belle. We have plunged headlong into the year with a line-up of stunning interiors – our cover apartment designed by Jean-Louis Deniot (p138) is literally fit for a princess. I have often wondered what it would be like to be a princess. That removal from the everyday – not having to deal with anything slightly ‘povo’ as Chris Lilley’s Ja’mie Private School Girl would say. I probably wouldn’t go to Bunnings anymore or if I did I would have some help to carry those heavy bags of pine bark. And I guess there’s really no need to go to Ikea if you are a princess or if you did you would have an assembly team waiting with Allen keys at the ready. A trip to the tip would certainly be an alien concept. But while I dream about potential princessly life enhancements, when you’re removed from the mundanity of everyday life you probably crave it – well, kind of. The princess in this story loves cooking and wanted a great space where she could hang out with friends and – OK – invite chefs in to give lessons!

We meet Australian creatives living abroad who have designed enviable and immensely liveable spaces – in Palermo, former lawyer and florist turned designer Mariella Ienna has conceived what writer Jeni Porter describes as a “vertical village within a former Dominican monastery built over 500 years ago” (p122). I am fascinated by this space as Mariella seems completely undeterred by logistical challenges – the apartment is on the top floor accessed by stairs only and the building materials have to come up via her neighbour’s balcony. This makes my ongoing mental conundrum of how to excavate, detonate and renovate the back part of my house with only access through my front door seem pathetic! In LA, creative couple Christine and Craig Gillespie undertook two renovations on their Brentwood home before getting the space just right (p106).

Back on the domestic front we have more than 40 pages of all-important kitchen and bathroom looks for the two most significant rooms in the house (p181). We trust you enjoy all the inspiration and aspiration the following pages offer – in the meantime, I am off to spread that tan bark and assemble a console!

Tanya Buchanan, Editor
Home at last.
Fashionable finds
Some perfectly fabulous pieces to enhance your here and now...

Edited by TANYA BUCHANAN

1 SHOULDER THIS Could the Octogone be the perfect day bag with its luxe mix of elegance and sport? Available now from the Sydney Hermès store. (02) 9287 3200 hermes.com

11 TURNING JAPANESE Edo Arts founders Paul and Karman Whitford are passionate about Japanese antiques, art and textiles and make regular buying trips for unique pieces like these. edoarts.com.au

2 CULT OF DOMESTICITY To mark 10 years Artereal Gallery will host two exhibitions – the first X/1 includes work from Anna Carey – a nostalgic piece from her Blue Angel collection is below. From March 2. artereal.com.au

3 FLOWER POWER Artist Alessandro Ljubicic has caused a sensation with his thickly layered floral oil paintings that appear to bloom on the canvas. Now his work has been translated to a limited edition of silk scarves and a bespoke fragrance. michaelreidmurrurundi.com.au

4 THE ARTFUL WALKER Boutique shoemaker Habbot has revealed its first artistic collaboration with Western Australia-based artist Emma Lipscombe. From $365. habbotstudios.com

5 LOCAL DIVISION is an exhibition from Sydney-born LA-based George Byrne. Influenced by the vivid clarity of modernist painting and seeking to elevate the mundane, George spins disposable utilities and architecture into arresting art. Until February 28. olsenirwin.com

6 INITIAL BRIEF Former corporate lawyers Alyce Tran and Tania Liu have parlayed their love of the monogram into an uber-chic and practical range of stationery and accessories. thedailyedited.com

8 IN BED WITH TED Ted Baker London is now working its magic in the bedroom with a selection of vibrant designs on premium fabrics. Available exclusively at Myer. myer.com.au

9 SLIM LINES This sweet journal is peppered with photographer Slim Aarons’ nostalgic images of the fabulous jet set from decades past. abramsnoterie.com

10 KEE PIECES The largest survey of Australian fashion ever will debut at the NGV in March. Covering 200 years, the exhibition will present more than 120 works including pieces from Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson (above). Opens March 5. ngv.vic.gov.au

8 HAWAII HIGH-O Christian Louboutin’s new Hawaii Kawai collection may not be the most practical for island living but it sure looks pretty. christianlouboutin.com

9 SLIM LINES

10 KEE PIECES

11 TURNING JAPANESE

2 CULT OF DOMESTICITY

3 FLOWER POWER

4 THE ARTFUL WALKER

5 LOCAL DIVISION

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2 CULT OF DOMESTICITY

3 FLOWER POWER

4 THE ARTFUL WALKER

5 LOCAL DIVISION

6 INITIAL BRIEF

8 IN BED WITH TED

9 SLIM LINES

10 KEE PIECES
12 FITTING TRIBUTE

Hubert de Givenchy: A Life in Haute Couture is a wonderful documentary about one of the last great French couturiers who is nearly 90. From March 4.

acmi.net.au/film

13 CRYSTAL CITY

Dunganov is a stunning new collection with a motif originally created by legendary Waterford designer Miroslav Havel, now reworked for a fresh look with cosmopolitan vertical cutting.

waterfordcrystal.com.au

14 BEST OF THE BEST

Australia’s most talented creatives, including teams from Louis Vuitton, The Australian Ballet and Belle’s own Steve Cordony will create an amazing table as part of the Best of the Best 2016 at the NGV. Gala dinner tickets are $650 per head.

bestofthebestexhibition.com.au

15 COOL SWEDE

Ben Gorham, the founder of Byredo, has worked with some of the best noses in the world to create a catalogue of exceptional fragrances such as Vetyver.

mecca.com.au

16 ENSCONCED WALL

These graphic, geometric I-O-N sconces are designed by Melbourne-based Porcelain Bear especially to enhance walls.

countryroad.com.au

17 DIFFUSE THE SITUATION

with this handsome diffuser from Cire Trudon. Featuring grooved antique glass, the vessel heats from beneath and melts fragrant wax cameo infusing delicious Cire Trudon scents into the air.

beckerminty.com

18 TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Weylandts has taken tribal motifs and a chic monochrome palette alfresco for its new outdoor collection.

weylandts.com.au

19 CLASSICS IN MONO

Le Creuset has launched its signature cast-iron collection in satin black and cotton – bringing delicious accents for contemporary cucinas.

davidjones.com.au

20 FINNISH PRODUCT

Mifuko Kiondo baskets are the brainchild of Finnish industrial designers Minna Impiö and Mari Martikainen. Handwoven in Kenya from sisal and food-grade plastic, the design collaboration provides a steady livelihood for local craftspeople.

luumodesign.com

21 ART MONTH COLLECTOR DINNER

Book now! Enjoy dinner at Redfern’s newest creative precinct during Art Month Sydney, where creative director Barry Keldoulis will interview artist and collector Jasper Knight and collector Danny Goldberg. $175, including four issues of Belle. To book phone, (02) 8267 9572.
PARISI

Hermitage by Art Ceram. Made in Italy.
Plant a floral fantasy, dream of an island idyll or enter a state of calm.

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**Flower CHILD**

1. Tibetan 'Iris No. 01' wool, silk and aloe rug, POA, from Behruz Studio.  
2. '19 Greek Street' limited-edition armchair, $5313, from Criteria.  
3. Moroso 'Glider' sofa, from $18,500, from Hub.  
4. Resin flower platter, from $295, from Dinosaur Designs.  
5. Moroso 'Ukiyo' stool, from $840, from Hub.  
7. Alesandro Ljubicic artwork, $9400, from Michael Reid Gallery.  
8. Chanel SS16 'Tropicalia' armchair, from $4090, from Hub.  
9. Tom Dixon 'Warp' bowl, POA, from De Ce.  
10. Phillip Low sculpture, from $900, from Pieces of Eight Gallery.  
11. 'Labirinto' coffee table, $1880, from Natuzzi.  
12. Moroso 'Antibodi' armchair, $8180, from Hub.  
13. Cappellini 'Eye Shadow' floor lamp, POA, from Cult.  
14. e15 'Colour' light, $2690, from Living Edge.  
15. 'Iridescent' 5-piece flatware set, POA, from ABC Carpet & Home.
Wicker and palm prints evoke the laid-back vibe of a summer holiday.

In the TROPICS

1 Stella McCartney SS16 'Pebble Drift' pendant, $260, from Dinosaur Designs. 2 Kravet by Jeffrey Alan Marks 'Waterpolo' fabric, POA, from Elliott Clarke. 4 Hay bamboo basket, from $55, from Cult. 5 Drum side table, $225, from Weylandts. 6 Herman Miller 'Landmark' chair, $5785, from Living Edge. 7 Vintage Tuareg carpet, POA, from Behnuz Studio. 8 Hay paper fan, $25, from Cult. 9 French 1950s bamboo lounge chair, $895, from Angelucci 20th Century. 10 'Millenary' hand-wound watch, POA, from Audemars Piguet. 11 Charlotte Perriand for Cassina 'Rio' table, $16,342, from Cult. 12 'Minx' wedge shoe, $765, from Stuart Weitzman. 13 Valentino 'Rockstud' cross-body camera bag, $1765, from Parlour X. 14 'Piccadilly' woven topped stool, $149, from Papaya. 15 Abaca bespoke fishtail rug, made to order, from Byzantine Design.
How’s the SERENITY?
Saturated blues that soak up a sea of calm and an ocean of cool.
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*POWER FOLDING REAR SEATS - THIS FEATURE IS ONLY AVAILABLE ON SPORTS LUXURY

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Industrial Evolution

The gritty backdrops of railways, tunnels, factories, workshops and warehouses around London inspired Tom Dixon’s Industrial Landscape collection of carpets, including ‘Wash’ (pictured), for Danish carpet company Ege. tmdixon.net
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WHAT WE LOVE RIGHT NOW

1. LOOMING LARGE
Sebastian Herkner’s ‘Nobsa’ collection of woollen rugs for Ames, are created with traditional looms in the town they are named after. sebastianberkner.com

2. SPACE ODYSSEY
Designed by Mathieu Matégot in 1953, the ‘Satellite’ pendant lamps are enjoying a revival thanks to Danish brand Gubi. culdesign.com.au

3. WICK-IPEDIA
EQ3’s ‘Assembly’ capsule collection includes Dylan McKinnon’s beautifully graphic candleholders that resemble line drawings. EQ3.com

4. NET WORK
In 1959 fishnets and tubular steel were used to construct Sadi Ozis’s ‘Fishnet’ chair. Today the re-issue is upholstered in tactile fabrics. walterknoll.de

5. TOP MANN
Kara Mann’s range for Baker, including the ‘Plinth’ side table and ‘Slant’ chair, combine bold shapes with stone and metallic accents. bakerfurniture.com

6. PAPER PLUS
Paper pulp and fibres give Italian ceramicist Paola Paronetto’s shapely ‘Cartocci’ vessels a delicate and tactile quality. paolaparonetto.com

7. SEEING GLASS
Composed of simple geometric lines and reflective materials, Elkland’s ‘Mirror Mobiles’ provide a subtle play of light. elkeland.dk

POLISHED TO PERFECTION
Playing with reflections of light and colour, the ‘Pli’ table is like a precious stone. classicon.com

ALL THE GLOSS
2. A FEAST OF Ds
Designers and collectors in the UAE are now connected to international markets, thanks to Paris-born Dubai-based Cyril Zammit (above), who launched Design Days Dubai in 2011. A rich cultural heritage of craftsmanship has positioned Dubai as a new creative capital where East meets West.

Held in March every year, Design Days Dubai is the world’s fastest growing collectable design fair, with 2015’s event featuring Australia’s Broached Commissions with the ‘Birdsmouth Table’ (pictured below) by Adam Goodrum who joined a stellar roster of 40-plus international design galleries.

Cyril unveiled Dubai Design Week in October 2015 – the newest entrant in the global design festival calendar and the umbrella event for the Downtown Design trade fair. “Yes there are a lot of Ds,” Cyril laughs, explaining that the new design week is held in partnership with the retail and exhibition precinct, Dubai Design District, “so we kept the branding simple as DxD”.

As the worlds of art, design and craft converge, the UAE is embracing its cultural background. Last September Cyril showed the first international exhibition of UAE designers at Beijing Design Week. Female designers featured strongly, employing age-old palm and wool weaving, mother-of-pearl inlay, ceramics and ancient dhow-building techniques, such as Rand Abdul Jabbar’s ‘Forma’ chair and table (above). Camel leather also features strongly in products (Zeinab Al Hashemi’s rug, above), while projects are being developed with luxury brands such as Hermès.

Design Days Dubai is on March 14-18. For more go to designdaysdubai.ae; dubaidesignweek.ae.

8. WHITE IS RIGHT
Coinciding with the ‘Das Haus’ installation at IMM Cologne, Sebastian Herkner’s ‘Bell’ table for ClassiCon has been re-released in white. classicon.com

9. PAINT FINISH
LA design store Consort called on Australian textile designer Shilo Engelbrecht to update this vintage chair using her painterly strokes. consort-design.com

10. WOOL’S WORTH
Variations in the depth of woollen yarns give the ‘Seasons’ collection of hand-tufted carpets by Studio Roderick Vos for Leoluxe an added layer of interest. roderickvos.com
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SYDNEY
MINING THE SEED
The 20th Biennale of Sydney, titled ‘The future is already here – it’s just not evenly distributed’, assembles works by more than 80 international artists across seven sites – each conceived as ‘embassies of thought’ by artistic director Dr Stephanie Rosenthal – including Cockatoo Island, AGNSW and, for the first time, Redfern’s Mortuary Station, now cast as the ‘Embassy of Transition’. Drawing upon the macabre heritage of the defunct Gothic Revival-style terminal, built in 1869 for the transportation of coffins and still redolent with the morbid decadence of Victorian mourning, UK artist Marco Chiandetti (right) has devised an installation that ponders displacement and the politics of migration. Named from a passage by Edgar Allen Poe, *The boundaries which divide Life from Death are at best shadowy and vague. Who shall say where the one ends, and where the other begins?* comprises a trio of aviaries filled with mynas – a much-maligned introduced species – feeding on sculptures wrought with birdseed (above). March 18-June 5. biennaleofsydney.com.au

ADELAIDE
WELD VIEW
‘DESTROYER OF WORLDS’ IS THE CULMINATION OF MATTHEW BRADLEY’S ‘ONE HUNDRED VESSELS’ PROJECT (RIGHT), FOR WHICH THE ARTIST BUILT HIS OWN FURNACE AND FOUNDRY EQUIPMENT AND TAUGHT HIMSELF METHODS OF METAL CASTING. APRIL 13-MAY 8. GREENAWAY.COM.AU

SYDNEY
OPEN ENDING
Auckland-based contemporary painter Julian Hooper constructs ambiguous figures from abstracted elements and art-historical tropes to beguiling effect, as in *Racer* (left). His latest series shows at Gallery9, March 9-April 2. gallery9.com.au

MELBOURNE
NO MISTAKE
Nicholas Mangan’s art practice draws correlations between natural disasters, colonialism and consumerism, mining connections with a documentarian process. His collage series Brilliant Errors (right) incorporates currency charts, NASA data and mythology to probe the sun’s impact on technology, the economy and culture. Until March 5. suttongallery.com.au

SYDNEY
MIXED MEDIA
With their earthy tones and not-quite-abstract landscapes, Anthony Cahill’s oil paintings, including *Mesa* (left), are among the offerings at Home@735 Gallery’s exciting group show, timed to coincide with Art Month Sydney. March 2-27. homeat735.com.au
PERTH
MAGNIFICENT EXCESS
‘Ryan Trecartin 6 Movies’ is a kaleidoscopic entree into the wild world of contemporary art’s most daring and influential image-maker. Fraught with narcissism and grotesque hysteria, the US artist’s video work includes Sibling Topics (still, above). Until May 8. artgallery.wa.gov.au

SYDNEY
WAR CRIES
‘Heavy Artillery’ probes the potential for art to act as weaponry for waging cultural warfare, filtered through the work of contemporary Chinese artists such as Xu Zhen – his European Thousand Arms Classical Sculpture is shown (left) – who use their work to speak truths to power. March 9-August 7. whiterabbitcollection.org

MELBOURNE
LIP SERVICE
One of Australia’s foremost photomedia artists, Pat Brassington’s lens is laced with a gossamer haze that belies her unsettling and erotically-charged subjects: warped bodies and domestic motifs seemingly situated in the recesses of the female psyche. This surreal mood permeates her latest series ‘Just So’, including Doyen (left). March 8-April 9. arcone.com.au

MELBOURNE
MAPS TO THE STARS
Queensland’s Institute of Modern Art is hosting a homecoming of sorts for one of the state’s most acclaimed contemporary artists, Cairns-born Daniel Boyd. Set within the IMA’s new exhibition space, The Green Room, the retrospective focuses on Boyd’s ‘map’ paintings, such as Untitled (left), which chart the contested narratives of colonisation. February 20–March 24. ima.org

BRISBANE
MAPS TO THE STARS
Queensland’s Institute of Modern Art is hosting a homecoming of sorts for one of the state’s most acclaimed contemporary artists, Cairns-born Daniel Boyd. Set within the IMA’s new exhibition space, The Green Room, the retrospective focuses on Boyd’s ‘map’ paintings, such as Untitled (left), which chart the contested narratives of colonisation. February 20–March 24. ima.org

SYDNEY
HOME MOVIES
Nicola Smith’s new show invokes the films of Chantal Akerman, the Belgian director who wrought intense narratives of domestic rituals. Attuned to the minutiae and malaise of ordinary life, the studies echo her fixed gaze to show fleeting moments of grace. March 4-April 2. sarahcottiergallery.com

MELBOURNE
CLASS OF 2016
FOR THE 2016 REDLANDS KONICA MINOLTA ART PRIZE, GUEST CURATOR MIKALA DWYER HAS ASSEMBLED 22 LEADING ARTISTS, WHO HAVE EACH CHOSEN AN EMERGING ARTIST TO EXHIBIT AT THE NAS SHOW. THE RESULT IS A DYNAMIC MEETING OF MINDS, WHICH INCLUDES ELISABETH PULJE, WHOSE WORK IS SHOWN (ABOVE). MARCH 14-MAY 14. NAS.EDU.AU
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SHEER POETRY

Architect Kerstin Thompson amps up the impact in her subtle structures with raw materials that age gracefully.

