horizons

a custom publication from Di Henshall Interior Design.

REFLECTIONS
mirror inspirations for inspiring spaces

FLOOR TO CEILING CHIC
the latest in showstopping wallpapers

CITY TO SEA
design ideas customised for your outlook and lifestyle

namaste
COLOURS FOR CALMING SPACES

DISCOVER YOUR UNIQUE STYLE dihenshall INTERIOR DESIGN

CONTENTS

MAIN FEATURES

CONCRETE JUNGLES // 4
How traditional concrete has become popular again.
CITY TO SEA // 6
Contrasting projects, two different styles, both a spectacular result.
MIRROR MIRROR // 12
How a reflective approach can bring light and dimension to any space.
DESERT DREAMING // 14
Di takes us on a guided tour of one of her greatest inspirations.
NAMASTE // 20
Bringing calm and peace into a space with careful colour selection.
FASHION FEATURE // 23
How fashion, politics and style are intrinsically linked.
TO BE FRANK // 26
The life and work of genius Frank Lloyd Wright.
COASTAL CHIC // 28
A stunning transformation with cool, sleek coastal vibes.
THE JEWEL OF QUEENSTOWN // 34
A project like no other from the land of the long white cloud.
THERE'S NOTHING NEW IN THE WORLD // 38
How rapid transformation is driving modern culture.
SLEEK IN THE CITY // 40
A spectacular transformation of a new family home.
FLOOR TO CEILING CHIC // 46
Wallpapers - but not as you know them.

EDITOR'S *LETTER*

NEW BEGINNINGS

Welcome to the launch issue of *Horizons*, a bespoke publication from the team at Di Henshall Interior Design.

This magazine, which we plan to publish twice a year, is designed to give you the opportunity to learn a little more about us – not just what we're able to achieve for our clients, but how our unique culture and ethos are woven into every project.

Why *Horizons*? Well, quite simply my team and I pride ourselves on curating a unique style for each and every one of our clients, a true reflection of their personality and lifestyle.

As you'll see from the small sample of recent projects showcased in these pages, we refuse to be defined by one style as an interior design firm and we certainly don't distract ourselves with current trends or fads.

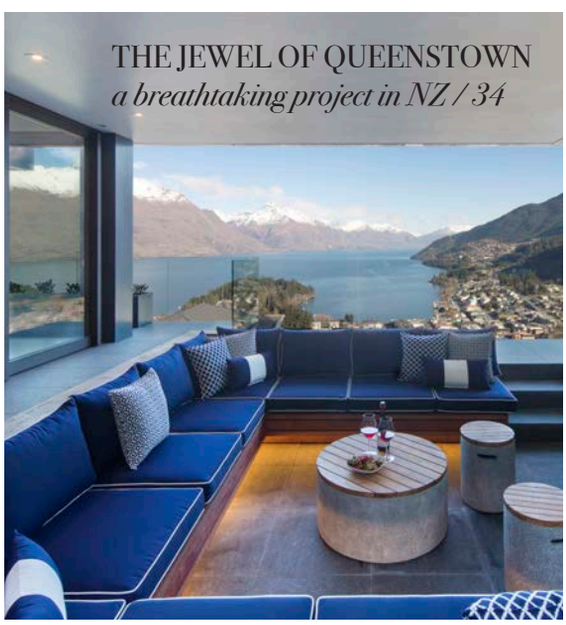
Trends come and go, style is timeless.

We hope you are inspired by this magazine as much as we were compiling it.

Here's to looking forward, seeking the very best and creating your own spaces that are as beautiful and mesmerising as endless skies and nature's horizons.

