

CREATIVE HOMES THAT
DO MORE WITH LESS

Smart Spaces



belle

CITY
SLICK
STUDIO TATE

PHOTOGRAPHS SHARYN CAIRNS
STYLING SWEE DESIGN





THIS PAGE Bespoke dining table by Studio Tive. 'Kai #42' chairs from Gearr Dane. Artwork by Michael Mark. Vessels by John Dawson for When Objects Work. OPPOSITE PAGE Mater bar stools from Cult. MDF Italia. 'Rock' table from Hids. 'Series 7' chairs from Cult. 'Hangle' light from Douglas & Be. Glass and bowl from Aalborg.

Arflex 'Cingoli' sofa
from Poliform
ClassCon 'Bell' table
from Arflex 'Prestige'
bookcase from Space



STUDIO TATE PRINCIPAL interior designer Alex Hopkins created this penthouse apartment in Melbourne to evoke 'LA glamour', a sophisticated concept using form and feature materials to reveal understated luxury with a classic Hollywood vibe.

What was the brief for this project? The owners were empty nesters who had lived here for several years. They wanted a refreshed, opulent look and an improved layout that could cater for entertaining kids and grandkids. *What were the challenges of the project?* We had to create a larger area to cater for the growing extended family and so we reconfigured the zone between the dining room and main bedroom to give extra amenity and storage. A custom table now seats 10 in the dining area. We transformed a second bedroom into a study/den area, and also looked to maximise the exceptional views of the Botanic Gardens. We considered how both of our clients used the space, and made changes to ensure they could really get the most out of their living space. *How would you describe the completed interior?* Opulent with a timeless aesthetic. Picking up on the owners' love of black and white, we made this a central theme, such as the chevron marble tile with black stone border in the main ensuite. Custom finishes are everywhere, such as the panelling in the kitchen and living areas and the distinctive lighting. Each element was an exercise in details. We think of it like the clasp on a luxury handbag – a subtle note that speaks volumes. *What are some of your favourite design elements?* To maximise the seating capacity in the dining area we designed a custom table in American oak inlaid with pink-veined green marble with a brass trim and 'socks' on the table legs. The dining chairs are in a blue and white Raf Simons upholstery, and an abstract artwork in bright pinks adorns the wall, the perfect counterpoint to a delicate pink and brass pendant light hanging above the table. *Were the owners happy with the finished project?* How do they use the space? The owners are delighted with the penthouse which is their city home during the working week. They use the home to entertain friends and family, have their grandchildren stay over, or enjoy quiet time together. They love the story that evolved as we developed key details to reference the LA glamour theme: green stone, brass and a considered selection of soft and bold colours – pink, deep green and bright blue – set against a black and white backdrop. We have injected a sense of individuality that reflects the personalities of the clients. studiotate.com.au; sweedesign.com.au



THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT
 Baxter 'Nepal' armchair
 from Criteria. Artwork by
 Penelope Aiken. Cassina
 'Utrecht' armchairs
 from Cult. Molteni & C.
 'Pannacotta' side table
 from Hub. 'Line' floor
 lamp from Douglas & Beu.
 Artworks by Dena Kahan
 from Gallerysmith.
 OPPOSITE PAGE 'Golden'
 chair by Nika Zupanc
 for Moooi from Space.
 'Pepe Marble' tabletop
 mirror from StudioPepe.



A large artwork by Peter
Clarke and a work by
Trudy White above
a custom designed bed
by Shalini Das. Gehl
Bendite wall lamps.
Aster 'Dellini' armchair
from Poliform sits under
an artwork by Ian Friend
from Gallerywalls.