Photograph MARK ROPER   Edited by KAREN McCARTNEY
WHEN I MENTION THE WORK of Melbourne-based architect Kerstin Thompson to a photographer who has shot the award-winning House at Hanging Rock for a US magazine, she becomes quite poetic. “Kerstin’s work doesn’t hit you all at once,” she says. “But gradually you appreciate the deep thought and the subtlety of the design decisions within the spaces.” Moreover, of all the houses she has photographed she says that this is the one, unequivocally, that she would like to live in.

The appeal to a photographer is partly through the play of modulated light that Kerstin’s tightly knit palette of materials evokes. In this instance it’s the use of pre-cast concrete panel walls, blackbutt joinery and her signature black ceiling in form ply, married with concrete floors and sections of black reflective glass. There is a sense of modest, robust materials used with refinement. The house lies low and long in the landscape, facing north and positioned as close to the bush, at the back and side, as fire requirements allow. Its simplicity of form and sense of belonging to the land is enhanced by its terraced treatment reflecting the fall of the terrain. “Whether it’s a landscape or an existing building, we never consider the site ‘empty’ as there are always preconditions. So in a sense we are always starting with the same set of circumstances and we ask ourselves what latent things should we amplify in the creation of the building,” says Kerstin.

Hence, an open tract of land or a challenging suburban site is explored equally in light of the client brief. Kerstin places a great deal of emphasis on how her clients want to live now and into the future. “I am not one of those architects who cares about how a place is decorated once it is completed. I am very open, in fact, I enjoy seeing how different people choose to use the space for daily living,” she says. A prime example is the Apartment House in Melbourne’s Toorak for clients who embraced the notion of elevated, one-level living. “I designed a house in a U-shape with a central courtyard where the planting on the ground floor level, by landscape designer Fiona Brockhoff, is drawn up to provide greenery in the main living space,” says Kerstin. There is also a self-contained flat for guests or, perhaps in the fullness of time, a carer. “I seem to attract very feisty, knowledgeable clients and trust is earned in the many processes we go through. My goal is to find solutions, to keep the design on track and do so with integrity,” she says.

Yet Kerstin’s practice is not defined solely by residential work. Her recent remodelling of a 1960s gallery and car park space at Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) balanced the curatorial needs for a modernist white box with a much less finessed, more expressive circulation space. “As a practice we look at finding economies spatially, such as how to make the greatest impact in the fewest moves.”

These skills will come into play with a current project – the adaptive re-use of the old police stables for the University of Melbourne’s painting and drawing studios, alongside a performing arts space. Kerstin’s philosophy is one of minimal intervention, peeling back the layers to reveal what is there, and providing ingenious solutions that allow for easy transformation from daily working studios to an events and exhibition space.

Part of Kerstin’s skill is knowing how, in her own quiet way, to dial up the impact when needed. Aesop’s flagship store in Collins Street is a bespoke interior featuring an impressive leather curtain wall and black oxide steel fittings. Materials have been chosen for their ability to gain patina and age gracefully and this philosophy could be extended to all her projects – always current, thoughtful and, most importantly, enduring.

For more go to kerstinthompson.com.
VALE KEN WOOLLEY
I visited architect Ken Woolley not long before he died in 2015 to discuss a collaborative project and, while exhausted by his illness, his remarkable, razor-sharp intellect had not faded one iota. He recalled projects in detail, had his assistant fetch reference material and told anecdotes of furniture designs and the difficulty of sourcing the right fittings in the 60s. Not easily pigeonholed, his work spanned Darlinghurst’s St Margaret’s Hospital Chapel (above) to project homes for Pettit-Sevitt and furniture (right). Major works included Sydney Airport control tower and the Australian Embassy in Bangkok. His was a finely tuned aesthetic. “The underlying sensibilities that lead to the judgments involved are what count – the feeling of what is right, of appropriateness and harmony,” he said.
JENNY JONES

ART ON THE FLOOR

The 'Everlastings' from our 'Wildflower' rug collection, was designed by Jenny to share this bold and beautiful overhead view, of a bursting formation of everlasting flowers. Their graphic leaf and petal shapes are juxtaposed against the luxurious softness and luster of silk and wool. With an abstract fragility, this exquisite design highlights the contrast and beauty that exists within the Australian bush. Jenny is an international award winning designer.

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Medieval man
Artist Simon Hasan has spearheaded a renaissance of an ancient armour craft.

When a fascination for early industrial fabrication processes used to create objects underpins your thinking, it must be tough to bear the moniker ‘poster boy of British craft’, as Simon Hasan has been called. He shrugs off the tag, his practice self-described as ‘design archaeology’ fuses ancient craft with industrial design, elevating his leather furniture, lighting and installations into objects of desire. His extensive research and experimentation has put *cuir bouilli*, a medieval armour-making technique, back on the map, with leather his signature material.

“My starting point is to head to the nearest library to look for the oldest book I can find,” he quips, “the older the better!” He cites Chaucer’s 14th-century *The Canterbury Tales* as an example, with references to the pre-industrial process where leather is boiled at high temperatures into an extremely strong, solid material to form helmets, shields, breastplates, even water vessels and powder kegs. “Leather was the plastic of its day,” he explains. When Simon unveiled his 2008 graduate project, a ripple went through the design world because it showed traditional craftsmanship coexisting with industrial design. The breakthrough project opened doors to collaborations with luxury Italian brand Fendi at Milan Design Week, and exhibitions with Design Miami and Sotheby’s. Design Miami director and curator Wava Carpenter engaged Simon to join ‘Craft Punk’ – where designers worked and lived on site at Milan and the 750sq/m Spazio Fendi was transformed into a radical design performance space. Using traditional handcraft methods to create non-conformist objects and installations, the project proved innovation is possible, and on a tight budget.

Commissioned in 2011 by Northampton Festival to breathe life into a 700-year old market square overshadowed by high-street chain stores lead to Simon’s ‘Industrial Makeshift’ installation – a customised vending machine that dispensed 400 handcrafted objects that sold for a mere $6 a pop. Collaborations followed with a slew of elite brands, including Tom Dixon’s ‘Craft Work’, *Wallpaper* Handmade exhibition and a residency with Fendi highlighted by a trio of mannequins commissioned for the Peter Marino-designed London showroom. The faceted boiled-leather mannequins featured gilded panels of palladium and 22k gold, the project scoring a coveted *Wallpaper* Design Award in 2012. Other accolades include Design Museum (London) Designers in Residence, and the inclusion of his work in important public and private collections.

Simon made his first Australian visit in 2015 as keynote speaker of Parallels – International Craft and Design Conference at NGV as well as debuting new lighting at ICFF in New York and Maison & Objet in Paris, his growing fame testament to the increasing audience connecting with his work. “Craft is what design orbits around,” he says. “In this increasingly detached world the qualities of materials have never been more important.”

For more go to simonhasan.com; ngv.vic.gov.au.
Genius begins from the floor up.
Entrepreneurial supermodel Miranda Kerr is inspired by hearts and flowers.
THE ARTIST WHO HAS BEEN AN ENDURING INFLUENCE? Monet [5], his use of light and shade is mesmerising.

CONTEMPORARY ART THAT YOU MOST ADMIRE? I have a work by Damien Hirst [6] at home that I love and find inspiring: it's a red love heart with butterflies.

DO YOU COLLECT ANYTHING? I have quite a collection of crystals [1] including about 20 large rose quartz, a giant clear quartz that is so big I can't get my arms around it and several amethyst caves. I also have several pieces from Kelly Wearstler [4] that feature precious and semiprecious gemstones.

FASHION MUST-HAVES? A cashmere scarf [13], masculine coat, high-waisted jeans, white cotton t-shirts, ballet flats [12], vintage maxidresses and a great pair of white classic sneakers.

FRAGRANCE OF CHOICE? I use my own blend of essential oils and mix them up depending on how I feel. I love sandalwood oil for its grounding properties, rose for its balancing effects and lavender for relaxing. In terms of traditional fragrance, Escada 'Joyful' is my go-to.


MUSIC – WHAT'S ON ROTATION AT OFFICE AND HOME? I usually love to make my own playlists but I've been so busy with work lately and trying to spend quality time with Flynn that I've been resorting to Spotify playlists.

FAVOURITE FLOWERS? David Austin roses or peonies [3].

BEST DOWNTIME (IF YOU EVER HAVE ANY) PURSUITS? Meditation and massage.

ENTERTAINING – AT HOME? Essentials are fresh flowers, a great playlist, ambient lighting and food cooked with love.


FAVOURITE FILMS? The Big Blue, Dirty Dancing [7].

SHOPS AND ON-LINE STORES YOU FREQUENT? Most of my shopping is done on Net-A-Porter or I buy things on set.

MAGAZINES YOU READ REGULARLY? I prefer to follow social media accounts for my fashion fix.

TRAVEL – FAVOURITE REGULAR HAUNT AND WHERE IS ON YOUR MUST-SEE LIST? Qualia [2] in the Whitsundays and I would also love to visit Machu Picchu in Peru [8] one day.

NAME A FEW OBJECTS OF DESIRE THAT YOU WOULD BUY RIGHT NOW? Royal Albert champagne flutes and wineglasses [10], monogrammed table linen, and I'm always on the lookout for beautiful photo frames (my Miranda Kerr for Royal Albert silver frames will be available in May!).
**Design dossiers**

**1 UNDER THE EDGE** While Australian architect Peter Stutchbury renders his award-winning structures in raw materials of stone, steel, concrete and timber, the star is always the landscape, with stunning views revealed by swathes of glass. Lavishly illustrated, this volume opens a window onto Stutchbury’s practice – including his amazing Invisible House, 2014’s Australian House of the Year. Edited by Ewan McEoin, Thames & Hudson, $95

**2 BROOKLYN INTERIORS** Long known for its vibrant mix of quirky residents who think outside the square, it’s great to see Brooklyn’s idiosyncrasies celebrated. The author describes the area as ‘a bastion of design diversity’, and certainly the 24 residences featured – whether lofts, duplexes, brownstones or walk-ups – are chock full of original ideas assembled with wit and personality. Kathleen Hackett, Rizzoli, $89.99

**3 THE WORLD OF CHARLES AND RAY EAMES** The design world’s power couple whose philosophy was function before style, Charles and Ray Eames’ fame has increased exponentially as new generations discover their prodigious output. Compiled to accompany an exhibition of the same name, this book catalogues the many creations they applied their brilliant minds to: from architecture and furniture to games, film and more. Edited by Catherine Ince, Thames & Hudson, $99

**4 SHADES OF GREY** Grey is the colour du jour, the go-to shade that everyone is spruiking. Smart, practical and chic, it is, according to Kelly Wearstler “...masculine or feminine, strong or subtle... “. But there is more to it than just slapping on some grey paint – here is the inspiration and practical advice for bringing this elegant hue to life in your home. Kate Watson-Smyth, Hardie Grant, $49.99

**5 PAST PERFECT** Designer and collector – to name but a few of his passions – Richard Shapiro has devoted a lifetime to his two houses in Los Angeles and Malibu. Each room is redolent of history and romance and has a depth of meaning that articulates cultivated living. It is less about design and decoration and all about transporting himself, his friends and family to another time and place through the nuances of the interior schemes. Richard Shapiro, Rizzoli, US$55

**6 DREAM HOUSES ON THE WATER** Doesn’t everyone want to live on the water? And what type of dwelling would you choose? The architects’ responses to the sites featured are as varied as the locations – from lakes to fjords and beaches. If you really fancy any of these 30 private residences, there are plans and drawings to appropriate for your own magic plot. Alexander Hosch, Schiffer Publishing, $85

**7 THINK ECLECTIC** This is the era of personality decorating – if you love something, use it. Matchy matchy is out, unique treasures are in and audacious combinations are de rigueur. These interiors make pairing flea market finds with designer purchases seem so easy, but given that these are mostly the homes of designers and collectors their sleight of hand is more assured than most. Swimberghe & Verlinde, Lannoo, $125

**8 CASA MEXICO** This beguiling book illustrates that there’s more to Mexico than tequila and cactus. Regular Belle contributors Annie Kelly and Tim Street-Porter travelled south of the border to capture the colonial houses of the Yucatán region that are being renovated by enthusiastic design aficionados. The Mayan building techniques mixed with chic contemporary furnishings have created a unique design vernacular. Annie Kelly & Tim Street-Porter, Rizzoli, $105
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Shelter suite

Writer Ian Phillips and photographer Stephan Julliard switch focus to reveal their own interiors world.

Photographs STEPHAN JULLIARD

This page, from top: Featured in the world’s best interiors media, writer Ian Phillips (left) and photographer Stephan Julliard in their Paris home. The sofa, bought in LA, is covered in Grand Rapids fabric by Jim Thompson. Opposite page, top: ‘Cristalloïde No. 387’ console by Hervé Van Der Straeten. Below: The 70s armchair has lucite arms.
WHAT HAS INFORMED YOUR INTERIORS STYLE? HOW HAS IT EVOLVED? Our interiors style has largely been influenced by the people we’ve met through our work. We pick up ideas from the projects we shoot and write about and there are a number of people who have become good friends, like the artist Nancy Lorenz and the textile designer Dominique Kieffer. So, we love to include their work in our apartments. Our style has certainly evolved. The very first flat we created together some 12 years ago was dominated by Scandinavian mid-century furniture and darker woods. Now, we favour a much lighter look and love 20th-century American design.

DOES YOUR HOME DOUBLE AS A WORK SPACE? Yes, often computers are turning even at night, uploading images. As we both travel a lot for our jobs, we conceived the apartment as a kind of hotel suite.

WHAT APPEALED TO YOU ABOUT THE SPACE? The location – in the 7th arrondissement of Paris near the Rodin Museum. The area is quiet, very convenient, and we have some illustrious neighbours. Both Bernard Arnault and Emanuel Ungaro live in our street.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE PIECES? Stephan’s is definitely the Hervé Van Der Straeten console. He’s a big fan of his work and loves its clever construction. He’s also really keen on the desk from Dare Studio. Mine is the Nancy Lorenz painting. It’s just so elegant and soothing, and I love the way it reflects the light. Then, there is the set of Gustavo Pulitzer dining chairs, originally made for a trans-Atlantic cruise ship. There aren’t too many great dining chairs out there and I was particularly happy to find these. I always say that I shall never part with them. I purchased them from a rather unscrupulous gallery in San Francisco via 1stdibs, which didn’t give a very correct condition report. They arrived completely bashed up with several of the legs wonky and askew. As our upholsterer noted, “It looks like someone threw them out of a third-floor window.” But he worked his magic and got them back into shape. And I asked an interior designer friend, Chahan Minassian, to help choose a fabric for them. I had originally thought a pale blue, but he insisted on
celadon green. What’s crazy is that he’d never been to our flat or seen any photos of it. I’d just described it to him. Yet the colour he chose turned out to be absolutely perfect. That’s pure genius!