Di Henshall, Design Director
Di Henshall Interior Design

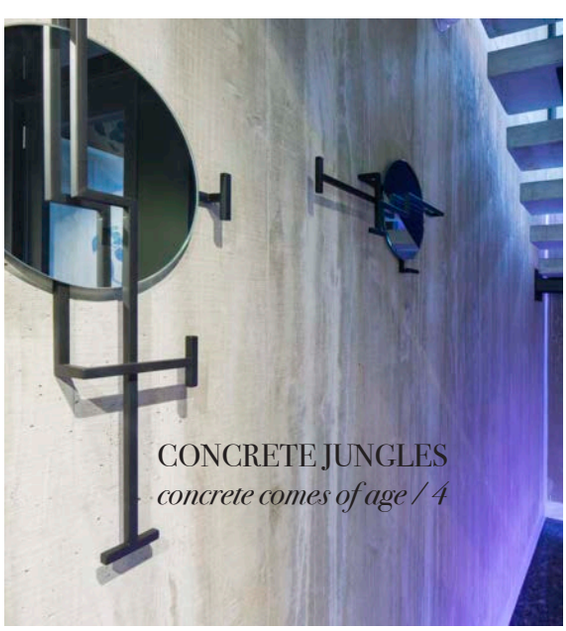
DI HENSHALL



THE JEWEL OF QUEENSTOWN
a breathtaking project in NZ / 34

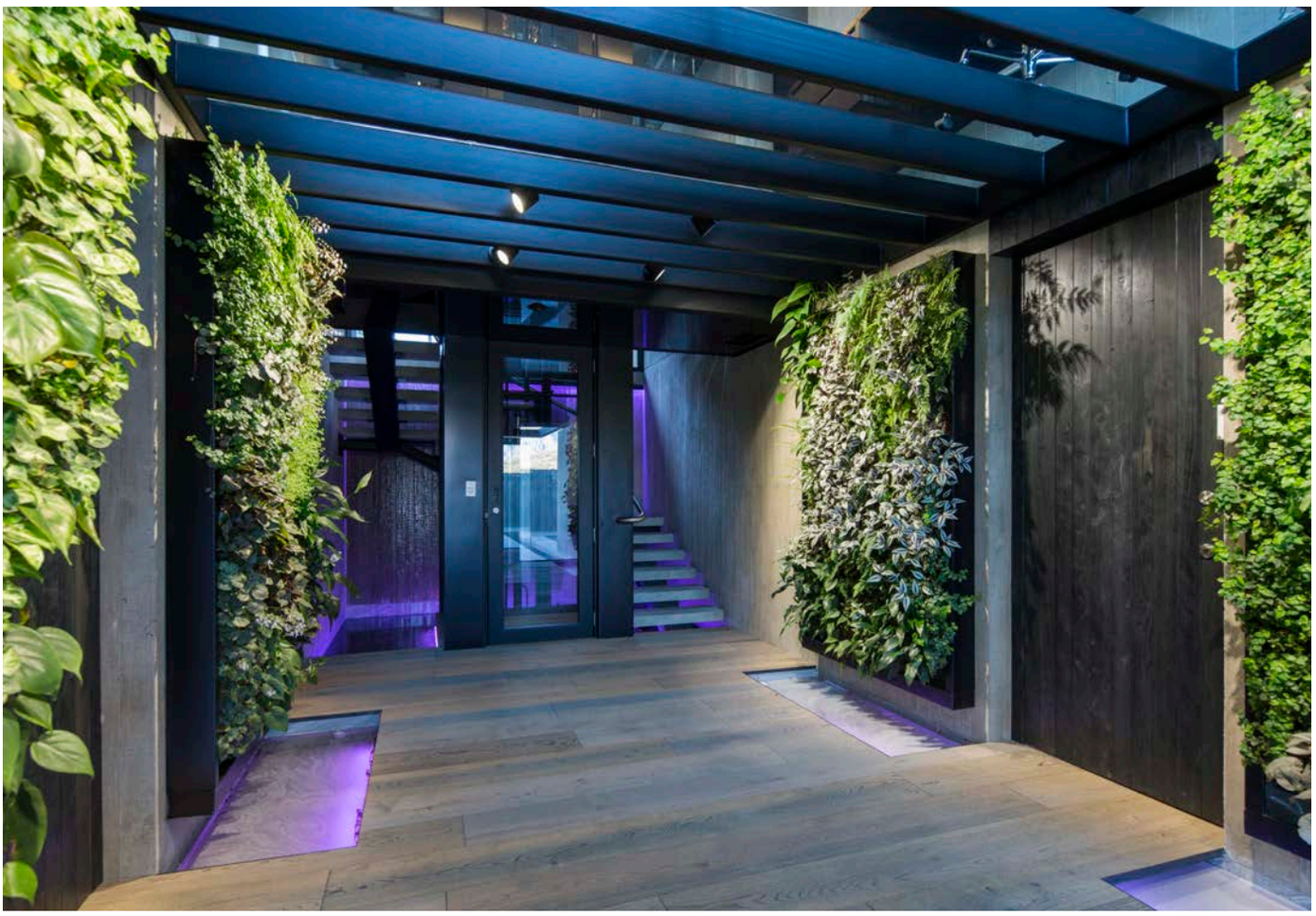
on the cover

CALM AND CLASSIC IS THE PERFECT WAY TO DESCRIBE THE ROOM ON OUR LAUNCH ISSUE - ONE OF OUR PROUDER MOMENTS FROM A SEASIDE PROJECT AT SUNRISE BEACH ON THE SUNSHINE COAST.



CONCRETE JUNGLES
concrete comes of age / 4

concrete jungles



A FEW YEARS BACK, concrete was something that was functional, structural and quickly covered over with plaster, tiles or some other veil to hide its bareness. Not so now. It is front and centre of a design trend that sweeps across many media. Instead of just showing itself off for what it is, designers and manufacturers have introduced it as the new hero, producing laminates, tiles, wall panelling, paints and even wallpapers, all aiming to look as concrete-y as possible.

Why would anyone want to drape their walls, floors, ceilings, bathrooms, kitchens and sometimes even furniture in a finish that has been shunned by the general aficionados of style ever since Brutalism reared its head back in the harsh architectural days of the fifties? It really became popular in constructing monolithic public buildings right through the sixties and even seventies.

Well, it depends on where your personal style is and how much you are influenced by the new order of architecture and design. There is a simple, raw beauty in concrete that is very appealing to many, allowing the shapes and form of a structure to stand strongly and cleanly against other forms and materials. Bold lighting, metals, soft furnishings and even sheer curtains all give balance to concrete.

What made concrete so disliked up until recently is actually what now makes it so liked. The graphic, stark and unadorned honesty of concrete stirs people. It is pure in its natural form, but the new products pretending to be concrete are satisfying those who crave the cool, imposing simplicity of concrete. We recently swathed several bathrooms in slabs of porcelain sheet, which looked exactly like polished concrete. Couple this with fluffy towels, shiny chrome, stark white fittings, a bit of timber accent and beautiful lighting and you can hopefully understand why it was such a success.

From top:
Laminex Concrete Formwood
Nood Co. Pill Ivory Basin
Papaya Concrete Pears

Wallpaper another revolution, which in my world has never been out of fashion, has also jumped on the concrete bandwagon and there are many styles, designs and colours of wallcoverings all in various forms of concrete.

Ceramic and porcelain tiles are produced all over the world, governed by what is the latest trend in both colour, texture and style. Clearly, the tile manufacturers have also climbed aboard, as there is an enormous plethora of tiles all imitating glorious concrete.

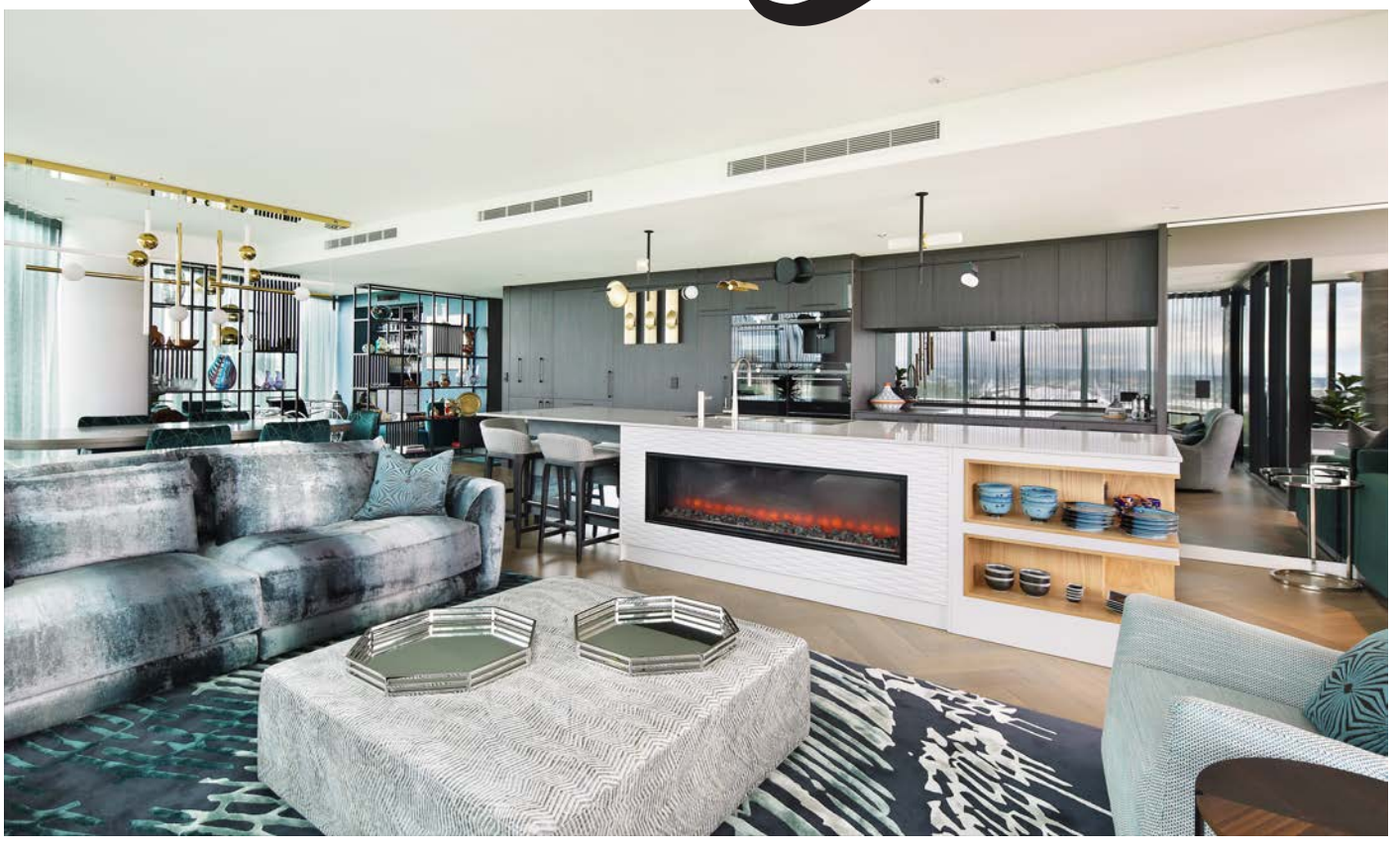
Laminates, used on furniture and cabinetmaking, have a broad range of concrete-like finishes. Some laminates can be postformed (bent) to such a tight degree that the finished product actually does look like the real thing all without the hassles and expense of forming up concrete.