WHERE DO YOU SPEND MOST TIME AT HOME? Sadly, at our desks. When we’re in Paris, we spend the better part of our time working.

IS THERE A PERIOD OR STYLE THAT APPEALS? We have a preference for mid-century American design but avoid obvious names like Eames, Bertoia, Nelson and the like. We see enough of their pieces doing our jobs and prefer the lesser-known and more unusual. We just buy things we love. We like the clean lines and generous forms of American design, and it’s not so prevalent in Paris so it looks a bit different. We mix in a few contemporary pieces as we think it’s important that an interior is also in touch with its time too.

WHAT COULDN’T YOU LIVE WITHOUT? Ian: My Puiforcat vegetable knife. The French are supposed to be great gastronomes, but I do all the cooking. For years, I struggled with cheap cutting utensils and the knife Puiforcat developed with Pierre Gagnaire changed my life – or the parts of it I spend whipping up dishes in the kitchen.

IF YOU DIDN’T LIVE IN PARIS, WHERE WOULD YOU LIVE? That is our eternal question. Stephan would definitely like to live in either LA or New York. He loves the energy of both cities. I’m not sure. I keep thinking about leaving Paris, but I never find anywhere better.

WHICH DESIGNERS, ARCHITECTS OR INTERIOR DESIGNERS DO YOU ADMIRE? For designers, I’d say Gio Ponti, Carlo Mollino, Poul Kjaerholm and Angelo Mangiarotti for vintage, and Paul Mathieu, Hervé Van Der Straeten and Jaime Hayón for contemporary. For architects, I admire the sensuous nature and curvaceous forms of Oscar Niemeyer’s buildings, and think the greatest homes of the 20th century were designed by Richard Neutra. They are just so sleek and he created the perfect interplay between the inside and outside. For interior designers, we love Jean-Louis Deniot. He’s not only mega-talented, but also great fun. We’re very close to Kelly Wearstler and love the originality of her style, plus she’s a super-sweet person. And we appreciate everyone from Joseph Dirand for his strict graphic lines to Muriel Brandolini for her wonderful use of colour, and many others including our own interior designer, Damien Langlois-Meurinne.

YOUR FAVOURITE ARTISTS? I’m not a huge fan of contemporary art. I’ve written about the homes of many collectors and find the same artists in many of them, and few of them touch me. My favourite art is often that which plays on perceptions and features optical illusions. That’s the case with Anish Kapoor and Olafur Eliasson – I’m a big fan of both. My favourite artist of all time is Vermeer. There is a magical quality to his paintings and a dazzling sparkle to the pigments he used. We don’t collect anyone – one of the downsides of living in Paris is that flats here are small.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON? I’ve been talking about writing a novel for years. The plot line is well-established in my mind. It’s time for me to finally write that. And Stephan has plans to branch out a little more from interiors. He did his first fashion shoot this year, which made the cover of a magazine and he would like to do more, as well as food photography.

WHAT IS THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND YOUR WORK? Quality, quality and more quality. We’re always shocked when we learn that some photographers today shoot a house in half a day. We like to honour the fact that so much work has been put into creating an interior by taking the time it really deserves to create the best images possible and also to write the most entertaining text. So many people buy shelter magazines just to look at the images that if you don’t tell a fun story through the article, they won’t bother reading it and will simply turn the page instead.
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**SLEEP**

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AUSTRALIANS HAVE LONG had a passionate affair with luxury European cars, Calvin Luk among them. The Sydney-born designer takes the next-generation BMW X1 SUV to a new level with high-tech controls, a more spacious interior, and ultra-comfortable features and fittings, all with an Australian spirit.

The BMW X1 sports the latest in German engineering and the quintessential design elements of the revered X range, a class of cars for those who appreciate true quality. The new interior space is over 50mm taller for a clearer all-round view, rear legroom is up by 66mm and storage expanded, including a generous 505-litre boot that can stretch to an amazing three times its size at a touch. Two full-size cup holders sit under a sliding cover in the console – a perfect fit for coffees.

Luxe interior materials include a choice of buttery leather seats or hardwearing Sensatec, easily wiped clean of sticky fingermarks. The X1’s bold sensuous curves can come in a palette of 12 evocative neutral finishes including black sapphire, chestnut bronze, platinum or a breakout Mediterranean blue.

The BMW X1 is fitted with a range of sophisticated standard features to negotiate those urban hazards including ConnectedDrive, Real Time Traffic Information, Driving Assistant, Park Assistant, Rear View Camera and more. The intuitive BMW Navigation now comes as standard with the signature iDrive controller, making it easier to beat traffic tangles. Under the bonnet intelligent all-wheel drive, enhanced aerodynamics and advanced chassis technology help keep your journey on an even keel – whatever the landscape.

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Super sleuth

Follow your nose and investigate a killer wardrobe that gets results.

Edited by HARRY ROBERTS

1 Patinated bronze sconce by Maison Leleu, approx. $3393/pair, from 1stdibs. 2 'Meisterstück LeGrand Traveller' fountain pen, $860, from Montblanc. 3 Large 'Tank Louis Cartier' watch in 18k gold, $13,800, from Cartier. 4 Penhaligon 'No.33' EDC, $181/100ml, from Agence de Parfum. 5 Larose grosgrain-trimmed rabbit-felt fedora, approx. $402, from Mr Porter. 6 ClassiCon 'Roattino' lamp, $3270, from Anibou. 7 'Clubrounds' sunglasses, $210, from Ray-Ban. 8 Rubinacci medallion-print silk tie, approx. $342, from Mr Porter. 9 Baker 'Bevel' lounge chair, POA, from Cavit & Co. 10 'Art Deco' cufflinks, $395, from Georg Jensen. 11 'Joubert' jacket in Sand, $599, from MJ Bale. 12 Cedes Milano bamboo magnifying glass, $319, from Matches. 13 Arquiste 'Art Deco Velvet' candle, $99, from Becker Minty. 14 Hermès S16 Menswear. For stockists see Address Book.

Femme fatale

Make them swoon with sharp tailoring, blood-red lips and a flash of gold.

Edited by LUCY McCABE

1 'Reverso One Cordonnet' watch, $10,800, from Jaeger-LeCoultre. 2 Maison Michel 'Virginie' rabbit fur hat, $802.65, from Farfetch. 3 Gubi 'Multilite' brass pendant, POA, from Cult. 4 Balenciaga Vintage metal and bead sautoir necklace, $672.55, from Farfetch. 5 Tom Ford 'Patent Finish' lip colour in Stolen Cherry, $75, from David Jones. 6 Céline 'Symmetrical' calfskin cross-body bag in Chestnut, $2695, from Parlour X. 7 Fendi S16. 8 Baker 'Athens' lounge chair, POA, from Cavit & Co. 9 'Paris Nouvelle Vague' earrings, $36,200, from Cartier. 10 'Le Vernis' nail polish in Dragon, $41, from Chanel. 11 Agnelle 'Celia' leather gloves, $192, from Matches. 12 Valentino cape-sleeved georgette blouse, $1854, from Matches. For stockists see Address Book.
No.2 Figue De La Forêt (Figs of the Forest)
No.4 Les Baies Sauvages (Wild Berries)
No.6 Le Désir Ardent (Burning Desire)

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Inspired by meandering through the forest after rainfall, with the juxtaposing scents of Sweet Figs and Mossy Woods.

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No.6 Le Désir Ardent (The Burning Desire).
A seductive and sensual fragrance with soft powdery notes of Patchouli combined with White Honey and Musk.

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Pillows feature fabrics Yukata Batik Indigo, Shibori Dot Marine Blue and Shibori Dot Kiwi from Thibaut.

BEAUTIFUL FABRICS, WORRY FREE LIVING.
GUEST DESIGN EXPERT Cameron Kimber (pictured with interior design editor, Lucy McCabe) gives us the lowdown on the ottoman and why the multi-functional piece is the ultimate complement to every living room. “Not only is it useful as a footstool for reclining, an ottoman can act as a coffee table, layered with stacks of books and objects. I favour upholstered ottomans to introduce fabric into the scheme, softening a room for a more casual look,” he says.

Ottoman empire
Indulge in a little ottomania and embrace the small stool that is super useful as well as being decorative.
6. DUAL PURPOSE
Place a tray on the ‘Lowlife’ ottoman, POA, and it will serve as a side table, ideal for happy-hour entertaining.

mcmhouse.com

7. HIDE & SLEEK
Flexform’s ‘Bangkok’ ottoman, from $5090, is wrapped in intricately woven butter-soft leather.

fanuli.com.au

8. GO FOR GOLD
Hand-carved and finished in 22k gold, the ‘Louis XIV’ bench, POA, will add luxurious elegance to a room.

dennisandleen.com

9. FOOT NOTE
Topped with a plush leather cushion, this Team By Wells ‘Flow’ footstool, $3125, encourages you to put your feet up.

domo.com.au

10. NAILING IT
Baker’s ‘Alexandre’ leather stool, $2806, has a decorative nail trim, evoking French neoclassic design.

cavitandco.com

11. LONG STORY
Hickory Chair’s elegant ‘Cluny’ bench, from $3610, will sit beautifully along the foot of a bed.

laurakincade.com

12. CANE & ABLE
Made from woven rattan, the ‘Pacific’ ottoman, $345, is ideal for coastal-style interiors.

cocorepublic.com.au

13. FIT TO SIT
Jaime Hayón’s playful ‘Ro’ footstool, $1504, for the Republic of Fritz Hansen, will provide extra living room seating.

cultdesign.com.au

Combining clean lines and turned walnut legs SCP’s ‘Oscar’ ottoman, from $6495, is a balance between modernity and tradition.

bubfurniture.com.au
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PARIS
SAVOIR FLAIR
On a mission to preserve French craft and design heritage, Fort Royal has opened a new Parisian gallery that exhibits artisanal creations by exceptional glassmakers, metalworkers and marquetry specialists. fort-royal.com

SYDNEY
SILVER STANDARD
Inspired by geometric, Scandinavian and art deco references, Danish design house Georg Jensen’s new London flagship boutique (above), on Mayfair’s Mount Street, reflects the silverware brand’s rich heritage. georgjensen.com

NEW YORK
RUG ADDICTION
Vibrant handmade rug designs line the walls and floors (left) of The Rug Company’s new Uptown showroom, providing a showcase of endless inspiring design possibilities. therugcompany.com

NEW YORK
LIGHT FANTASTIC
Decorator Carrie Hayden’s Seattle outpost, Hayden Collective, features a glamorous collection of furniture, lighting, art and accessories (below) by the likes of Aerin Lauder and Kelly Wearstler (Aerin ‘Sommerard Triple-Arm’ floor lamp, right). carriehayden.com

NEW YORK
BRAZILIAN BEAUTIES
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Photographs WILL HORNER  Production + styling LUCY MCCABE

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Follow the dream teams who have created these eminently desirable homes, from a former monastery in Palermo to a waterfront wonder in Sydney.

DESIGN ARTISTRY
A balance between dynamic and calm spaces characterises this Los Angeles home. See Positive Energy, page 106.
STAYING CENTRED

Hotel-style amenities married with home comforts create a rewarding living space that's also easy to leave.

Photographs SHANNON McGrath  Words CARLI PHILIPS  Styling IMOGENE ROACHE
This page A Joshua Yeldham artwork keeps watch in the living area. Throw and bowl from Safari Living. Opposite page A handcrafted tapestry wall hanging-cum-rug by Patricia Urquiola offers a warm welcome by the elegant front door. Brass vessels by Tom Dixon from Safari Living.
Set on the border of suburbia but with all the joys of vibrant inner-city living right at hand, this house celebrates the best of both worlds, according to its architect Rob Mills. When the owners, a successful couple in their 60s, decided to reward themselves by building a new house, the architect accompanied them every step of the way, from searching for the right land to planning, building and decorating this grand residence that he describes as “having a fantastic balance of suburban-style space and light with all the advantages of living in the centre of town”.

The owners had already worked with Rob on a house designed by Wayne Gillespie, one of Victoria’s best-known residential architects who amassed a fine legacy in his 30-year career. “A building should be designed in an honest way without resorting to featurism,” Wayne said. “It should be restrained and not compete with the surrounding buildings in an egotistical or vulgar manner.” His pure, clean lines so appealed to the owners of this residence that they had already lived in two of Wayne Gillespie’s houses prior to building their own – one of which had been renovated by Rob Mills.

“We already had a feel for Rob’s work and style so he was the immediate and obvious choice to build our new home. We also knew that Rob was a fan of Wayne’s and they both have a beautiful sense of proportion which appealed.” Creatures of habit when it came to location, all three properties the owners had lived in were just a few blocks apart in the same area, Melbourne’s exclusive South Yarra. Frequent travellers, they envisioned a “lock and leave” urban home that fostered practicality and ease of living and that didn’t require daily care. “This house is so liveable and low maintenance that all we have to do is rake a few leaves when we return,” say the owners.

A home away from home, “it’s convenient inner city living minus the concierge”, says Rob. Inspired by the convenience and quality of a luxury hotel, the house is remote-control operated and offers self-contained amenities including a lift. There’s also a swimming pool and in the basement is a cellar, four-car garage, music room, sunken courtyard and a gym.

The pièce de résistance, however, is a large, dark-stained oak dressing room centred with an island of drawers with a leather top. The room evokes the ambience of a luxury fashion store and the owner has a list of envious friends. The finish echoes that of the flooring of Belgian oak boards that are used throughout and were created using an age-old smoking process. Rob bought the B&B Italia pendant light for the dressing room on a trip to New York where he fell in love with it because it reminded him “of stars in the sky”.

S
Minotti ‘Divo’ side table in black nickel. A Charles Blackman artwork hangs above the console. Opposite page, from top left Shelves in the study area hold a collection of objects found on the owners’ frequent trips abroad. A glossy grand piano anchors a corner of the formal sitting room.
This page. Places to hold the owners' objects and artworks were designed into the home. Artwork by Camie Lyons from Scott Livesey Galleries. Opposite page clockwise from top left: The sleek kitchen. The staircase was designed to maximise light and space. ‘Lowe’ custom dining table from Hub. Artwork by Todd Hunter. ‘Husk’ chair by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia.
Architect Rob Mills helped the owners of this new Melbourne home to source the land, then build and decorate their property. Located in an inner Melbourne suburb, the home has the luxury of space with a surrounding Jack Merlo-designed garden and a pool. High tech but easy-to-use features have been installed that make it possible to remotely control the home and for easy management of the property. The neutral palette and quietly glamorous interiors offer a peaceful life on the fringe of the city.

A master craftsman created the dressing room’s bespoke stained joinery. The architect sourced the light on a trip to New York. Opposite page from left In the main bedroom, a ‘Cuoio’ lounge chair by Eoos for Walter Knoll and an artwork by Luke Sciberras. Works by Colin Pennock (left) and Matt Barton.
Starting with a clean slate, Rob was engaged as architect, interior designer and landscaper. Working with more mature clients, the architect says the design process was measured and carefully considered. “They were ready to embrace new ideas, but it took time,” says the architect, who had to satisfy the clients’ functional concerns without sacrificing sophistication.

“It’s Rob’s design, but we’re very practical people and there were a few things he would dig in his heels about,” say the owners, referring to the architect’s insistence on using glass to wrap the U-shaped rear. “We were nervous but Rob was adamant. And of course, he was absolutely right.”

The refined palette marries familiar materials including timber, stone, stucco and bronze, which has been used on the door hardware, clad on the structural columns and powder coated on window frames. An oxide was added to the hard plaster to create a velvet look. The result is a streamlined aesthetic with dressed-up natural materials.

When it came to refurbishing, it was a case of out with the old and in with the new. Neutrality was key in order to insert new furniture and furnishings into the space and getting the colour just right was essential. “Constrained materials sit lightly in the background so that the clients could introduce their own furniture and artworks,” says Rob. Against the backdrop of the couch in the living room hangs a moody Joshua Yeldham painting, and in the dining room there is a strong work by Todd Hunter. In the entryway, a heavy wrought-iron front door leads to the grand entrance and two-storey void lined with a show-stopping Patricia Urquiola tapestry that travels from the ceiling, down the wall and across the floor.

Outside, the Jack Merlo-designed garden, which completely surrounds the property and includes a swimming pool, has a great relationship with the house. “We made the garden visible from within the house so you can open the doors and the outside can come inside,” explains Rob. “We chose similar materials for the interior and exterior and that allows your eye to travel through to the garden – it links it and becomes one with the landscape. This creates a greater quality of life for the owners.”