Like all trends, this one may stay around for a while, but eventually a new mass-loved finish will take its place, but for now, have a look around, there are so many applications for this craze, most of which would stand the test of time, just like the real thing!

There is a simple, raw beauty in concrete that is very appealing.

CITY to *Sea*

From Melbourne's chic inner city to oceanside on the Sunshine Coast, these transformations exude flair and are infused with the unmistakable personal style of the owners.



WE LOVE:

Texture Blend

Infusing natural materials with sleek modern finishes and timeless colour accents makes for stylish spaces.

"THERE IS NOTHING MORE REWARDING THAN URGING A CLIENT TO MAKE A LEAP OF FAITH REGARDING COLOUR AND THEN SEEING THEIR JOY WITH THE RESULT." - *Di*

WE LOVE:
Colour Pops

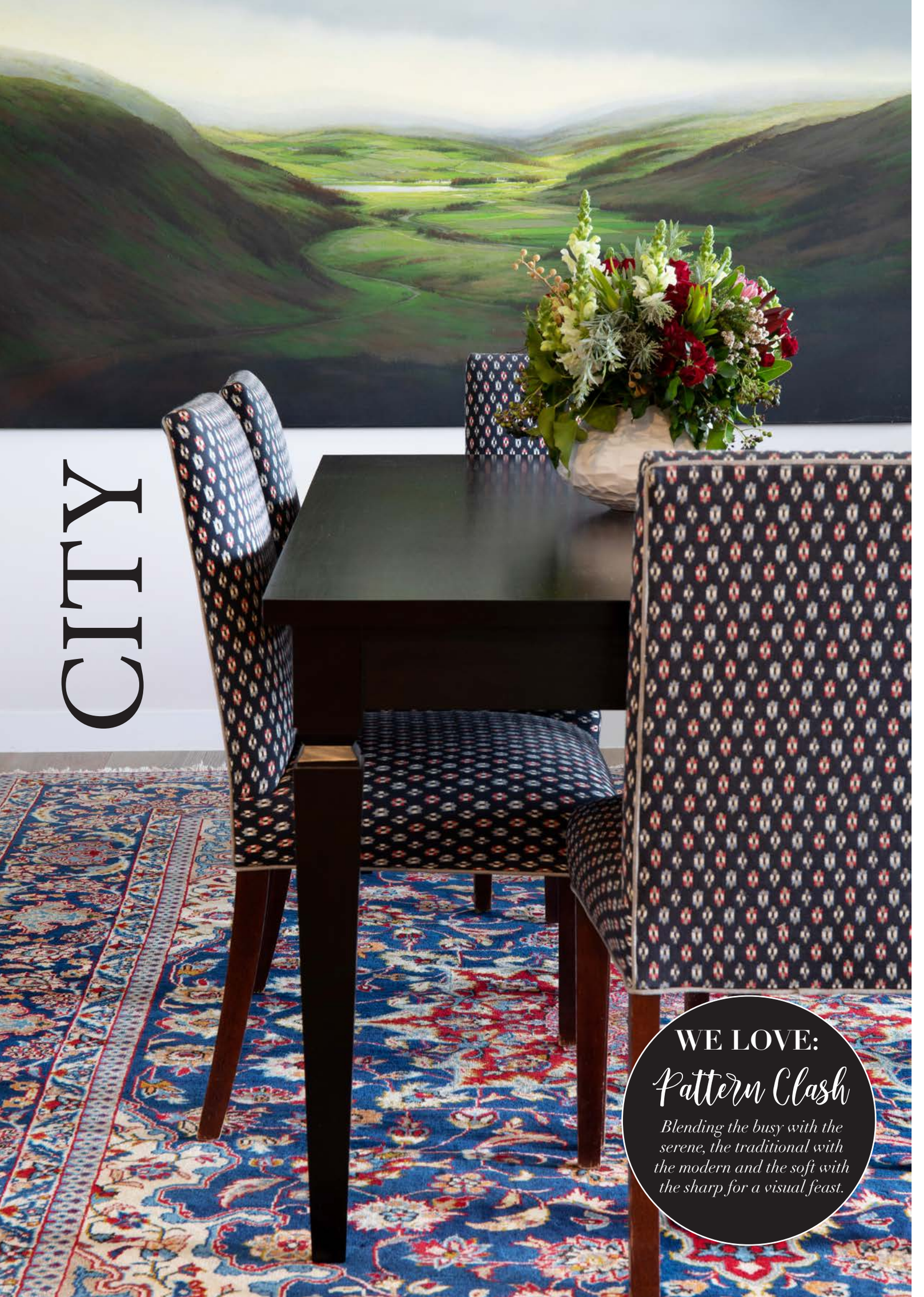
Accenting bold brave colours with contrasting colours in cushions and artworks brings out the best in the palette.

THE DETAIL *Lowdown*

Top: Osborne & Little 'Pageant' cushion

Middle: Arte Shibori 'Breeze' wallpaper

Bottom: Laminex Burnished Wood laminate



CITY

WE LOVE:

Pattern Clash

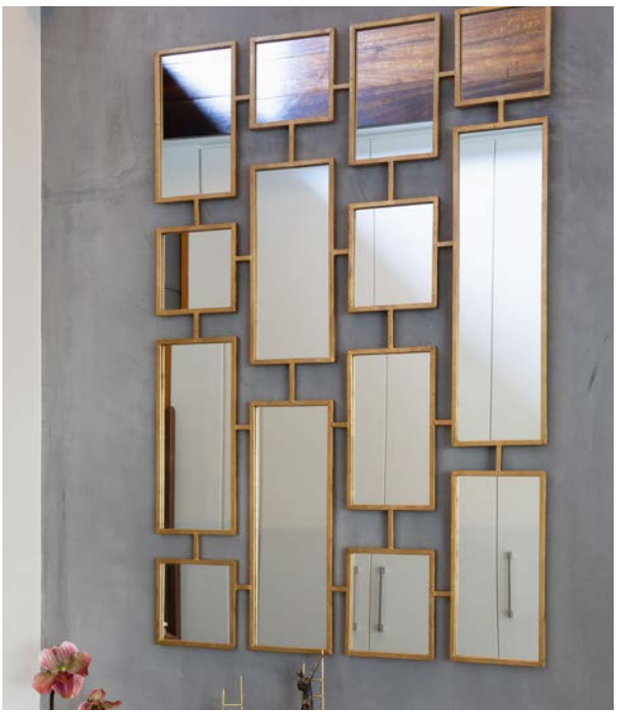
Blending the busy with the serene, the traditional with the modern and the soft with the sharp for a visual feast.