Having helped create this comforting and reassuring home, Rob says, “it’s a residence designed for freedom and the knowledge that you can shut the door behind you when you leave and have the peace of mind that everything will be okay while you’re away.”

For more go to robmills.com.au
POSITIVE ENERGY

Juxtaposing rooms of colour and decoration with calmer spaces provides the exact tempo the owner was seeking for her home.
In the entry to the house is a Swedish Gustavian lounge chair upholstered in Kashmiri fabric from Indigo Seas in LA. The light fitting is from Morocco. The view through to the kitchen shows Christine’s predilection for layering, with a kilim rug placed over traditional Moroccan concrete tiles. Mid-century Scandinavian chairs were found on 1stdibs. Opposite page The owner, Christine loves portraits and these two are wet-plate collodion photographs by her brother David Puntel who is an artist based in Berlin.
For her 50th birthday, Craig Gillespie surprised his wife Christine with a choice – a vintage watch, or a stuffed ostrich. “Olaf (the big bird that hangs out in their living room) won in the end,” says Christine. “I see taxidermy as a celebration of beauty. I love the juxtaposition of these gorgeous fabulous creatures in an urban environment. I’m especially fond of birds.”

The fact that Damien Hirst recently bought an entire collection of specimens made by Sinke & Van Tongeren (the same people who made Olaf) and displayed it in London is a testament to taxidermy’s place in the art world. Proof of this couple’s good eye too.

Christine and Craig met at art school in New York. She’s a US East Coast girl and he’s from Australia. These days their home is in Los Angeles – a multilayered cabinet of curiosities – and has what Christine describes as “positive and negative space”.

“It’s about creating contrasts between rooms. One room, like our lounge, can be a kind of contained chaos, and then the dining room is much calmer. I like moving between the rooms depending on how I’m feeling. Sometimes you need a space to be stimulating and sometimes you just need a place to rest.”

The home is an exercise in juxtaposition, contrast and creativity. Imagine an outdoor lounge area under the trees, among the tree ferns, complete with a chandelier, fireplace and a mirror on the mantelpiece. To actually bring off such a bold move is talented, and very LA. But it works.

Christine and Craig bought the property in 2003. With two young boys, Max and Miles, and Craig’s career as a film director moving into higher gear, the pressure was on to get settled quickly. Located on one of Brentwood’s quieter streets between Santa Monica and Beverly Hills the house was rapidly converted for their immediate needs, but it remained dark and spatially constrained. “Up to a certain point we accepted what we’d done. It was kind of an ‘L’ shape and we both thought, ‘This is a kind of fun, quirky renovation’.
The vintage pendant lights in the dining room are from Orange, LA. Table is by Eero Saarinen and the chairs are by Norman Cherner. The credenza, designed by Nathan Yong, is from Design Within Reach. Large portrait was bought at an art auction in Budapest. The portrait on the credenza is by Christine’s brother David Puntel. A bright blue rug from Afghanistan provides one of the pops of colour Christine wanted. The wall colour is Farrow & Ball ‘Down Pipe’. A traditional carpet serves as a stair runner. Olaf, the taxidermied ostrich, has pride of place in the living room.
The white kitchen provides what Christine calls 'negative space', offering a relaxing mood in contrast with the busy decor of other rooms. Mid-century Scandinavian chairs found on 1stdibs. Farm table is from Brenda Antin, LA. White glass pendant light is vintage. A striped kilim rug is layered over the Moroccan concrete tiles. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: A trumpet vine around the window blends indoors and out in the main bathroom. The pool gets a workout in the LA summer. Waterworks bath and tapware. Eero Saarinen side table with figures bought in Japan. Painting is by Marybeth Thiellhelm.
“But then one year my family came for Christmas. It was too crowded. At meal times you couldn’t get to the dishwasher or open the refrigerator when people were sitting around the table.” Overnight the couple faced reality – the home wasn’t working. They needed a bigger space.

LA architect Tim Barber has a strong practice based on historic preservation and adaptive reuse, and is renowned as a definitive interpreter of the Southern Californian architectural vernacular. In 2013 he was engaged to retain the home’s cottage-like charm with its terraced gardens, bringing in much-needed light and space, creating places to be alone or for a larger group to interact.

“Now it’s the kind of home where you can easily find yourself alone, even when there are eight or 10 people in the house. I like that we really use each and every space. There are small courtyards and porches for more intimate times, but you are never far from someone else,” says Christine.

While Craig worked closely with the architect on the big picture, getting the circulation between the spaces and the quality of light just right, Christine is largely responsible for what she calls ‘the colouring in’.

“After art school Craig went into film directing and I got a job as a creative director in New York. A lot of my clients were in the home furnishing business so I got to go out and visit a lot of fabulous homes and decorators. So with my background, I think that’s really how I see my home. Its flashes of colour are like a Matisse painting. I love having ‘pops’ of fabrics and colours mixed together, but on a really clean background.”

Christine displays her collections gathered over a lifetime throughout the house. “I like to contain things in holders, and have little compositions around the house, and I change it all the time. For me, my home is like living art and I am continually moving things around and redesigning but using the same objects. Every piece means something to me! I’ve collected it all, and it’s all memories of travels. Even if it’s just a little book … it all means something. Memories are everywhere and they are the art to me.”
This page: The main bedroom is a haven of tranquillity. Dosa fabric on the bed is woven with silver thread. Wooden armchair is a vintage piece bought in Vietnam. Stingray skin bench at the foot of the bed came from R&Y Augousti in Paris. Opposite page: A Moroccan pendant light anchors the outdoor seating area. At the other end is a large steel fireplace with a mirror and chandelier.

SPEED READ

» Creative couple Craig and Christine Gillespie bought a house in LA as Craig’s work as a film director started to take off. » After a quick renovation prior to moving in, the couple realised that the home was too small for their family of four, so they engaged renowned LA architect Tim Barber to do a revamp. » Enlarging the spaces, introducing more light and improving the flow, Tim did not lose the cottage charm of the house which was built in 1938. » Christine then set about ‘colouring in’ the house, working on a principle of positive and negative space – the positive offering colour and decoration, while the negative space is calmer and more restful. » She uses her home as a canvas, filling it with her collections of objects that all have meaning and constitute her form of ‘art’.
“Sometimes you need a space to be stimulating and sometimes you just need a place to rest.”
REBEL YELL

Bold colour and robust materials deliver a one-two punch in this gutsy new home in a busy waterfront district.

Photographs DAN HOCKING  Words CARLI PHILIPS  Styling MARSHA GOLEMAC
This page A 'Romboidale' bookshelf by Pietro Russo from Criteria delineates the entry space and holds a collection of pieces from Design Stuff, Safari Living and Hub. Wire sculpture by Neil Taylor from Niagara Galleries. (MCTO-8) artwork by Hu Qinwu from Niagara Galleries. A view through to the study area where a KnollStudio ‘Pollock’ chair from De Ce is perfectly positioned to take in the waterside panorama. Opposite page, from top The anteroom is furnished with Gervasoni ‘Ghost’ chairs from Anibou, Cassina ‘Petalo’ occasional tables from Cult, an E15 ‘Backenzahn’ side table from Living Edge, and an Oluce ‘Coupe’ lamp from Euroluce. Roll & Hill ‘Knotty Bubbles’ chandelier from Space hangs overhead. On the stair, timber sculptures by Jo Wilson stand sentry.

GUTSY AND ROBUST, THE HEAVY AGGREGATE FLOORS WERE ACTUALLY A “REALLY GOOD MISTAKE”.

HOME WILLIAMSTOWN
Resale was not top of mind for the owners of this new build in Victoria’s Williamstown, which resulted in their embracing bold choices in the design. Architect John Wardle referred the clients to Fiona Lynch who entirely re-imagined the internal architecture and interior design. “We love colour and texture and were prepared to do something different compared to the ‘safe’ option that most people tend to go for,” says the client, who gave Fiona the thumbs up for a “fun and playful” lilac bathroom for their children. As for the head-to-toe green powder room that is entirely devoid of tiles? “We love it. It gives guests something to talk about!”

Fiona says the foundation materials of concrete, solid oak and stone were picked for longevity. Strong yet restrained, ‘White Fantasy’ stone from Artedomus is used throughout the kitchen, powder rooms and fireplace, while black granite and oak make for a tough and dark kitchen island. Gutsy and robust, the heavy aggregate floors were actually a “really good mistake”, says Fiona. “It’s difficult to pour concrete on that scale and the darker ‘pebbles’ weren’t intentional. But I love it. There’s an unexpected feeling of texture and personality.” As well, the “chunky” fireplace and industrial-style, “masculine” staircase add weight, although Fiona says it was important to offset this with the right room proportions.

With a completely open-plan ground floor, the challenge was to section the area without using walls. At the entry, a ‘Romboidal’ bookshelf by Pietro Russo delineates the space, serving almost like a partition. In black-painted iron with brass crosspieces, the walnut shelving is open, facilitating a divide, yet encouraging flow. There is a view through the wall unit into the anteroom – a favourite space of both client and designer. While not enclosed, it functions somewhat as an unconventional ‘nook’ that takes in the view. Outfitted with
cornflower blue Gervasoni ‘Ghost’ chairs and a Lindsey Adelman ‘Knotty Bubbles’ rope pendant light, there’s a slight nod to the marine.

Williamstown has a long maritime history as a leading cargo port. It’s scenic but boisterous, and it’s this very noisy hive of activity that attracted the homeowners. “There is always something happening – ships going past, people fishing, walking their dogs, riding bikes, swans and wildlife. It’s a great atmosphere. We hear the tugboats pushing the vessels into the ports and their loud horns when there are jet skis or smaller boats in their path. But that’s what makes this area so appealing. We have the Westgate Bridge, city and bay views all at our front door.”

Because the massive living, kitchen and dining area is not contained, Fiona says that getting the scale right was essential. “It’s a generous area so the placement of furniture helped to delineate sections, eradicating the need for doors. It was a struggle to make the spaces feel intimate but the relationship between the sofa and living area was key,” she says, of her decision to anchor the space with a huge rug and oversized Living Divani sofa. In the dining area, a Lindsey Adelman pendant hangs above a 10-seater dining table, and sheer cashmere curtains were used to foster an element of intimacy.

Furniture and art were chosen for their “iconic form, texture or colour to complement the sober use of materials and highly sophisticated interior,” says Fiona, who employed unexpected, bold shades, such as Cassina’s ‘Utrecht’ armchair in blood red atop a blue-hued ‘Tri-Colour Loop’ rug by Bibi Viro in the living room.

Lovers of Italian design, the clients relished the opportunity for an “out with the old, in with the new” approach when it came to furnishings. “This is a family home, not a display house, we have to live in it comfortably but we have to love it at the same time. Fiona has sourced beautiful pieces that furnish the house perfectly and do it justice.”

For more go to fionalynch.com.au.
This page Cassina ‘Cab’ chairs and a MDF Italia ‘Rock’ table from Hub in the bedroom. Table holds a By Lassen ‘Kubus’ bowl and ‘Oyoy’ brass bookend both from Design Stuff, and a ceramic vase from Safari Living. Bemboka bed quilt.

Opposite page Green bathroom has an Agape basin from Artedomus. ‘Ball’ light by Michael Anastassiades from Hub. Marble soap dispenser from Design Stuff. Wrong for Hay marble lens box.
"WE LOVE COLOUR AND TEXTURE AND WERE PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT COMPARED TO THE ‘SAFE’ OPTION MOST PEOPLE TEND TO GO FOR."

SPEED READ

» The owners of a new build in Victoria’s Williamstown were directed to architect Fiona Lynch for a redo of the interior spaces. » Keen to make a statement, they embraced her suggestions for bold colour and robust materials with gusto. » From a lilac bathroom and green powder room to a blue rug and blood-red chair, the colours are unexpected, and provide punch against the foundation materials of concrete, oak and marble. » The heavy aggregate flooring and industrial staircase further anchor the house which relishes the vibe of its busy waterfront location.
SACRED SPACE

Adding a tower to the former nuns’ quarters of an ancient monastery in Palermo was a tall order for an Australian designer.
The painting is a 19th-century rendition of Sibilla Cumana, a mythical Greek/Roman prophetess after whom Mariella named her daughter. The Sicilian Australian designer bought the painting when she first arrived in Palermo in 2008. Opposite page: After climbing four sets of stairs you know you’ve arrived at Mariella’s apartment because of the “living wall” she has created of pots filled with self-sufficient climbing succulents.
These pages The table that anchors the dining area is made from one end of a spool used for phone cables. Mariella painted it black and designed a square steel geometric base for it. She also designed the kilims used as rugs on the polished concrete floor and as a runner on the stairs. The photo is by Bolognese artist Sissi of an installation she performed in a Palermo gallery. The grouped works in front of the armoire were painted in Palermo by Sydney artist Monique Lovering.
Mariella Ienna's Palermo apartment is like a vertical village inserted into the thick, tufa stone walls of a former Dominican monastery built more than 500 years ago. A three-storey steel-and-glass tower with a soaring void and open stairs sits under ancient wooden beams. While her architect, Walter Angelico, imagined a stark, contemporary interior, Mariella wanted it atmospheric and in context with Palermo's rich architectural heritage. Key to this are handrails of vintage painted steel on the glass-floored walkways upstairs.

“He wanted to use glass but it was really important for me that the railings are reminiscent of the balconies you see when you walk around Palermo,” says Mariella. Ornate wrought-iron balconies are a defining feature of the city's famed baroque palaces and echoed in the buildings that followed. Mariella found the pieces in a scrapyard and put them together like a jigsaw, and they soften the solidity of the steel structure. The architect has collaborated with Mariella, a lawyer turned florist turned designer, on other projects but nothing like this. The provenance was significant – the top floor of what had been nuns' quarters in a monastery dating back to the mid-1400s.

Once false ceilings were removed the rooms soared 14 metres giving the abandoned apartment huge potential despite its tight 60sq/m floor space. But there were immense challenges: pigeons had colonised the attic, the tufa stones needed reinforcing and building materials had to come up via a neighbour's balcony. The project took almost two years of bureaucratic wrangling to win approval as the building has the same heritage classification and significance as Palermo Cathedral, and another year to build.

The steel structure was assembled on site like a meccano set. Walter's artistry shows in the exposed joints in the living area and his deft treatment of deep shelves doubling as seating around a large window. “It effectively works as a balcony,” says Mariella. “When people are here they can use it like a seat or daybed.” Light streams in a window that frames a view of the towers of the church of San Domenico, a grand expression of Sicilian baroque.

In her second renovation project in Palermo, her home of eight years, Sicilian Australian Mariella has redefined trash and treasure. “People here don't really value the old or heritage,” she says. The railings metal was sold by the kilo and she scoured Mercato dei Pulci flea market for remnants of 18th- or 19th-century painted ceilings and the traditional majolica tiles covering the kitchen wall. She found the handsome divan near the kitchen discarded on the street. “It was brown with some horrid silk on it.” She painted it in satin black enamel and covered it with one of her kilims. “I love it because it's so long.”

Mariella calls her style “pared-back baroque” and finds inspiration all over – and now she's giving bespoke tours of the city for fellow creatives. Above the living area on the second level, movable full-height steel shelves pay homage to Palermo's stunning 19th-century Archivio Storico Comunale. “Wim Wenders shot Palermo Shooting there – you look up and there are these rails and all the books,” says Mariella.

Her eclectic art collection ranges from a series of photographs of performance works by Italian artists Sissi and Loredana Longo, to a Palermo series by Sydney-based Monique Lovering. Hany Armanious, who represented Australia at 2011's Venice Biennale, was a neighbour when Mariella had a florist's shop in Sydney's Glebe. “I transported his works from Australia because I couldn't live without them,” she says. !