SEA

MIRROR MIRROR

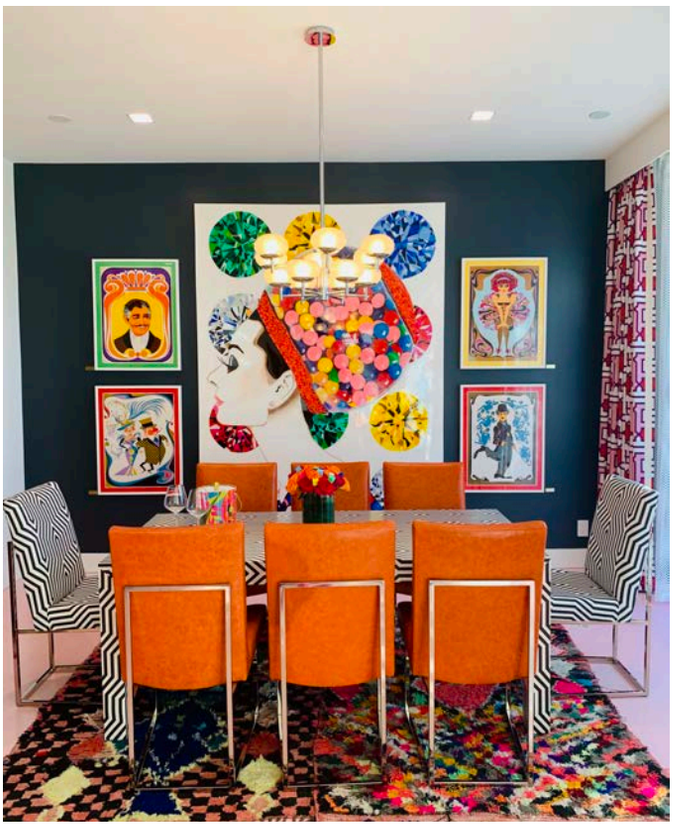
'CAMILLA' MIRROR

A REFLECTIVE APPROACH BRINGS A TOTAL ILLUSION OF SPACE AND LIGHT TO ANY AREA ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS IN THE TRADE - *Di.*



DESERT DREAMING

Di's travels to Palm Springs were full of colour and design inspiration.



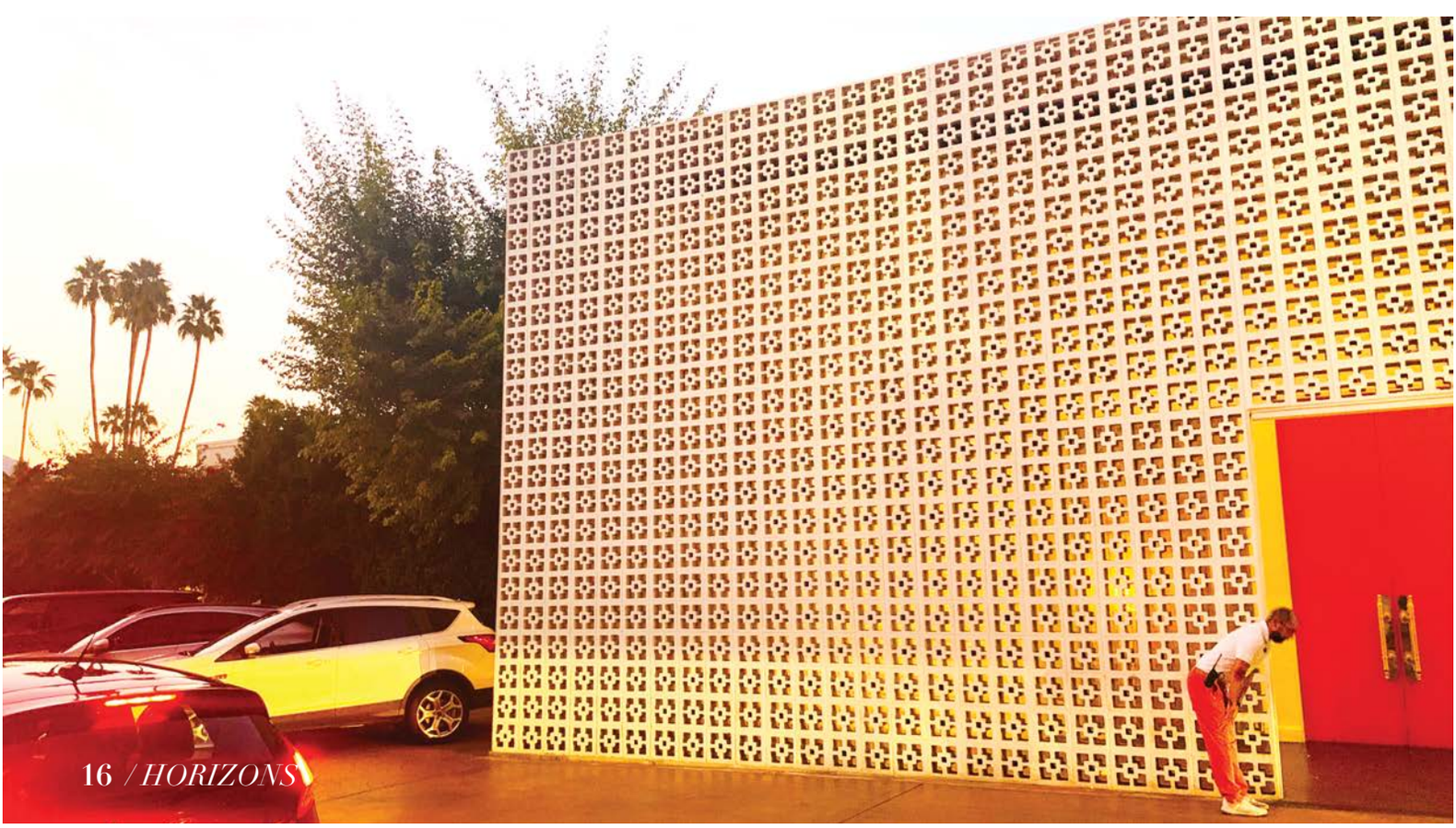
PALM SPRINGS –
even the name evokes a sense
of luxury and laid-back fun.

I have visited Palm Springs on two occasions, including earlier this year for Modernism Week. One is transported, not only into the desert (less than two hours out of Los Angeles) but into a time that seems to have stood still. Somewhere between 1950 and 1970. At first, it could be misunderstood as some great big movie set about the Rat Pack, but then you see real-life people walking about, looking somewhat normal, in a 21st century sort of way. Some of the locals, I should add, DO look like they are in the Rat Pack movies, with their short-sleeved, nattily printed Californian shirts tucked into their brown shorts with white belts do you get the picture?