For more go to mariellaiennadesign.com.
On the top level is a wall of curtains made from hand-loomed wool that Mariella designed for Crate & Barrel. A large window frames a view of the church of San Domenico. A Kartell vase is crammed with ceramic moulds for making traditional marzipan fruits. A selection of Mariella's treasured art collection. The rails are made from vintage blue and rust-coloured steel from a scrapyard. Opposite page: The dining area and kitchen.
The deep bath/shower is lined in Carrara marble. Matt black ‘Ringo’ tapware by Pafoni is used here and the kitchen. Mariella’s bedroom under the ancient rafters, where it is said nuns of the Dominican order invented the cassata dessert, has exposed tufa stone with bricks and rafters painted in white gesso. The bedhead is covered in the same zigzag kilims used for flooring. Mariella designed the frilly cashmere coverlet. On the top shelf (left) is a photographic sequence by Sicilian artist Loredana Longo while directly underneath are two prints by Many Armanious from his Chux Works series.
Sicilian Australian designer Mariella Ienna has lived in Palermo for eight years and has now made her home in a former Dominican monastery some 500 years old. A three-storey glass and steel tower was inserted into ancient tufa stone walls to create a 120sq/m apartment with a soaring void above the living space and open walkways and glass floors above. Mariella used scrap metal to design the stair railings in keeping with the baroque style seen in the city. A former lawyer and florist, Mariella designs kilims, which are made in Varanasi, and are used throughout the apartment.
Two glass pavilions that blend Eastern design with a Balinese aesthetic create a new vernacular in luxury waterside living.
The living area, opening into the canopy of the two Port Jackson figs and with windows that slide open on two sides is like living in a treehouse, says the owner. Opposite page The zen theme continues in the main bedroom, with this 300-year-old Oriental chest bought by the owners in Japan, and earthy vases from Planet. Artwork by Sally Anderson from Small Spaces.
On a promontory overlooking Sydney’s Middle Harbour, the new multi-level home embraces its prime position. The owners excavated into the sandstone to accommodate the lower levels, which house the more private areas, including the four bedrooms.

The living room hovers in the tree canopy. “It’s like living in a treehouse,” says the owner.
Perched on the shores of Sydney’s Middle Harbour, this home leads an intriguing double life. On a sandstone promontory scored with two ancient Port Jackson figs, it soaks up water vistas on three sides through soaring walls of glass punctuated by sculptural panels of western red cedar. From the water, it presents an open and spectacular public persona. But the home also has an alluring, private side – TKD Architects has sprinkled it with zen hideaways that allow the owners to shed the pressures of their high-powered jobs.

A professional couple with two now-teenage children, they bought the property in 2001. While the location was tantalising, the same couldn’t be said for the tatty 60s clinker-brick house that wasted the site and views. After a stint living in Japan, in 2010 the owners approached Renata Ratcliffe and John Rose of TKD with a brief for a new four-bedroom-plus-study home that embraced the view and the site’s steep topography. It also had to marry the cultural backgrounds of the owners, one Japanese, the other Australian, and reflect their passion for Bali.

“It was to be open and relaxed, beach house meets Eastern architecture,” says Renata. “And it needed communal spaces for the family to spend time together, but also breakout areas for relaxation.” Adds the owner, “We wanted something warm and cosy, not ostentatious. We also wanted spaces to be sheltered while enjoying outside living.”

The battle-axe block with a skimpy 6m street frontage provided privacy from the road, but also posed a hefty problem for conveying materials onto the site, which plunged 20m to the waterline. To solve that, the owners bought a 50m-span industrial crane, which remained for the three-and-a-half years of construction.

Taking inspiration from Balinese architecture, Renata and John fashioned a home with two light-illed timber-and-glass pavilions for the living areas and study, joined by a glass walkway. They sit on a stone podium housing the more discreet lower levels that include four bedrooms, a gym and a waterfront entertaining area.

Sliding glass walls create a seamless indoor-outdoor connection, while wide eaves ensure protection from the sun and rain. Timber screens create separation between the spaces, both internally and externally, without compromising the home’s sense of airy openness and connectivity. Splashed throughout are secluded courtyards and sitting areas that alternate between offering views or privacy.

The two figs, subject to a preservation order, have been woven into the vernacular of the home, with the living room on the third level hovering in the tree canopy. “It’s like being in a treehouse,” the owner says, especially when the walls of windows slide away to create a de facto balcony.

Generous use of timber, including western red cedar cladding and solid New Guinea rosewood, teak and grey ironbark veneer in the interiors lends warmth, lightness and a laid-back tropical ambience, while furniture, mostly in timber, has been gathered by the well-travelled owners.

One of the owner’s favourite getaways is a sandstone grotto beside the jetty, etched into the rock and with padded seating and a firepit. “It’s my secret spot,” she says. But, while it’s serene, she’s not alone – she shares it with dolphins, seals and a cormorant that stands sentry on the jetty.

For more go to tkda.com.au.
“[THE HOUSE IS] OPEN AND RELAXED, BEACH HOUSE MEETS EASTERN ARCHITECTURE.”
Timber is used throughout the house to create warmth and a Bali-like feel. Batten screens separate the spaces without compromising the feeling of openness. Teapot from Planet. Torremato ‘Ram’ suspension light from LightCo. Benches in Caesarstone in Buttermilk and ‘Lamiwood’ in Chamois from Laminex.

One of the Port Jackson figs helps to create privacy in the little landscaped area off the study on the top level. Garden design by Mandara Landscapes and Spirit Level.
A Sydney couple bought a spectacular site with a Middle Harbour waterfront in 2001, but it was hogged by a 60s clinker brick house that turned its back on the view. In 2010, they hired TKD Architects to design a multi-level home that would offer harbour vistas, and provide private spaces for relaxing. It also had to embrace the Japanese and Australian cultural heritages of the owners, as well as their love of Bali. Renata Ratcliffe and John Rose of TKD have designed a Bali-inspired home with two pavilions joined by a walkway, forming the living areas. They sit on a stone base, which comprises the two lower levels housing the bedrooms and a waterfront entertaining area.
Designing an apartment for a princess did not daunt Jean-Louis Deniot — he just upped the opulence quotient and added a twist.
This page. The enfilade of rooms at the front of the apartment includes the media room and the main bedroom. The slipper chair by Billy Haines dates from the 1950s. The sofa is from Collection Pierre and is upholstered in a Brochier fabric. The lamp is from Galerie Fradin & Labrosse. The wool and silk rug is a Jean-Louis Deniot design. Opposite page Carrara and Nero Marquina marble is used for the gallery flooring. Console is from Jean de Merry. Artwork above is Diamant Noir by Mathieu Mercier. Zinc sculpture is by Roger Desserprit. The Tommi Parzinger floor lamps have shades by Anne Sokolsky. 'Lunes' ceiling lights from Ombre Portée.
This page: The sitting room sofa is a custom design by Jean-Louis Deniot and is upholstered in Romo ‘Obi’ in Azure. The bronze and shagreen coffee table, the parchment side table and the forged iron and ebony bookcase are all by Jean-Louis. The Louis XVI-style armchair is upholstered in Edmond Petit ‘Polka Dot’. The bronze and rock crystal chandelier is by Hervé Van Der Straeten. The geometric sculpture is by Roger Desesperct. Opposite page, from top: The stool is from Jean-Louis Deniot’s collection for Pouenat and is upholstered in Kelly Wearstler’s Sora Velvet. The orange sculpture is by Xavier Veilhan. The vintage table lamp has a custom Lelièvre shade by Anne Sokolsky. The artwork is from Jérôme Robbe’s L’Air de Rien series.
French decorator Jean-Louis Deniot's projects are often imbued with a sense of grandeur. In Delhi, he designed a house that resembles a mini Versailles. In New York, he worked on a duplex in Chelsea with sweeping views of the city and ceilings that stretch to 6.5 metres in height. Such magnificence has led one of his collaborators to nickname him "Doctor Palace". The moniker is particularly fitting for one of his latest commissions – a 500-square-metre Parisian pied-à-terre for a Middle Eastern princess. “She's in her mid-twenties and has quite a funky way of dressing,” says Jean-Louis. “She's very much got her finger on the pulse.”

The apartment is on the first floor of a rather stately late 19th-century building on one of the French capital's most select avenues, and its interior previously retained the typical Haussmannian style. “You simply can't content yourself with something so mundane for a princess,” he sniffs. “For people of her rank, you have to create a kind of statement. There has to be a certain allure, a dose of opulence and a touch of theatricality.” The princess herself initially imagined something even more formal. “She equated French style with something extremely traditional,” says Jean-Louis. “I explained to her that there's a way of designing a space with classical inspiration, but then to give it a twist.”

Jean-Louis achieved this by opting for an architectural framework largely inspired by the 18th century. He linked the rooms at the front by creating openings along the windows (they had previously been connected by double doors in the middle of the walls). He also installed marble flooring and commissioned trompe-l'œil painters to adorn the walls with ersatz stone motifs. He likens the one in the horseshoe-shaped breakfast room to "nougat" and chose a faux onyx pattern for the gallery. His concept for the entrance hall, meanwhile, was to make it look as if it had been carved from a single block of Carrara marble.

By contrast, other elements add a striking modernity. One is the multitude of geometric patterns. The walls of the dining room, for instance, have been clad in a striped Osborne & Little wallpaper cut into small pieces and hung at a range of different angles. Another idiosyncrasy for a royal residence is the fact that there are no service quarters. Instead, the designer conjured up a strikingly elegant kitchen with a graphic granite and quartzite floor, and antique mirrored doors. “My client loves cooking and wanted a great space where she could hang out, whip up meals with friends and invite chefs in to give lessons.”

The furnishings, meanwhile, steer well clear of anything too traditional. Instead, there are contemporary creations such as the drop-dead Hervé Van Der Straeten chandeliers, as well as numerous custom pieces, including the obelisk-shaped bookcases in the sitting room and the majestic black opaline-topped dining table. The remainder of the items are largely 20th-century vintage. Among them are a pair of Billy Haines slipper chairs, Tommi Parzinger floor lamps, a Willy Daro coffee table and – Jean-Louis' favourite – a faceted desk that looks as if it's been fashioned from a huge chunk of gold.

Throughout, he was keen to diversify the decor from one room to the next. This he did partly by using different ceiling forms. The one in the media room is shaped like a tent, while the one in the gallery is vaulted. He also varied the number of pendants used to avoid too much repetition. There is one in the entry hall, two in the dining room and three in the kitchen. In the gallery, meanwhile, he hung a series of brass and glass 'Lunes' lights from Ombre Portée in a seemingly random order. “I felt it would add a poetic touch,” he says.

The most magical space, however, has to be the main bathroom with its Tony Duquette rock crystal chandelier and lustrous blue-green walls. “There's something a little Alice in Wonderland about it,” he says, and it is certainly fitting for a princess. With his habitual humour, Jean-Louis jokingly calls the apartment a "starter palace". “I'd love to build a real palace for her in the Middle East,” he says. “I'd move even further away from a classical style and really push things to the max.”

For more go to deniot.com.
Custom marble paint finish in the entry hall. Custom console with a marble top, Louis XVI-style chairs, Venetian mirror from Barovier. Vintage lamp from Maison Charles. Custom dining table has a black opaline top. The bronze and rock crystal chandeliers are by Hervé Van Der Straeten. Wallpaper is Osborne & Little 'Fitzroy' which was cut in pieces and hung at different angles. The breakfast room has a ‘Caspian’ table from Villiers. The custom chairs are covered in a Lelièvre fabric. Florence Girette painted the decorative wall finish. ‘Inertia’ chandelier from Corbett Lighting. The kitchen benchtops are in Black Marinace Granite and the cupboards are in oak. Pendant lights are the ‘Modern Globe Pendant’ from Circa Lighting.
The media room is furnished with a Jean-Louis Deniot for George Smith sofa and a custom coffee table in iron and marble. The armchair is from Marc de Berny and is upholstered in a Rubelli fabric. The two side chairs are custom designs. In the window a La Fibule ‘Rumba’ chair partners a 1940s Maison Jansen ebony and bronze desk. The artwork is by Natalie Rich-Fernandez.
Celebrated designer Jean-Louis Deniot was engaged to design an apartment in Paris for a young Middle Eastern princess. Mindful of creating an opulent and slightly theatrical abode befitting her status, he introduced marble floors and trompe l’oeil motifs on the walls, set against an 18th-century architectural framework. Contrast comes from modern features such as the geometric patterning and a collection of 20th-century vintage furniture by the likes of Willy Daro and Tommi Parzinger, along with Hervé Van Der Straeten chandeliers. The surprise is a contemporary, elegant kitchen specially tailored to his client who loves to cook.

This page A Jacob Delafon bath and a custom vanity with hammered silver panels in the main bathroom. Silver leaf wall sconces are from Niermann Weeks. Veere Grenney chair. Tony Duquette chandelier.
LIGHT

Swapping a dark interior palette for cool pale shades brought a new lightness of being to this Sydney home.

SWITCH

Photographs SHARRIN REES  Words CHRIS PEARSON
The exterior of the house is painted in cool grey and accented with shutters. Opposite page: In the entry hall a Knoll Saarinen side table bought in New York holds a collection of vessels from Orient House.
“This is our swan. It was once an ugly duckling, but look at it now.”
Custom-made dining table in Corian. Knoll Saarinen ‘Executive’ chairs bought from Knoll New York. Oluce gold-interior pendant lights from Euroluce. Credenza was custom made by BKH.

Opposite page: In the living room a ‘Dune’ sofa from Poliform is paired with a Vittorio Bonacina ‘Eva’ side chair and a Minotti ‘Leger’ side table from De De Ce. Knoll Saarinen side table from Knoll NY. Custom-made ottoman is in the style of the De Padova ‘Pouf Capitone’. Staggered-stripe flat-weave rug from Whitecliffe Imports. Kelly Wearstler ‘Classic Legs’ sculpture from Becker Minty. Artwork by Minnie Pwerle.
This is our swan. It was once an ugly duckling, but look at it now,” says the owner of this house on Sydney’s lower North Shore, referring to the sinuous white staircase that glides, like a swan’s neck, up through the three levels, the fluted wall behind suggesting its feathers. The owner’s favourite feature, it is the introduction to and the backbone of the home, but it could equally be a metaphor for its storybook transformation.

Thanks to architect Iain Halliday of BKH, a dowdy, earthbound house has taken flight. Taking the skeleton of a 1990s home in the neoclassical Tuscan style, he has imbued it with coastal light and air, while also giving it a chic international imprint.

Much travelled, the style-conscious owners had been gleaning ideas for their “forever home” since they married. The first inspired moment came with a visit to Shutters on the Beach hotel in Santa Monica, with its translucent white rooms, shuttered windows and Hamptons references. But within this home, there is also a sprinkling of Scandinavia, the Riviera, Palm Springs, the tropics, southeast Asia and the Australian coast, the many influences working together in easy harmony. There’s even a sprinkling of Moroccan spice.

“We liked Iain’s fresh, clean lines and attention to detail, but we also liked the international style he brings,” says the owner. “He marries opposing elements so well.”

When the couple bought the property in 2007, they were attracted to the location, which soaked up ever-changing views of the harbour. Being near the beach was also a plus with two young boys, and now also a daughter. But the interior had dark travertine floors, wrought-iron balustrades and heavy cornices and architraves. Apart from being visually oppressive, the surfaces were hard and unwelcoming for a young family.

“There was also no visual connection between the front and the backyard with the pool,” says Iain. “Because it was for a young family with lots of energy, it needed lines of sight as well as an indoor-outdoor connection.”

The brief to Iain in 2010 was for international style, embracing the owners’ love of good design, but also robust surfaces to handle the rough and tumble of their boisterous offspring. Iain gutted the property, keeping the staircase, load-bearing walls and external walls. The only addition was a bedroom at the back on the upper floor, making five bedrooms in all, including a guest room on the lower floor.

To soften the facade, he added Riviera-style striped awnings on the windows that flutter alluringly in the sea breezes (“my eyelashes”, says the owner) and shutters, painting it all in pale Dior grey. “The shutters give the house texture and allude to a Mediterranean villa,” he says.

Internally, the biggest change is on the middle, entry level, where walls have been removed and rooms juggled to create sight lines. The living area boasts views of the harbour, while the kitchen and dining area abut a vast covered terrace, ideal for entertaining.

The staircase was a masterstroke, with Iain enclosing the existing structure of travertine and wrought iron to create the statement piece that greets visitors entering through the black high-gloss double doors and a foyer flanked by two Moroccan-style laser-cut screens.

Textured whitewashed oak floorboards lend a sun-bleached coastal air, ceramic pots and urns evoke the Orient, while swaying palms are redolent of the tropics. Consistency is created by a tight rein on the palette – in muted Scandinavian hues with pops of colour for impact. “The materials were limited to white marble, limed timber, encaustic tiles, linen and white shutters,” says Iain. But there are a few surprises, such as the gold-lined pendants and the jade ceramic pots in the dining area.

Client and architect agree on their favourite feature. “Where once was a jungle of wrought-iron, the pretty stair now talks to the entry. I like a good stair,” says Iain with a smile.

For more go to bkh.com.au.
Attracted by the prime harbour position, a Sydney couple with a young family, bought a neoclassical Tuscan villa on the lower North Shore. But it was dark and oppressive, with travertine flooring and wrought-iron detailing and no connection with the rear garden. Architect Iain Halliday of BKH gutted the house and rejigged the floor plan to allow sight lines throughout and a connection with the pool and garden. While architectural detailing is kept to a minimum, a sculptural staircase, a coffered ceiling, shutters for privacy and awnings on the windows are all defining features. The decoration takes its cue from many sources, including the Hamptons, Scandinavia, the tropics and even Marrakech, in a muted palette with judicious pops of colour.

“We liked Iain’s fresh, clean lines and the attention to detail, but we also liked the international style he brings.”
This page, clockwise from top: Honed Carrara marble benchtops from SNB Stone in the kitchen. Perrin & Rowe tap from The English Tapware Company. Pineapple on Hermès artwork by CJ Hendry. Custom-made bed with bedhead in Weitzner ‘Harvest’ fabric in Cloud from South Pacific Fabrics. Custom-made side tables with lamps from JSB Lighting. Slipper chair from John Salibello, NY. Custom banquette has cushions in Ralph Lauren fabrics. Stools are by Gervasoni from Anibou. The wall is Mount White Sandstone from Gosford Quarries. Opposite page: In the ensuite a Kaldewei Classic Duo freestanding bath from Candana is in perfect sync with the elegant and subdued mood of the house.
With no design brief, Peter Fudge allowed his creativity to bloom in this grand yet functional Sydney garden.
An avenue of pleached pear trees (Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer') frames a low sandstone bench in the front garden of this historic Sydney residence.
When asked about the design brief for the garden of this historic Sydney residence, landscape designer Peter Fudge says he had none. “The clients trusted me, and allowed me to do what I thought was best for the site,” he says. This freedom has supported the creation of a grand garden – structured and architectural, yet soft and inviting – accompanying a beautifully restored family home on the North Shore.

The designer had a relatively blank slate to work with. The front garden had few plants worth keeping, except for a large jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and a coastal banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) near the front door. These trees lend the young garden – it’s just four years old – a sense of age and gravity.

Entering the property from the street, two rows of pear trees (*Pyrus calleryana* ‘*Chanticleer*’) form a series of axis, one leading to the front door, the other framing a wide vista parallel to the home. “It leads across the driveway to a gravel area on the southern boundary with a garden bench,” says Peter. “This axis draws the eye across the block, illustrating its generous width.”

The second axis leads the eye to the front door, framing a pathway flanked by soft perennials and shrubs such as silver spoons (*Kalanchoe* ‘*Silver Spoons*’), clipped box spheres (*Buxus sempervirens* ‘*Faulkner*’), curry plant (*Helichrysum italicum*) and more. A low bowl is used as a subtle water feature, flanked by renga lilies (*Arthropodium cirratum*), helping to draw visitors through the space. “The overriding design intent behind the front garden was to make it feel welcoming and soft. We tried to conceal the entry with garden beds, so visitors feel a sense of surprise as they make their way through the space,” he says.

While the front garden has a sense of grandness and arrival, the rear garden is more functional. The family includes three teenage children and they host many large parties.
They needed a useful, multi-purpose space. As well as the practical requirements, the levels in the rear yard needed addressing – there’s nearly a two-metre drop from the rear of the house to the lawn area.

Working with the architecture of the house, Peter created a series of rooms leading out from the living area, stepping down the slope. The first is a paved outdoor entertaining space with a large sandstone slab water fountain on its eastern side. The fountain, flanked by box spheres, was designed to be viewed primarily from inside as well as the outdoor entertaining area.

Stepping down from this is a smaller square area containing a rusted metal fire pit, framed by timber-clad benches. This area leads down to a gravel platform from which the vista across the rear garden is revealed, framed by pleached pear trees (Pyrus calleryana ‘Chanticleer’).

The pool forms the focal point of the rear garden, with a sculptural planting of buxus spheres in gravel in front of it, a charcoal wall at its rear, and city views beyond.

Typical of a Peter Fudge design, this garden is highly resolved, beautifully structured, and connects strongly to the architecture of the home it surrounds. “I like the boldness of this garden,” he says. “I like the way there is plenty of contrast between different shades of green, and different textures within the space.”

While he was given free rein by the clients, “the playing with colour, texture and embellishments only happens when the layout is resolved. The layout is the most important thing.” He’s right, and it shows. This is a beautifully proportioned garden.

For more go to peterfudgegardens.com.au, or Georgina Reid’s website, theplanthunter.com.au.
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Creativity is to the fore in a newly energised Havana where artists and designers are making their mark, while artistry of the culinary kind is on display in Melbourne and beyond.
SASS AND SPICE

Hawker Hall is whetting appetites at the gritty end of Chapel Street with high-octane Asian dishes paired with its house brew.

Photographs SEAN FENNESSY  Words CARLI PHILIPS  Recipe editor CHRISSY FREER
Not many restaurants can command a wait time of two hours every night of the week, but such is the clout of powerhouse restaurateur Chris Lucas whose latest venue, Hawker Hall in Melbourne’s Chapel Street, does just that. Like his other restaurants – the oriental BBQ pit Kong, pizzeria Baby and cult Asian cool hangout Chin Chin – it has all the hallmarks of a Lucas Group operation: energy and atmosphere with an extra helping of sass.

Inspired by the vibrant street-food culture of South-East Asia, authentic flavours like ginger, galangal, lemongrass, coriander and coconut feature prominently across the generous 60-dish sharing menu. Fresh noodles, crazy stir-fries, potent curries, soft dumplings and lots of spice echo the rich joy of eating in big, buzzing Malaysian Singaporean dining halls.

“I have a love affair with hawker markets and food,” confesses Chris, whose in-house handcrafted beer, Shiki, was created specifically to pair alongside the Asian flavours. “I always had a burning ambition to create an interpretation of something like that. I wanted a place that allowed people to experience it in a raw sense but with the additional sophistication of a restaurant. Like traditional hawker centres, there are soaring ceilings and we’ve created an open kitchen so you get the wafting smells from the curries and the smokiness from the satay burners.”

“It’s a vast space but we still needed to create some intimacy,” says architect Craig Tan who worked alongside interior designers Wendy Bergman and Samantha Eades to transform the building that once served as horse stables. “We didn’t want people to feel dwarfed by it so divided it into zones. We didn’t want it to just look like a hawker market, but to experience it,” he says referencing the high-octane atmosphere and design details such as the festoon lights, irreverent neon signage and melamine dinnerware.

Located in the grittier end of Chapel Street in Windsor, the neighbourhood appealed due to its “eclectic, youthful, urban edginess”, says Chris. It was a “rare, hidden gem of a building”. From the food to the fit-out, there’s a festive mischievousness to Hawker Hall whose signage alerts patrons that it is “Open late for hungry people”.

Visit hawkerhall.com.au
This page, from top left Pepper duck is served with jasmine rice and a fragrant sauce. Traditional Indian lunch steamers add their coppery glow to the street market atmosphere at Hawker Hall.

PEPPER DUCK
SERVES 6

1 tablespoon olive oil
6 small duck breasts
Steamed jasmine rice, to serve
Steamed bok choy, to serve
1 teaspoon finely shredded ginger

PEPPER SAUCE
150ml oyster sauce
25ml sweet soy sauce
25ml chicken stock
30g green peppercorns chopped or 15g cracked black peppercorns
1/2 teaspoons lemon juice
Freshly picked coriander leaves, to garnish

1 Preheat oven to 200°C or 180°C fan forced. Heat olive oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook the duck, skin side down for 5 minutes, then turn and cook for a further 5 minutes. Transfer duck to a baking tray and roast for 5 minutes for medium-rare duck. Transfer duck breasts to a plate lined with absorbent paper and keep warm.

2 To make the sauce, combine the oyster sauce, sweet soy, chicken stock and peppercorns in a small saucepan. Heat over a low heat until warmed through, check seasoning and stir through lemon juice.

3 To serve, place some steamed rice and bok choy on each serving plate, top with a little shredded ginger. Slice duck breasts and place on top of bok choy. Spoon the pepper sauce over the duck and around edge of plate. Garnish with fresh coriander.
HAINANESE CHICKEN RICE
SERVES 6

BASE STOCK
2 litres chicken stock
2 long green shallots, chopped
10g yellow rock sugar

POACHED CHICKEN
3 (1.2kg total) chicken crowns
(ask your butcher for this cut)
30ml light soy sauce
2 litres base stock
Sesame oil, to brush

HAINANESE CHICKEN RICE
2 teaspoons butter or chicken fat
20g peeled ginger, finely grated
2 cloves garlic, crushed
200g (1 cup) jasmine rice
750ml (3 cups) base stock
1 teaspoon salt
½ pandan leaf

SHALLOT SESAME OIL
3 long green shallots, trimmed,
cut into thin rounds
80ml (1/3 cup) sesame oil
1½ teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon caster sugar
1 teaspoon soy sauce

TO SERVE
Steamed bok choy
Sesame oil
Your favourite chilli sauce

1 To make the base stock, place stock, shallots and sugar in a large saucepan. Bring to boil then reduce heat to low. Simmer for 15 minutes.
2 To make poached chicken, add chicken crowns and soy to prepared base stock. Ensure chicken is fully submerged. Return to boil. Remove from heat, cover saucepan with lid and set aside to poach for 1 hour. Chicken is cooked when skewer is inserted into thickest part of bird and liquid runs clear. Transfer chicken to wire rack to drain, skin side up. Strain stock and reserve.
3 To make the rice, turn a rice cooker on high, add butter, ginger and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until fragrant. Add rice and stir to coat grains evenly in butter mixture. Add 3 cups reserved base stock from poached chicken, the salt and pandan leaf. Cover and cook to manufacturer’s instructions or until rice is cooked and stock absorbed.
4 To make the shallot sesame oil, place shallots, oil, salt, sugar and soy in a small heatproof bowl. Heat the sesame oil in a small saucepan until just before smoking. Carefully pour the hot oil over the shallot mixture. Set aside to cool and store in airtight container up to 5 days.
5 To serve, preheat grill on high. Split each chicken crown with a sharp knife and cut the 2 breasts from bone. Brush a little sesame oil on top and season with salt. Place breasts on a baking tray under hot grill for 2-3 minutes until skin is crisp and chicken is warmed through.
6 Divide rice and bok choy between serving plates. Slice chicken evenly and place on rice. Drizzle a little sesame oil over bok choy. Place a spoonful of shallot sesame oil on chicken. Place a small cup of the warmed base stock on the side. Serve with chilli sauce.
TO SERVE

Diced ripe peeled pineapple  
Toasted coconut shards  
Thick coconut cream

1 Prepare each layer of jelly separately, starting with the apple jelly, followed by the lychee, coconut and finally the lychee and apple jelly.

2 To prepare each jelly, place gelatine leaves in a bowl of cold water and set aside to soften for 2-3 minutes. Meanwhile, combine remaining jelly ingredients in a small saucepan and heat over medium heat until hot. Squeeze excess water from gelatine, add to hot liquid and whisk until dissolved. Strain, and set aside to cool to room temperature. Divide jelly between 6 serving cups. Place in fridge to set.

3 Once jelly layer has set, top with next layer and chill once again until set. Repeat to make 4 layers. Chill overnight so all layers set firmly.

4 To serve, garnish with diced pineapple, toasted coconut and top with a dollop of coconut cream.

MANY TREASURE JELLY
SERVES 6

APPLE JELLY
3 gelatine sheets  
200ml granny smith apple juice  
200ml pink lady apple juice

LYCHEE JELLY
2¼ gelatine sheets  
265ml lychee juice  
25ml granny smith apple juice  
25ml pink lady apple juice  
Few drops red food colouring

COCONUT JELLY
1¼ gelatine sheets  
265ml Kara coconut cream  
2 tablespoons coconut juice  
1-2 drops vanilla extract  
400mg (pinch) salt

LYCHEE & APPLE JELLY
1¼ gelatine sheets  
100ml lychee juice  
50ml granny smith apple juice  
50ml pink lady apple juice  
¼ pandan leaf

This page, from top left: Many treasure jelly is one of the five Asian-inspired desserts on offer. Chris Lucas. Housemade beer Shiki takes pride of place at Hawker Hall’s atmospheric bar. Spirits and an impressive line-up of other boutique beers are available.
BUYERS’ MARKET

When it comes to updating your home and lifestyle, only the best will do – so here’s a roundup of the latest and greatest products out there.

1. **CAESARSTONE** Catering to the growing trend for an industrial utilitarian aesthetic, Caesarstone has introduced innovative concrete designs which offer the look and feel of a formed concrete surface yet are easy to clean and require no sealing. caesarstone.com.au

2. **SMEG** Smeg’s ‘Speed’ oven is a full multifunction oven with state-of-the-art stirrer microwave technology for amazing time-saving results – a full roast-chicken dinner with crisp potatoes cooks in just 30 minutes! smeg.com.au

3. **CROMWELL** This signature ‘Brighton’ hall chest showcases a decorative quatrefoil design silkscreened on the three drawerfronts. cromwellaustralia.com.au

4. **SHARP** Sharp’s ‘SJXP580G’ 581-litre refrigerator is an elegant centrepiece to any kitchen with its deep black or shimmering silver glass doors and superior technology that keeps food fresh for longer while reducing odours. sharp.net.au

5. **DOMAYNE** The ‘Space 55’ chair and ottoman offers comfort and design and satisfaction for both eye and body both in leather with steel frame. domayneonline.com.au

6. **SUNBRELLA** Sunbrella fabrics are continually advancing in design sophistication and comfort, resulting in indoor and outdoor applications for to coordinate your décor. The newest collection emphasises design simplicity with bright colours and textural neutral additions. This collection mixes bold to muted, old to new – and highlights how they can come together to create beautiful, unassuming design. sunbrella.com

7. **CULT DESIGN** Anglepoise® launches the Margaret Howell yellow ochre edition of the ‘Type 75™’ desk lamp and floor lamp. The colour is a precise match to a vintage 1970s Anglepoise® ‘Model 90™’ lamp owned by the designer. anglepoise.com

8. **PHOENIX TAPWARE** Introducing the new ‘Blix’ sink mixer by the Australian design team at Phoenix Tapware. This mixer will look right at home in any modern or contemporary kitchen and features a stylish, velvet touch, matt-black rubber hose. phoenixtapware.com.au

9. **BLACK+DECKER** Black+Decker 2-in-1 32.4V cordless stick vacuum with ORA technology optimises cleaning performance so it picks up even heavier debris the first time, every time. blackanddecker.com.au
BUYERS’ MARKET

Here, you’ll find even more of the latest and greatest products on the market to update every corner of your home and enhance your lifestyle.