Dig a bit deeper into the glorious, palm-lined avenues with stunning, drought-resistant planted and manicured gardens and you find some amazingly wonderful architecture that celebrates a more innocent era in American history. Simple pleasures like barbecues on the patio, drinking fruity concoctions with umbrellas and cocktail sticks, washing the Chevy in the driveway, walking the poodle and polishing the golf clubs. They still do things like this, but not as overtly as in that bygone time.

No other city in the whole of the United States represents mid-century architecture as well or as prolifically as does Palm Springs. The introduction of several steel-framed houses in the sixties, by renowned architect, Donald Wexler, cemented the tone for the desert-style, low pitched bungalows, that now are the icon of this beautiful, quirky city. Wexler intended to build dozens of these steel framed houses, that were relatively ground-breaking (although other steel framed houses had been built in Palm Springs since the 1930s), but circumstances prevented this happening, making the seven that were built a Must-See for all architecture devotees who come flocking to see the simple, yet perfectly formed, tiny houses.

Colour is an essential part of Palm Springs, with neighbours seemingly outdoing each other with the colours of their front doors. There is even a map to track coloured front doors for the tourist! Shops, restaurants and hotels are a riot of colour, boldly standing out against the eye-wateringly blue sky and craggy mountains that surround the town. The gay community has a lot to do with the preservation and resurgence of popularity of Palm Springs, with many of them being involved in business, design, food, interiors and architecture thank goodness, because it is well worth the effort of going there. Drinking in the atmosphere, meeting the most wonderful, generous-spirited locals, having a pina colada and immediately regaining the sense that life is a colourful, wonderful, diverse journey, filled with extraordinary experiences ... that is PALM SPRINGS.

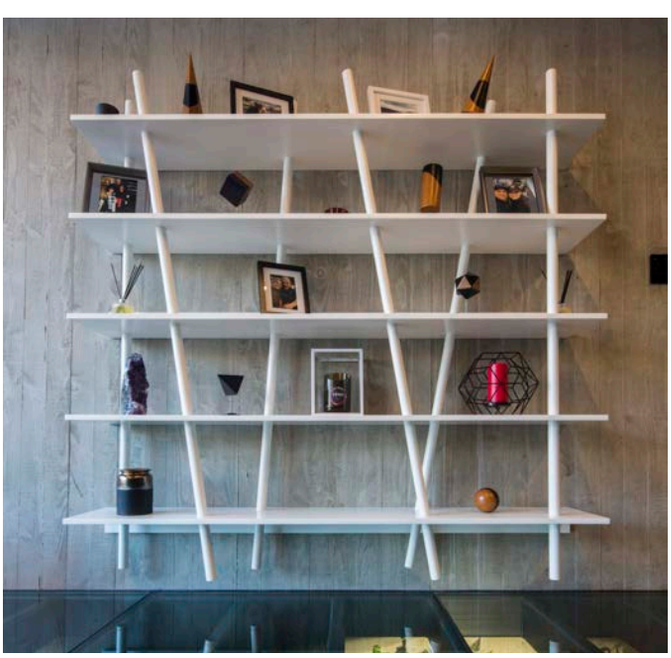


CALIFORNIA
J698BO

No other city in the whole of the United States represents mid-century architecture as well or as prolifically as does Palm Springs.

custom CREATIONS

SOME RECENT BESPOKE FURNITURE DESIGNS FROM OUR SISTER COMPANY, RESIDENT HERO.



namaste

THE POWER OF CALMING COLOURS

Classic sea-inspired colours include washed blues, seafoam greens, golden creams, sandy beiges and crystalline whites along with accents in stormy navy or a few pops of edgy black. Take a stroll down by the water to get inspired nature's palette is all around you.

With our harsh light, its equally common to want to keep your wall colour light, too. But just because you're drawn to white walls doesn't mean that they have to be boring. Choosing an off-white that's infused with a hint of blue is an easy way to subtly add more visual interest while also helping the hue marry up better with the rest of the sea shades you've selected. Look to colours like Resene Eighth Concrete, Resene Quarter Surrender or Resene Quarter Emerge which was used on the walls of this beautiful bedroom to help lend it an easy, breezy vibe.

Batten walls are a popular on-trend design choice, but they don't have to surround the entire space nor do they have to go all the way from floor to ceiling. Instead of a headboard, this bedroom uses partial battens to create an interesting focal point above the bed that helps draw the eye upward. Switching them to a horizontal orientation is another cool idea, and other ideas for battens could include a typical grid, parallel pairs, or turning them on a 45-degree angle.

Oceans of light and airy white bedding has been layered with more textures and stormier shades that pull the colours of the artwork out into the room. The side table in Resene Fast Forward plays up some of the greener undertones that are present in the dark accent

IN A SUBTROPICAL CLIMATE, IT'S EASY TO BE DRAWN TO AN OCEAN-INSPIRED COLOUR PALETTE OF BEACHY BLUES – ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A HOLIDAY HOUSE.

HERE'S SOME INSPIRATION FROM OUR PAINT PARTNER, RESENE.

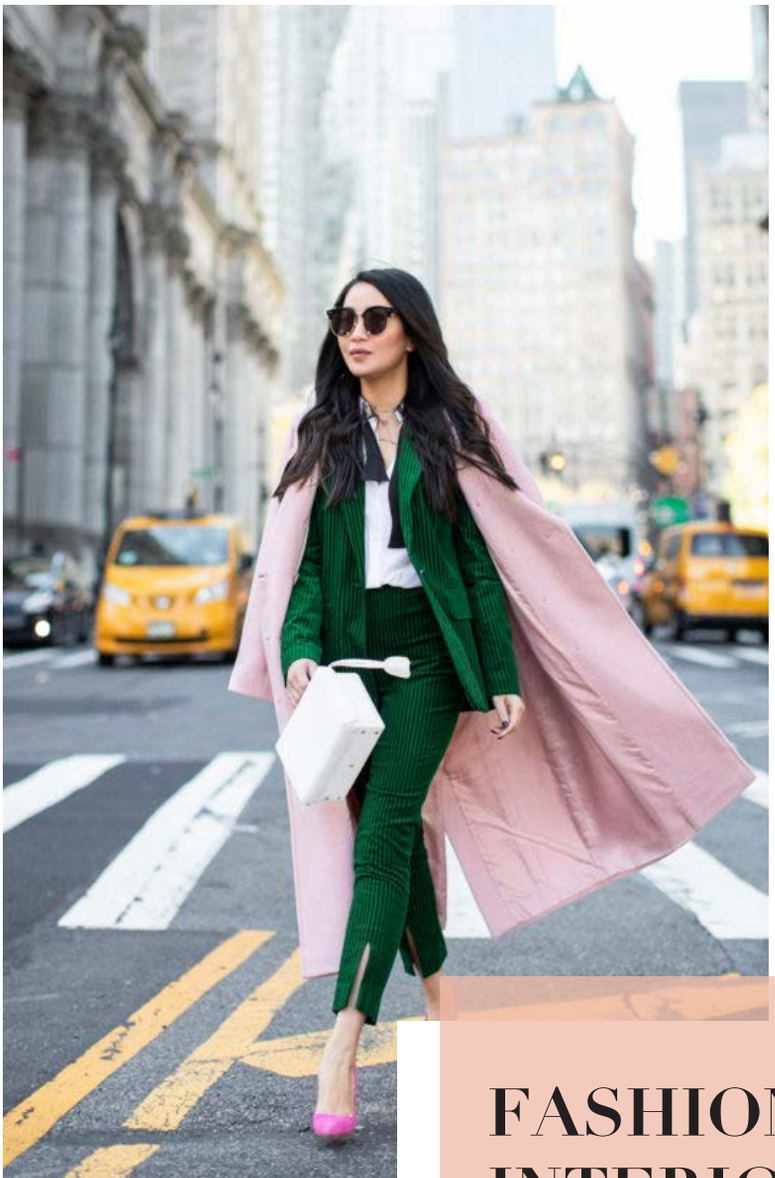
cushion, while the vase in Resene Mystery and the lamp base in Resene Raindance meet it halfway to bring the gap in contrast between it and the Resene Quarter Emerge walls and Resene Quarter Concrete floor.

While the palette built on blues certainly looks beautiful, other colours you can try with nebulous off-white blue-greys like Resene Quarter Emerge are faded greys, green stone greys or fizzy warm whites such as Resene Quarter Baltic Sea or Resene Elderflower.

If blue feels too cold to you, try layering light grey-greens instead. Opt for walls in Resene Secrets, a side table in Resene Mother Nature, go for Resene Helix on the lamp and large vase and just a pop of deep dark emerald Resene Atlas on the small bud vase. Then, track down some cushions to coordinate. With silvery sages being as popular as they are right now, they shouldn't be too hard to find. The secret is to choose shades that have the same base tone with enough contrast between them that they create a sense of visual texture.

If blue feels too cold to you, try layering light grey-greens instead.

Resene Quarter Concrete
Resene Mystery
Resene Bismark



FASHION & INTERIOR DESIGN

intrinsically linked

WHAT WE WEAR OFTEN REFLECTS how we feel about ourselves, what image we want to portray, how comfortable we feel in our skin, what mood we are in. Many people use clothes as simply a uniform, something that needs to be adorned to protect us, to keep us warm or cool, to be practical for what the day will bring, to identify what we do for a living. Uniforms are practical and easily identify fellow team members and separate the team from the punters. A uniform is also a statement of conformity and submission. A police officer, a Chinese Communist Party member, a Buddhist monk, an airline pilot they are all easily identified and it is immediately understood who they are and what they represent. But fashion is, for most people, an expression of who they are; their personality and their lifestyle. Finding one's own style often takes years to develop but everyone ultimately shows the world their style, which is unique to each person. Even trends or the flavour of the month will be interpreted in very different ways from one person to another. This is perfect. So, when it comes to interior design, all the same characteristics apply. There is a complete overlap between fashion and our built environment. How we express ourselves is not limited to our dress code or what we do for a living. We express ourselves through our homes. Even the most modest dwellings give hints as to the personality and style of its occupants. Our homes should be a refuge from the outside world as well as a place of welcome and comfort. If it comes down to basic needs, we really only need a bed, a bowl and a spoon. But if we nurture our soul and create a sense of wellbeing and harmony, such austerity can never give us sanctuary. We want our homes to be a reflection of us, or even an aspiration of what we want to become. Just like a uniform can never be considered as a personal style, we need to create our own style and image through how we dress and >>

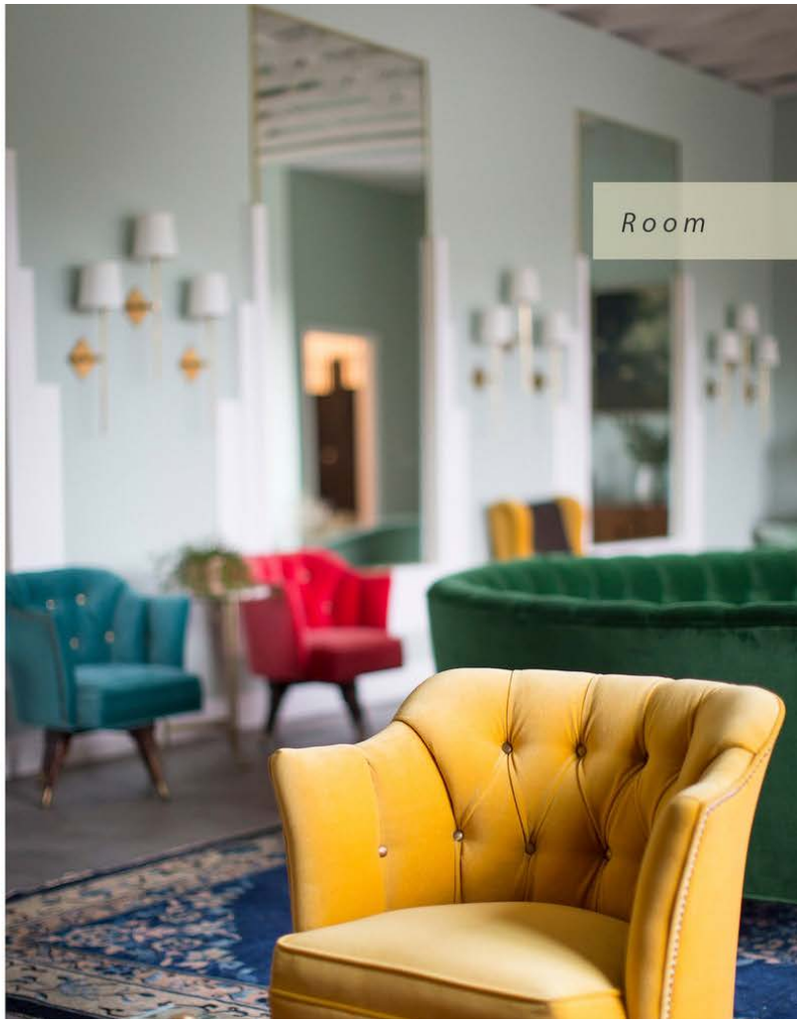
how we live. You may say, how do all of these aesthetics create happiness, but it goes beyond that simplistic intent – it is more to do with a sense of personal achievement, the intention of feeling good about oneself, creating a sense of protection and confidence.

Around the world and over the passage of time, fashion, interior design and architecture have followed and reflected each other.
A classic example of this would be the Art Deco movement, which initially started in France in the early part of the 20th century and influenced every conceivable art form, from architecture to furniture, to jewellery and fashion, from car and aeroplane design to trains and household appliances. Its form encompasses many influences, from Japan, the Middle East, the Far East, French kings and ancient South American cultures – all wrapped up in a vast, diverse form of cubism and strong colours. It is no accident that Art Deco is still regarded as one of the most translatable, beautiful periods of art in modern history, still influencing fashion designers, jewellers and industrial designers to this day.
It evokes a sense of pared back, stylised luxury and sophistication, the original movement having its heyday between the two world wars.