1 DOMO Different thicknesses and customised designs are the hallmarks of the glamorous new Ombré collection from Marchetti Maison. Photographed design is ‘Cespitosa’ and is made in Italy, POA. domo.com.au  
2 PARISI The innovative Parisi ‘Ellisse MkII’ rimless toilet has powerful water delivery and open rim design, achieving maximum cleaning of the inner bowl while preventing water splashing over the edge. Functionality is combined with an appealing design and a slim soft-close seat with antibacterial ‘easy clean’ ceramic protection. parisii.com.au  
3 DOMUS The new 2016 outdoor fabric collection from Manuel Canovas provides a link between interior and exterior spaces with fabrics that marry the Canovas identity with innovative performance. From Domus Textiles. domustextiles.com.au  
4 ENGLISH TAPWARE Detailed and well-constructed joinery deserves beautiful hardware. For over a century, English company Armac Martin has designed and engineered stunning knobs, handles and drawer pulls for luxurious commercial and residential interiors. englishtapware.com.au  
5 MINOTTI With its refined elegance the ‘Leslie’ sofa greatly contributes to the creation of cozy, intimate conversation groupings in the home and hospitality settings such as lounges, waiting rooms and corporate offices. minotti.com  
6 JENNY JONES This exclusive ‘City Windows’ rug in Sorbet was inspired by vintage postal tags first spotted by Jenny in Portugal and is hand-knotted in the finest hand-spun Tibetan wool and pure silk. jennyjonesrugs.com  
7 KOHLER Kohler’s ‘Botticelli’ vessel basin is handmade from a single piece of Carrara marble and is named after the Florentine Renaissance artist. With a diameter of 550mm it will create sculptural drama in any bathroom. au.kohler.com  
8 ROBERT PLUMB The Robert Plumb range of Bondi ceramic pots are hand-thrown by local potter Cameron Williams. The terracotta pots are available in various different sizes and up to 20 different colours and supplied exclusively through Robert Plumb. robertplumb.com.au  
9 SIGNORINO TILE GALLERY Harnessing the luscious beauty of Pietra Grigio marble is Gray Stone, the latest addition to Signorino’s hugely popular Dreaming collection and available in a variety of large formats and finishes. Visit signorino.com.au
NOODLE HOUSE
SYDNEY
A STRIKING WALL OF MELTED PLASTIC AND A SUBWAY AESTHETIC DRAW DINERS IN, WHILE THIS NEW RAMEN BAR’S MENU OF CLEVER TWISTS ON CLASSIC DISHES WILL KEEP YOU COMING BACK (RIGHT).
SALARYMAN.COM.AU

SLICE OF THE ACTION
New modern Italian restaurant Assembly (above) has opened, proudly sporting the only wood-fired pizza oven in the Sydney CBD. facebook.com/assemblyrestaurant

TALKING POINTS

TEA TIME
London EDITION revs up drab afternoon tea.
editionhotels.com

BLUE MOOD
Stay cool in blue ‘Sideral 1’ shades from Dior. farfetch.com

GARDEN LIFE
Jo Malone releases a new range of herbal colognes. jomalone.com.au

ANIMAL ANTIICS
Hermès’s new collection Carnet d’Équateur (below) brings Robert Dallet’s exquisite animals to life. australia.bermes.com

GO TO PRINT
Edinburgh welcomes a handsome new restaurant, The Printing Press (above), with interiors that reflect the literary heritage of the city as well as the building’s first use. printingpressedinburgh.co.uk

SYDNEY
A QUICK BITE
with
STEPHEN SECKOLD
{ Head chef, Salaryman }

Favourite food experience?
L’Arpège, Paris. Chef Alain Passard can do things to vegetables that nobody else can.
Tipple of choice?
Gin. Sydney has gone crazy with gin pop-up bars of late and I couldn’t be happier.
Creative influences?
The chefs I meet and the food I eat when I travel.
New trends in dining interiors?
I think dining interiors are becoming more simplified.
Recent favourite projects?
My new venture Salaryman – we focus on ramen and are constantly learning.
What are you excited for in 2016?
Continuing to grow Salaryman!
salaryman.com.au

NEW YORK
FRENCH DRESSING
Flaunting an inviting, light-filled interior from Meyer Davis Studio, Michael White’s Vaucluse (above) aims to bridge the gap between casual bistro dining and formal French degustation. vauclusenyc.com

<< SWEET & SOUR
COMBINE 3 PARTS GLENMORANGIE’S MILSEAN, 2 PARTS LEMON JUICE AND 1 PART GOMME SYRUP, SHAKE WITH ICE AND STRAIN INTO A CHILLED GLASS FOR A SWEET TAKE ON A WHISKY SOUR. GLENMORANGIE.COM

Edited by SARAH HAYES
Against the backdrop of its former days of glory followed by decline, Havana now displays a dynamic new optimism.

Photography & words ANGUS McRITCHIE
This page: Cinema and bar at the new art complex FAC (Fábrica de Arte Cubano). Opposite page: At the top of this staircase awaits the culinary delights of private restaurant (paladar) La Guarida, which is redolent of old Havana.
E
everybody is familiar with the clichéd image of Havana: showgirls shimmering across the stage at the Tropicana cabaret; cigar-chomping tourists whizzing around in 1950s Chevrolet convertibles; endless mojitos at bars where Hemingway drank. For those seeking nostalgia, these experiences are still easily found, but with the ongoing political thaw with the US, there is a renewed sense of energy in the city, led by a younger generation. A vibrant art and design scene is emerging, and new restaurants, bars and hotels are popping up weekly. Now is the time to visit Havana.

ART
A fascinating insight into Havana is through its dynamic contemporary art scene. Here the studio visit still dominates and is often the only way to see what’s new. Studios often double as spaces where work can be viewed and bought in the artist’s presence. An art insider is essential to see the widest range of work. SACHIE HERNÁNDEZ (sachie72@gmail.com) has curated exhibitions of Cuban art globally and is able to organise studio visits thanks to her inexhaustible contact list. International stars such as ROBERTO DIAGO (idafontirroche@gmail.com) operates a gallery space attached to his studio, while Wilfredo Prieto – whose work is to be found in Hobart’s MONA – is a dominant presence in the art scene. His newly renovated apartment in Vedado is an example of the renewed confidence and possibilities for interior design in Havana unimaginable even 10 years ago. Housed in a sleek space in Miramar, the 331 ART SPACE (calle 31, no. 3401, 34-36, Playa) is a collective of three young artists, Adrián Fernández, Frank Mujica and Alex Hernandez, who explore issues of Cuban identity and the inheritance of the Revolution.

In a generously sized apartment overlooking the ocean on the Malecón, EL APARTAMENTO (1ra #105 C-D, Apartamento 5, Vedado) is an informal space which hosts regular exhibitions. Often curated by Liatna Rodríguez López, there’s a mixture of contemporary photography, conceptual works and painting. Situated in a crumbling ex-cinema in Chinatown, AGUILA DE ORO (Rayo 108, Barrio Chino) is a newly opened cultural centre which shows a high-powered roster of Cuban and international artists. Not to be missed is FÁBRICA DE ARTE CUBANO (FAC, 26 and 11, Vedado).
Clockwise from top left: The Palacio de los Capitanes Generales is now home to the Museo de la Ciudad in the Plaza de Armas. A ceramic mural by Amelia Peláez adorns the Hotel Habana Libre, formerly the Hilton. Chairs from the Vibra collection designed by José Villa and Raiko Valladares. View over Havana with the historic Hotel Nacional de Cuba in the foreground. The apartment of artist Wilfredo Prieto (centre) in Vedado. An installation by artist Roberto Diago. The pool at Paladar Vistamar in a Modernist private house.
In a former oil factory, the cavernous space is a labyrinth of installations of photography, painting, design, fashion and cinema and is currently Havana’s most pulsating night out. There will be three or four DJs spinning, live music stages as well as terraces to enjoy a cocktail or watch an avant-garde film. The gallery spaces remain open all night so this is the best way to see what’s happening in the cultural scene.

DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE
After decades of official disfavour and scant resources, Havana’s designers are now emerging. The best overview is to be found at LAB 26 (19 and 21, Vedado). In a Tropical Moderne house with a magnificent garden, each room features a different designer. At FAC, a section is dedicated to the work of furniture designer José Villa (villasene@gmail.com) whose Vibra Collection of chairs with Raiko Valladares, made from elasticised rope and curvilinear metal frames, are perfect in Cuba’s sultry climate. In the city centre, CLANDESTINA (403, Villegas, Habana Vieja) showcases the work of local designers, including owner, graphic artist Idania del Río as well as Giselle Monzón, whose posters for the cinema – an esteemed art form in Cuba – are highly collectable. Homewares and jewellery by local artisans can be found at PISCOLABIS (75, San Ignacio), which also has a café.

EAT
Havana’s food offerings are much improved from even a few years ago. Paladares – privately run restaurants – are numerous and serve more adventurous dishes than the ubiquitous ‘grilled fish’. An essential is EL COCINERO (calle 26, 11-13, Vedado), a rooftop venue located in an ex-factory. It attracts a mix of Havana’s newly prosperous creative class and foreigners. The FAC complex is next door which makes for a perfect evening. Another recent contemporary addition is OTRAMANERA (avenida 35, 20-41, Playa), in a private house and run by charming Cuban-Spanish couple Amy Torralbas and Álvaro Diez. The food here is simple – the tuna tataki is excellent – and the decor minimalist. Chic in design and overlooking the water is RÍO MAR (3rd and 11, La Puntilla, Miramar)
which specialises in local seafood. For lunch try STAR BIEN (29 #205, B-C, Vedado), in an old mansion with a breezy terrace. A classic paladar, redolent of old Havana is LA GUARIDA (calle Concordia 418, between Gervasio and Escobar, Centro) which has added a rooftop bar, while IVAN CHEF JUSTO (Aguacate 9, esq. A Chacon, Habana Vieja) offers great traditional Cuban dishes such as malanga frita and roast pork in a charming jumble of dining rooms with a tiny rooftop terrace in the old town. It is rumoured that the chef used to cook for Fidel himself. ATELIER (calle 5, between Paseo and 2, Vedado) in Miramar is a welcome respite from the heat and its dining room always showcases contemporary art.

**DRINK**

Havana is full of bars, and in Habana Vieja, O’REILLY 304 (O’Reilly, 304) is perfect for a mid-afternoon Bloody Mary. The food is excellent too, especially the ceviche. Also in the old town is BAR EL DANDY (plaza del Cristo) – good for a simple breakfast, and EL CHANCHULLERO (Bernaza and Cristo) is an intimate spot with a dark setting. Overlooking the plaza Vieja is AZUCAR (plaza Vieja) on the first floor. Take a table on the balcony at dusk and sip a Cubanito. The newly opened SIA KARA (calle Industria, 502), just behind the Capitolio, offers excellent cocktails and food.

**STAY**

Havana has always had limited room capacity, so it’s essential to book early. Prices are set by the government and tend to be steep so a casa particular, or private homestay, is an attractive option. For a luxury hotel experience, the SARATOGA (paseo del Prado, 603) has a rooftop pool, great for unwinding after sightseeing. The new CAPRI (calle 21, N-O) in the more modern Vedado area is a hip addition to the scene. With its slightly vampish decor it is probably the most stylish of Havana’s hotels and its pool offers a great view over the bay. A private apartment, the ARTEDEL PENTHOUSE (aponte@nauta.cu) is well located and offers a charmingly kitsch experience. It is clean, well-run and one of its rooms comes with a small private pool. The TROPICANA PENTHOUSE (tropicanapenthouse@gmail.com), run by an English architect and his Cuban partner, has a rooftop terrace and a nod to contemporary design.

**MUSIC**

Havana pulsates with music. LA ZORRA Y EL CUERVO (calle 23, N-O) is an intimate jazz venue with nightly performances, including Roberto Fonseca who often plays on Thursdays. For a boisterous night out, there is CASA DE LA MÚSICA (Galician, Centro Habana). A wide variety of the best bands in Cuba play here, including salsa, reggaeton and cubaton. For a late-night pool-party experience with live music there is DON CANGREJO (avenida 1, 16-18, Miramar) on the waterfront in Miramar. The classic (and slightly campy) EL GATO TUERTO (calle O, 17-19, Vedado) as well as SALON ROJO (calle N, Vedado) offer a wide range of acts, while new club SARAO (calle 17, Vedado) has everything from salsa to hard-core.
ART MONTH IS SYDNEY’S CONTEMPORARY ARTS FESTIVAL
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SYDNEY MARCH 2016
CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL

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HAVE IT ALL
Feed your wanderlust with luxe notions.

CROWN JEWEL
Saarlouis’s first upscale hotel, La Maison (left), boasts herringbone floors, bespoke furnishings and a gem-coloured palette. The hotel’s philosophy of indulgence reflects the German-French town’s namesake King Louis XIV. designhotels.com

ISRAEL
BRUT BEAUTY
An Israeli philanthropist and art lover has reclaimed a 1960s Brutalist masterpiece in Zichron Ya’akov on the Mediterranean, turning it into opulent Elma Arts Complex Luxury Hotel (above). designhotels.com

THE NETHERLANDS
GOLDEN CHANCE
The lovingly restored Pulitzer Amsterdam (above) consists of 25 interlinked 17th-century heritage canal houses and welcomes guests with charisma and a romantic charm. pulitzeramsterdam.com

Qantas enlisted fellow iconic Australian brand Country Road to design its new premium economy amenity kit. qantas.com

SHOULDERING IT
Carry-on of choice is Stella McCartney’s ‘Falabella’ tote. farfetch.com

WRITE UP
Keep holiday memories fresh in this stylish travel notebook. axelandash.com

WEARING WELL
Aesop’s herbal deodorant blends sage, lavender and witchhazel. aesop.com

CHECK ONE, TWO
Qantas enlisted fellow iconic Australian brand Country Road to design its new premium economy amenity kit. qantas.com

TOPPING IT OFF
Residing in two 700-year-old buildings, the Marktgasse Hotel (above) sees old meld with new in a way only a town as historic as Zurich could. marktgassehotel.ch/en

<< TAKE AWAY MAISON BLANCHE’S VOYAGE RANGE OF TRAVEL-SIZE SOY CANDLES ARE INSPIRED BY FABULOUS FAR-OFF DESTINATIONS, WITH SIX ENTICING SCENTS SUCH AS ‘HELSEINKI’, ‘ZANZIBAR’ AND ‘HAVANA’. MAISONBLANCHE.COM.AU

A SHORT STAY
with
RICHARD UNSWORTH
(Landscape & entrepreneur)

Favourite travel experience?
Last year I went up the world’s highest motorable pass in the Himalayas on a Royal Enfield. Essential travel accessories? Bose bluetooth speakers and a good pair of eyeshades.

Favourite hotel?
El Fenn in Marrakech, it’s traditional but also a bit rock’n’roll. Favourite design piece collected abroad? Ottoman Empire brass candlesticks. How do your travels influence your work?
I feel that always keeping my eyes open and seeking out gardens when I travel subtly influences my work.

Ultimate 2016 travel destinations? Cuba, and I’d love to go back to Africa.
gardenlife.com.au

C A N B E R R A
FULL CIRCLE
CUES WERE TAKEN FROM WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN’S CIRCULAR PLANS FOR THE CAPITAL WHEN DEVELOPING THE CANBERRA VIBE HOTEL. VIBEHOTELS.COM.AU
Transform your bathroom into a wellness retreat where you can relax, rejuvenate and put the long day behind you. Recreate that day spa feel with smooth, organic shapes and beautiful stone surfaces. Reconnect with nature by bringing hints of the outdoors into the bathroom.

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Peaceful yet invigorating, create your day spa look with a clean, fresh, spacious environment. Add a large window for streaming sunlight, offset your natural finishes with a touch of vibrant greenery.

**Sink into a world of bliss.**

A freestanding bath becomes the perfect escape.

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Create a tranquil retreat.

Combine original stone finishes with blonde timbers tones and a muted natural palette.
A silver-toned kitchen by Fiona Lynch Design is anchored by a statement column in brass.

More than 40 pages of inspirational kitchens and bathrooms from glamorous Australian homes.

DESIGNERS

BROOKE AITKEN DESIGN
ANNE BENJAMIN
BUREAU SRH
CM STUDIO
SARAH FOLETTA DESIGN
HARE + KLEIN
DAVID HICKS
KENNEDY NOLAN
FIONA LYNCH
GREG NATALE DESIGN
SCOTT WESTON
ARCHITECTURE DESIGN
CLOUD LAND

Drifts of marble with perfectly matched veins set the scene in this heavenly kitchen.

Designer David Hicks “The marble used in this kitchen is the hero of the design. The owner requested something sophisticated yet different from other marble kitchens. We handpicked the marble and the precise installation with vein matching is what makes this look like a piece of art.”

What luxury item did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “The gleaming ‘Copper Shade’ pendant lights by Tom Dixon from De De Ce which were matched back with the Tom Dixon ‘Tank’ jug and decanter accessories from The Cool Hunter in Melbourne. The marble is also pure luxury in materiality, pattern and precise installation.”

Photograph SHANNON McGRATH
Joinery/splashback/benchtop: Honed Arabescato marble from Corsi & Nicolai and MDF with Dulux ‘Vivid White’ satin gloss two-pack by CabTek.

Sink: Stainless-steel undermount sink from E&S Trading.

Oven/cooktop: Smeg stainless-steel oven from E&S Trading.

Rangehood: Qasair fully concealed rangehood from E&S Trading.

Refrigerator/freezer: Liebherr fully integrated from E&S Trading.

Dishwasher: Miele fully integrated dishwasher from E&S Trading.

Lighting: Tom Dixon ‘Copper Shade’ pendant lights from De De Ce. ‘Mini Rondo Square’ white powder-coated lights from Masson For Light.


Accessories: Tom Dixon glass and copper ‘Tank’ jug and decanter from The Cool Hunter. White ceramic bowl and plate from Gaya Ceramic and Design, Ubud, Bali. For stockists see Address Book.
LUCKY STRIKE
Subtle marble and fresh finishes with raw timber and brass highlights make for an uplifting space.

DESIGNER SARAH FOLETTA “We wanted to use a fresh white palette with elements of warmth to tie in with the rustic timber antique furniture and pendant light. The subtle gold vein running through the Calacatta marble welcomes the brass fittings and accessories, and the brass trim around the sliding splashback. Both everyday functionality and elegance have been carefully considered for this space.”