Fashion and interior design coexist together, happily playing off each other. Three of the biggest influences that affect and mould movements in design are probably politics, the economy and nature. Nature has and always will have a clear message for all designers, it is the pinnacle of beauty, form and function. There is no time in the history of mankind that art and design hasn't been influenced and guided by nature. Politics and the economy have consistently left their mark on our artisans and creators of the built environment as well as fashion. A recent example of this is of course immediately before and after the Second World War. In the thirties, the world had just come out of the depression and although the Art Deco movement was still in full swing, there was a more tempered approach to building and object design, softened colours and muted tones in fashion. After the Second World War, there was a global sense of relief, hope, the prospect of modernity and a totally new era. Two superpowers arose, the USA and the USSR – both coming from very different histories and ideologies. The western world, quite understandably, was greatly influenced by the US, where larger houses were being built, home appliances were being revolutionised, fashion was bright and breezy and full of upper middle class attitude. It was almost as though the world was being told anything is possible. All of this economic, political and social correlation has a profound effect on how we see how ourselves and how we portray ourselves to the outside world.

Runway

Room



"Don't be into trends. Don't make fashion own you, but you decide what you are, what you want to express by the way you dress and the way to live."
Gianni Versace

TO BE *frank*

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT DESIGNED MORE THAN 1,000 STRUCTURES OVER 70 YEARS. WRIGHT BELIEVED IN DESIGNING IN HARMONY WITH HUMANITY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT, A PHILOSOPHY HE CALLED 'ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE'.
HERE, DI HENSHALL REFLECTS ON HIS IMPACT AND HIS LEGACY.

I once wrote an article about Frank Lloyd Wright, the world-famous US architect, in which I thinly disguised my slight dislike for him. However, I feel that he is a figure that requires a bit more respect than that, so here are some words about a man that is as brilliant as he is complex.

His career spanned 70 years an amazing length of time for a life, let alone a career in the ever-changing, very competitive field of architecture. When I was in the United States I was privileged enough to visit several of the 532 completed projects he designed.

Architects and designers constantly push boundaries, challenging people's perception, urging us to think differently about our surroundings. Frank Lloyd Wright was essentially a traditional thinker, but he pioneered many uses and applications of materials. He believed that a building should reflect and absorb its association with nature and this is clearly illustrated in his early works, including many in Oak Park, just west of the city of Chicago, where I got to see the greatest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright's private houses. His use of stone, timber and brick are beautifully and elegantly fused together to create some wonderful buildings.

There is a never-ending stream of FLW devotees trawling through the leafy avenues photographing and sketching everything in sight. To own a FLW house comes with this legacy and the owners seem to know that this is their lot, remaining inconspicuous and tolerant.

As Sean Malone, President and CEO of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation comments, "Frank Lloyd Wright saw architecture as a way of life. He believed that architecture must reflect and reinforce the basic values and ideas

of the society for which it is created." Besides his ideas, ideals and philosophies, his private life was littered with controversy, tragedy and flamboyance, which makes him so appealing to so many people.

He abandoned his wife and six kids in 1909, when this action was close to a cardinal sin, a huge scandal. He ran off with the wife of one of his clients, another slightly frowned upon action. They scarpered to Europe and didn't come back for three years. Not long afterwards, he built a rambling house called Taliesin, one of his early masterpieces. His beloved mistress, along with her two children and three other people, were brutally murdered at Taliesin by a staff member, who then set the house on fire.

Frank re-built the sections that were damaged and continued to live there on and off his entire life. He went on to marry a mentally unstable morphine-addict, who almost brought him undone, finally finding love with a Russian woman, who had two daughters, one of whom died tragically young in a car accident.

When I was visiting Taliesin I saw a beautiful shell displayed on the windowsill of his study, supposedly the shell FLW showed to Solomon Guggenheim to illustrate how he intended to design the brilliant and beautiful Guggenheim Museum in New York, a building so dramatically different to his earlier works it is hard to recognise that it is the work of the same man responsible for all those Prairie Houses back at the turn of the twentieth century.

If you're ever in New York City, Guggenheim museum is a MUST SEE. It was completed shortly after Wright's death in 1959 at the ripe old age of 91! Some of his most significant buildings were designed in the last ten years of his life now that's encouragement if ever I've heard it.

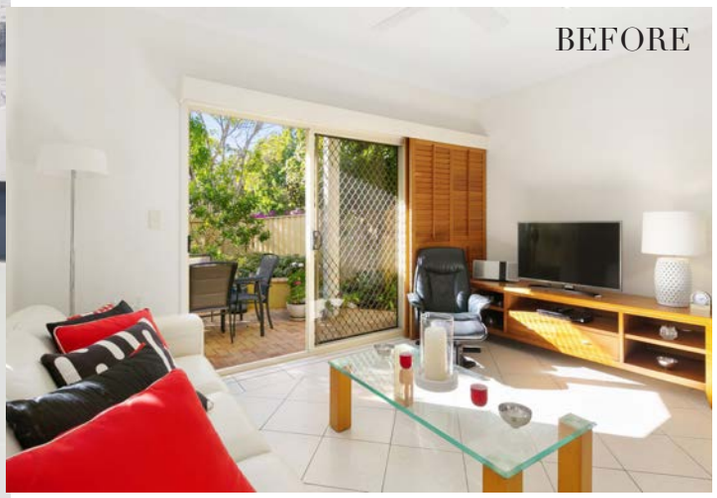
One of Frank Lloyd Wright's most famous works, *Fallingwater* is a house he designed in 1935 in rural southwestern Pennsylvania.

COASTAL *chic*

THIS PROJECT IS A BEAUTIFUL TOWNHOUSE in Noosaville which was totally gutted and transformed into a stylish apartment with a coastal feel. Our client's love of colour prompted Di's use of soft mint blue kitchen cabinetry with contrasting black handles against a crisp white splashback to create a calming and welcoming space.

The kitchen was moved from the middle of the living area to the corner of the room, replacing the existing dining. This helped define the living zones and created flowing spaces which made sense for entertaining.

The bathrooms were demolished and replaced with crisp white tiles, cabinetry and coastal themed feature tiles. We even managed to fit a free-standing bath in the tiny main bathroom!



Feature lighting always makes a statement. Natural timber and cane with a splash of white softens the mood throughout the living area. Use of textural greens, blues and objets dárt against a white palette has made this home an oasis anyone would love to spend time in. Wallpaper is something that reminds us of the 70s but its use can totally transform any room in a short space of time. Di LOVES wallpaper and uses it whenever possible to make any area luxurious, bright or texturized.

This townhouse has been transformed to emphasise the client's quirky, unique style whilst still maintaining a cool, clean, and bright atmosphere throughout.

the art of design
REEF

DARK, HEAVY AND DATED FINISHES WERE REPLACED WITH COOL, CALM. COASTAL TOUCHES.