What luxury items did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “Definitely the Calacatta marble as well as the customised brass refrigerator handles that beautify a non-integrated fridge.”

FACT FILE
Interior design
SARAH FOLETTA DESIGN

Joinery Carve Interiors
Splashback/benchtops White Calacatta marble with grey and gold veins from Marble Slab House
Sink Double-bowl undermount sink from Smeg
Tapware Astra Walker wall-mounted mixer and Vola deck-mounted hand spray with mixer in Aged Brass, both from Candana
Oven/cooktop Freestanding oven/cooktop from Smeg, Rangehood Gosair MT 90L-1B ‘Executive Range’ from greysonline.com
Refrigerator/freezer Smeg French door refrigerator/freezer with customised brassed handles by Axoloti
Dishwasher Fully-integrated from Miele
Lighting Antique papier-mâché olive harvesting basket light fixture from The County Trader
Flooring European oak floorboards with ‘Woca’ stain by Nash Timbers. For stockists see Address Book.

FACT FILE

Interior design

FIONA LYNCH
SILVER STATEMENT

Clad in silvery greys and a slice of brass, this bold room offers a window on the world.

DESIGNER FIONA LYNCH “The approach with this kitchen was to select materials that would tonally work with the concrete floor and walls. The cabinetry is designed in components with gaps along the eastern wall to avoid the kitchen taking too much away from the concrete surfaces.”

What luxury item did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget?

“A luxury item in this kitchen is the bespoke curved brass element.”
Sleek appointments slot right into detailed joinery that highlights this kitchen’s heritage context.

Designer Greg Natale “Situated in a remarkable heritage-listed property, this new kitchen had to meet the needs of a young family yet find context within a gothic revival framework. Key considerations included maximising natural light, addressing the human scale in such a vaulted space and striking a pleasing balance of contemporary and traditional design gestures without foregoing modern appliances and amenities.” What luxury item did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “The joinery is so precise but the attention to detail was worth the hard work.”
SMOOTH SAILING
A stunning centrepiece and warm timber panelling make this space a stand-out.

DESIGNER BROOKE AITKEN “The owners are avid art deco collectors, which informed the interior design. The existing kitchen and dining was reconfigured to provide a larger layout and better circulation. The use of the curve, an art deco element, helps with this. The entire space, including the informal dining, was designed to take in the bay views.”

What luxury items did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “The Neff oven was chosen for its space-saving pocket door. The stone benchtop required extensive detailing to get its beautiful curves.”

FAVOURITE ITEMS
“I love the detailing of the stone bench and its curved nature. The joinery follows the same curves and the stainless steel detailing follows the stone bench detailing as a struck line through the kitchen. The curved joinery is also a favourite. The open appliance cupboard with curved shelves tiled in deep green gives a colourful backdrop to the corner.”

Photograph KRISTINA SOLJO
Interior design

BROOKE AITKEN DESIGN


Wall finish: ‘Cerchio Hexagon’ tiles in Dark Green from Academy Tiles.

Sink: Abey double-bowl ‘Lago’ undermounted sink from Winning Appliances.

Tapware: Abey ‘Armando Vicario Slim D2’ mixer and Zip ‘HydroTap’ both from Winning Appliances.

Oven/cooktop: Neff single oven, multi-function oven with microwave and Highland ‘Professional Series’ gas cooktop all from Winning Appliances.

Flooring: American white oak secret-nailed board with Dark Walnut finish in ‘Synteko Trek Satin’ from Floormania. For stockists see Address Book.
CURVED NATURE
Sculpted elements soften this kitchen's original panelling and clean edges.

DESIGNER ANNIE BENJAMIN “The existing panelling informed the joinery style, with custom timber door pulls adding soft modernity. The long narrow space required subtle detail on the back wall. The custom rangehood canopy and glossy white tiles and white plaster wall reflect light and add texture to a fairly dark space. Rounded ends on the island bench add a sculptural element. We stained the existing boards dark to create a seamless look to suit the style of house.”

What luxury item did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “The full-height cupboards that were meticulously hand-painted with many coats to achieve a soft, bespoke look.”


Lighting: ‘Hektar’ pendants from Ikea, and Astro Lighting ‘Pienza’ wall light from ECC Lighting + Furniture. Flooring: Existing boards stained and polished by Ultimate Flooring.

Accessories: Thonet ‘Round’ bar stools and ‘No 18’ dining chairs. Fritz Hansen ‘Span’ dining table from Cult. Artwork by Peter O’Doherty. For stockists see Address Book.
Joinery

Benchtops

Interior design
SCOTT WESTON ARCHITECTURE DESIGN


COLOUR CODE
Pops of orange and green are a nod to a passion for mid-century culture.

DESIGNER SCOTT WESTON “Passionate enthusiasts of mid-century modern design, the owners wanted to open up the ground floor of their terrace to create an open-plan kitchen between existing dining and living rooms. We sought to create a distinct kitchen zone as a focal point to the larger space that referenced their design preferences without mimicking a 1950s kitchen, and introduced a considered mix of humble materials and creative storage. What luxury item did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “The ceiling and overhead cupboards are luxury items. The timber bulkhead defines the kitchen zone and introduces material warmth.”

**MOLTEN METAL**

Glowing accents of brass and stainless steel make this stylish space sizzle.

**Owner Birgit Raabe:** “This kitchen design allows for amazing flexibility in using the space – for example, the benches can be rolled away or stacked one on top of the other. The birch benchtop table can also be lowered for traditional dinner seating for large numbers. The materials Simon chose are just perfect – the brass is warm with a beautiful patina and the stainless steel is safe from our wandering parrots, Mimi and Ralph, who ate our last kitchen!”

**Photograph:** Brooke Holm

**Styling:** Megan Morton
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NATURAL POLISH

Humble materials play a starring role in a family kitchen that’s surprisingly sophisticated.

Designers Belinda Chippendale and Anna Douglass “The kitchen is the functional and cultural heart of this home. Four growing children and regular entertaining of family and friends called for a highly efficient layout. Aesthetically, the kitchen is pivotal in defining the home’s design language with its natural finishes and clean composition. A generous polished concrete island bench is the cornerstone, accommodating six stools facing each other for casual meals, conversation and daily interaction.”

What luxury item did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “The concrete benchtop has a unique patina, injecting warmth and honesty into the palette of finishes.”

FACT FILE

Interior design
HARE + KLEIN


Photograph
BARNABY WILSHIER
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Enigma exudes a sense of wellbeing with its bold, geometric looks and sleek proportions. Its strikingly signature design combines with a functional, robust quality, making it perfectly suited to the rigors of family life.
Divine Dynamic

Let imagination off the leash and give free rein to design desires to live on high in heavenly kitchens and bathrooms.
With dozens of colour and finish options available, Astra Walker tapware seamlessly integrates into a wide range of interior schemes. The only limit is your imagination.
Being one of the leading bathware designers alongside my signature styles, we have created a range that is both beautiful and unique and I’m so excited to share it with you all. – Kelly Hoppen MBE.

Reclaimed marble - Bathtubs, Basins, Vanities & Shower Bases.
Old seamlessly meets new in the ensuite bathroom of this grand home.

DESIGNER GREG NATALE “This spacious ensuite sits adjacent to the master bedroom within a heritage-listed, gothic revival home in eastern Sydney. We wanted to update the bathrooms to offer the convenience and luxury we expect of contemporary wet areas without forgoing any of the original character of the home. This required a very neutral approach to the colour scheme and beautiful, hand-selected finishes. Careful consideration of planning to reduce complications in plumbing and making use of existing natural light were also very important.” What luxury item did you choose for this bathroom regardless of budget? “Using the Apaiser stone bath with the option of no base really accentuated the contrast between its beautiful curves and the angles and hardness of the marble used throughout the rest of the space.”
Joinery In Dulux ‘Lexicon’ quarter strength two-pack 30 per cent gloss.
Vanity/splashback Honed Carrara marble slab from Surface Gallery.
Walls Dulux ‘Lexicon’ quarter strength.
Bath Apaiser ‘Haven’ stone bath without base in Glacier from Rogerseller.
Basin Vitra ‘S Line’ ceramic basin in White from Rogerseller.
Tapware Fantini ‘Mare’ mixer in Chrome from Rogerseller.
Showerhead ‘Cloud Cover’ round overhead rain shower in Chrome from Rogerseller.
Toilet ‘Matrix’ complete suite with in-wall cistern from Rogerseller.
Towel rail ‘Extreme’ rail in Chrome from Rogerseller.
Lighting Flos ‘Easy Kap’ recessed downlights and wall washers from Euroluce.
Flooring Honed Carrara marble tiles laid in herringbone pattern from Surface Gallery.
Accessories Candlesticks and Aldo Londi for Bitossi ‘Birds’ from Hub. For stockists see Address Book.
SCHOOL’S OUT
Clean lines and a soothing colour scheme appeal to the little people in the family.

DESIGNER FIONA LYNCH “In the children’s bathroom we used an unexpected palette of saturated-mauve painted oak veneer and grey-glazed porcelain tiles.” What luxury item did you choose for this bathroom regardless of budget? “The layout of this bathroom is generous and luxurious with ample space for the two kids who share it!”

DESIGN DUOS
Oak panelling and stone surfaces come together in perfect harmony

DESIGNER FIONA LYNCH “Walls are lined in oak panelling for a different approach in this ensuite. Stone and oak are the main materials with a freestanding black steel frame to the vanity.” What luxury item did you choose regardless of budget? “Oak panelling is our luxury element.”

FACT FILE
Interior design
FIONA LYNCH

HIGH PROFILE

Luxurious finishes and mirrored elegance define this functional master ensuite.

DESIGNER ANNE BENJAMIN “The brief was for a fresh, sophisticated bathroom that could easily accommodate both the owners on busy mornings. A skylight at the rear brings beautiful light into a potentially dark space. The honed Carrara marble floor, benchtops and bath surround are classically luxurious and calm. Glass mosaic wall tiles bring soft colour and a pretty accent. Individual mirrors over the twin basins conceal deep shaving cabinets, which project into the roof cavity.” What luxury item did you choose for this bathroom regardless of budget? “The bath surround was originally designed to be tiled, given the budget restrictions. Ultimately, the change to marble slab was the key in achieving a more sophisticated tone to the room.”
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SUNNY SIDE UP

Depth of colour and a touch of glamour infuse a light-filled bathroom with a sense of intimacy.

Designers Belinda Chippindale and Anna Douglass

“Exposed to the dramatic coastline with floor-to-ceiling glass, this ensuite called for a sense of intimacy and enclosure. In keeping with the surroundings, the palette is simple and natural, and the mosaic wall adds a touch of glamour. The room is flooded with light so we were able to clad the walls and floors in the same rich natural stone. The pendant lights also add a textural layer and an organic form. What luxury item did you choose for this bathroom regardless of budget? “The wall mosaic tiles by Di Lorenzo inject glamour and luxury into the otherwise natural and neutral palate.”
Fittings of Distinction
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HEART OF GLASS
A refined arrangement of texture, light and form creates a unified wash zone.

DESIGNERS PATRICK KENNEDY AND RACHEL NOLAN "Light in the bathroom comes from a south-facing glass block wall diffusing a soft glow across the space. A black mosaic floor is grounding and all walls are finely textured by a neutral white tile in a subtle pattern. Twin pivoting oculus windows penetrate the glass block and provide edited views and fresh air – both necessities in a beautiful bathroom. The design includes the elements that make a bathroom enjoyable and luxurious to use – good even light, fresh air, crisp clean surfaces and plenty of space. "What luxury item did you choose for this bathroom regardless of budget?" The La Rochere glass block wall diffuses a soft glow across the space and is a nod to Pierre Chareau’s Maison de Verre."
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BETWEEN THE LINES

Curved stone and hexagonal tiles add art deco appeal to this harbourside master ensuite.

DESIGNER BROOKE AITKEN “The brief for this bathroom was to infuse an art deco quality into the space. The house was reconfigured to allow for a master ensuite to have views over the harbour and in doing so we were able to build new walls to suit. The curve in the shower wall, which continued into the joinery, was an extension of the art deco curve motif of the house. Materials were chosen for their high quality. Although we were unable to fit a bath into this bathroom, the space created was light and seamless for what was a fairly constrained size.” What luxury item did you choose for this bathroom regardless of budget? “The main luxury was the use of curved cut stone that wrapped a dado rail around the wall. This stone was laser cut in the factory from slab and mounted by the tiler so as to suggest the stone benchtop ran all the way through under the curved hexagon-tiled wall.”
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Walls Corian cladding and shower nooks in Glacier White by Advance Solid Surface. Honed Carrara marble from Stoneplus.


Lighting LED from Light Shed. Flooring Honed Carrara marble from Stoneplus.

Accessories E15 ‘Backenzahn’ European oak stool from Living Edge. For stockists see Address Book.

SHEER SCALE

Pared-down finishes set the stage for well-defined accessories.

DESIGNER MEGAN BURNS “We wanted simplicity in the design. In the bathroom we used large scale slabs of marble on the floor and wrapping up the wall, which is directly in front as you walk into the space. The symmetry of the shower area and the dramatic curve of the showerheads were very important and really give that ‘wow’ factor. We used Corian in Glacier White for the walls in the wet areas, and refrained from any tile or messy detailing. Simplicity was key.” What luxury item did you choose for this kitchen regardless of budget? “We did a double shower and double basin. The whole scale and design of the house was for a couple so we wanted to reiterate that with the layout of the bathroom.”
Fusing effortless elegance with formal grandeur, the Neo Classic look takes classic style into the 21st Century with decadent touches of modern glamour. Old meets new with luxurious finishes offset against pops of bronze and gold, and rich geometric textures.

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Hello Heidi, Hay & horses
Glamsters went to the races, the polo and met the fab Heidi Klum.

THE ANNUAL JEEP MAGIC MILLIONS CARNIVAL celebrated 30 years in January with plenty of equestrian-loving stars on hand. Patron of Magic Millions Racing Women Zara Phillips, her husband former England rugby captain Mike Tindall, and Magic Millions co-owners Gerry Harvey and Katie Page-Harvey entertained a glamorous posse of guests including Gai Waterhouse, Anthony Minichiello and Terry Biviano. Jeep continued its road trip to more horsey adventures – this time at the Jeep Portsea Polo 2016 where Australia’s busiest woman, foreign minister Julie Bishop, took rare time out to mingle with the chilled-out polo crowd who enjoyed the refreshing Peroni tipples. Heidi Klum got up close and personal with guests Australia-wide when she launched her Intimates collection. Design lovers congregated at the first Sydney flagship store for Danish design juggernaut Hay. The impressive apartment-style space offers a perfectly curated lifestyle, from statement furnishings to accessories.
HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STUDIO? It's a converted bedroom in our 1915 apartment so it has generous proportions, high ceilings and traditional detailing. An extensive magazine library, original wooden floorboards, and lots of clothing and shoes. WHAT APPEALED TO YOU ABOUT THE SPACE? The great proportions with room for my collection of fashion magazines, storage and clothing racks. It has a calm feel with good natural light that is not too strong. It has two entrances, too, one from the hall and one from the living room, so it's versatile. WHAT ARE YOUR DESK ESSENTIALS? Laptop, mobile, permanent marker, notebook, latest issues of fashion magazines, and Martin Margiela snow globe for stress relief. WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR WORK SPACE? The collection of fashion magazines is a big feature of the space and is fairly unique as it spans 25 years and I've bought each one personally. They are directly related to my work and I refer to them often. WHAT'S THE VIEW LIKE? A very green outlook, looking through the dining room with its green wall to the trees outside. The city view to the left is always special, especially at dusk. DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY I make my own coffee, which is a treat, turn on the radio, check emails and respond swiftly because things move very fast in fashion. My assistant arrives and I pop out for a showing for a designer's new collection. I run back for a fitting, which can take anywhere from one to three hours. WHAT IS A DREAM DESK PIECE YOU WOULD BUY RIGHT NOW? Tom Dixon rose gold 'Cube' stapler. IF YOUR STUDIO WERE LOCATED ANYWHERE ELSE, WHERE WOULD THAT BE? Tamarama beach.

MIKEY AYOUBI
Head of house
Work-life balance is paramount in this fashion stylist’s vibrant studio.
“I FEEL LIKE THIS COOKER AND I HAVE A NATURAL CONNECTION.”

Giovanni Pilu,
Head Chef and owner,
Pili at Freshwater, Sydney

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