IT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED TO EMPHASISE THE CLIENT'S QUIRKY, UNIQUE STYLE WHILST STILL MAINTAINING A COOL, CLEAN, AND BRIGHT ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT.

THE JEWEL OF QUEENS

STOWN

DESPITE THE SHEER SIZE and commanding presence of this impressive mountain-side home, the interiors are warm and inviting.

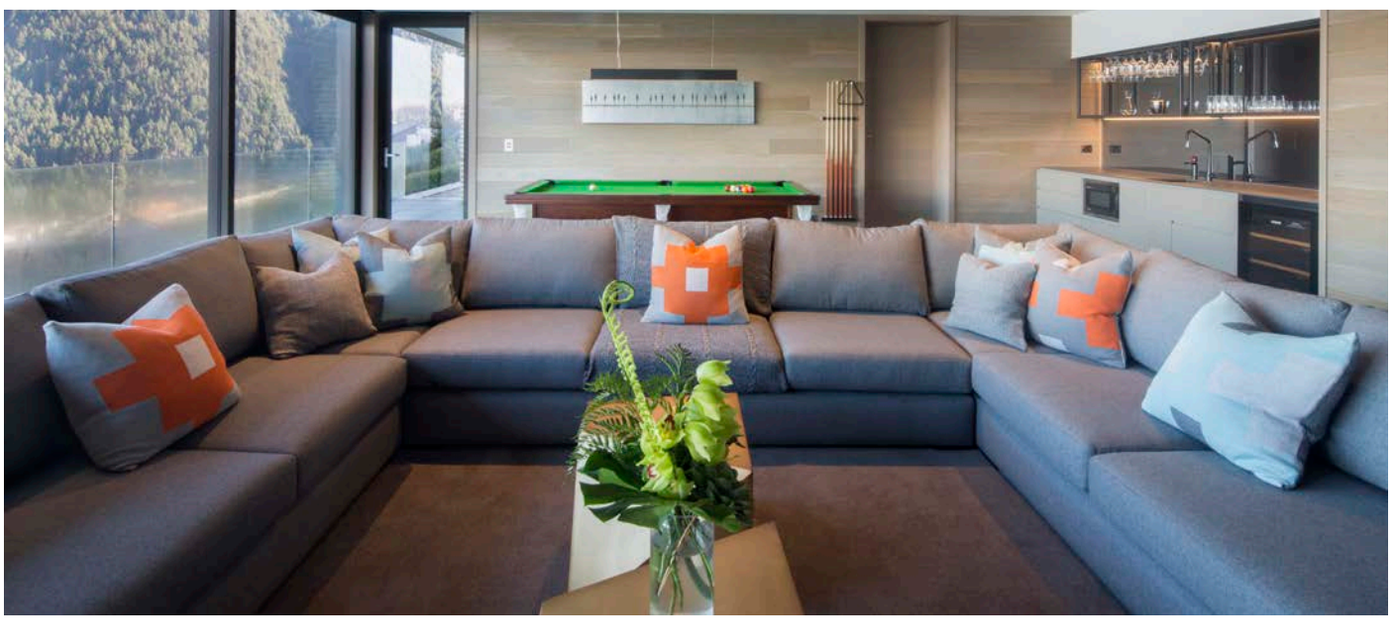
According to Di, the result is "restrained luxury". "It sounds like an oxymoron, but the real hero of the design is where it is this home has one of the most beautiful aspects in the whole world," she explains.

The five-bedroom residence is home to a young energetic family who love to entertain. It has ample living spaces to accommodate extended family, including multiple living rooms, a sitting room, home theatre, a billiards/kids' lounge, and generous outdoor living areas. There's also an apartment for the family's nanny under the same roof.

Di says the homeowners opted for a pared-back colour palette for the interiors. "Everything is soft and tactile we've used fur, velvet, silk and wool," she says. Natural stone, including schist, which is mined nearby, and plantation timbers also feature.

Given the sheer scale of the build, the project had more than its fair share of trials. The biggest of these, says Di, were "coordination deadlines, including shipments from Australia, clearance and installation 120m3 of cabinetry alone was shipped, unpacked and assembled on a difficult site with weather and other conditions hampering a smooth operation."

The Di Henshall team and, more importantly the client, agree that the challenges were well worth overcoming given the end result.



Queenstown is one of the most magical places on earth and this project was a masterpiece of capturing that magnificence from every vantage point.

THERE IS NOTHING *new* IN THE WORLD

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING NEW in the world, that didn't exist before we arrived. There is no water on the planet that is made, it has always been here. There are no new rocks or mountains or animals or minerals. It is amazing to think that everything we touch, eat, drink and look at have been here for ever, and all we are seeing is some recycled form of something else.

It has also been said that there are no real new ideas – everything we do has been done before, including things such as hydropower, which has been used by various cultures for thousands of years. Fashion comes and goes, re-forms and recirculates, with subtle differences, but still a variation of a theme seen before.

It is only in the last one hundred years that man has exponentially grown at a rate never before seen in history in so many areas of what we now take for granted. Things such as air travel, cars, radio, computers, and international telecommunications – all of these things have been popularised in the last century, but in the last twenty years, this development has accelerated at lightning speed to such a point that if you blink you'll miss it. When digital photography first came about, Kodak predicted it would take nine years to become globally popular – it took nine months. Who would have ever thought that a company like Kodak could waste away so rapidly?

Being a designer, one of the biggest challenges is keeping up with dramatic changes, new innovations and products that constantly blow my mind, keeping one step ahead of our clients. With Google and Wikipedia, online shopping sites, online magazines and avenues such as Pinterest, clients are now, more than ever, better informed and hungry for innovations that they want in their lives. It is up to us, as a body of professionals, to educate our clients with products that will give them the very best design solution to enhance their home lives and working lives.

We recognise that in order for us to keep designing new, exciting and practical interior spaces, we have to learn how new products can literally change people's lives for the better.

One aspect of 21st century living is that we all seem to be so time poor – we try and cram in as much as we can into our daily existence, keeping up with children, careers, travel, cooking, sport, friends, family and technology and it is for people such as YOU that we step in to help make your lives easier and much more fun.

When McDonalds first arrived in Australia in 1971 their business model was based on having 75 stores Australia wide within 25 years. Today McDonalds has 970 stores. Fast food outlets have spread virally throughout the land, yet, the biggest rating shows on television centre around home cooking! Masterchef, My Kitchen Rules, Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsay, Nigel Slater, the list goes on and on. Kitchen and bathroom design literally determines whether a house will sell well, because these two areas of the house are without a doubt the most important rooms in the house. Everyone wants to be in the kitchen. We talk to the kids, we chat to partners, we entertain our friends in there and we sometimes cook! A luxurious bathroom will make most people go weak at the knees, we want to feel like we are pampered, that we are the kings of our castle, we love how a beautiful bathroom makes us feel it is important to our psyche and our general well-being.

Kitchens and bathrooms are also a reflection of our own personal style and our own personal success in life. We not only crave beautiful, functional kitchens and bathrooms, we need them! If you don't have a brilliant, functional kitchen, then it affects how we operate, both socially and how we run our families. Beauty and practicality work together, form follows function, function follows form.

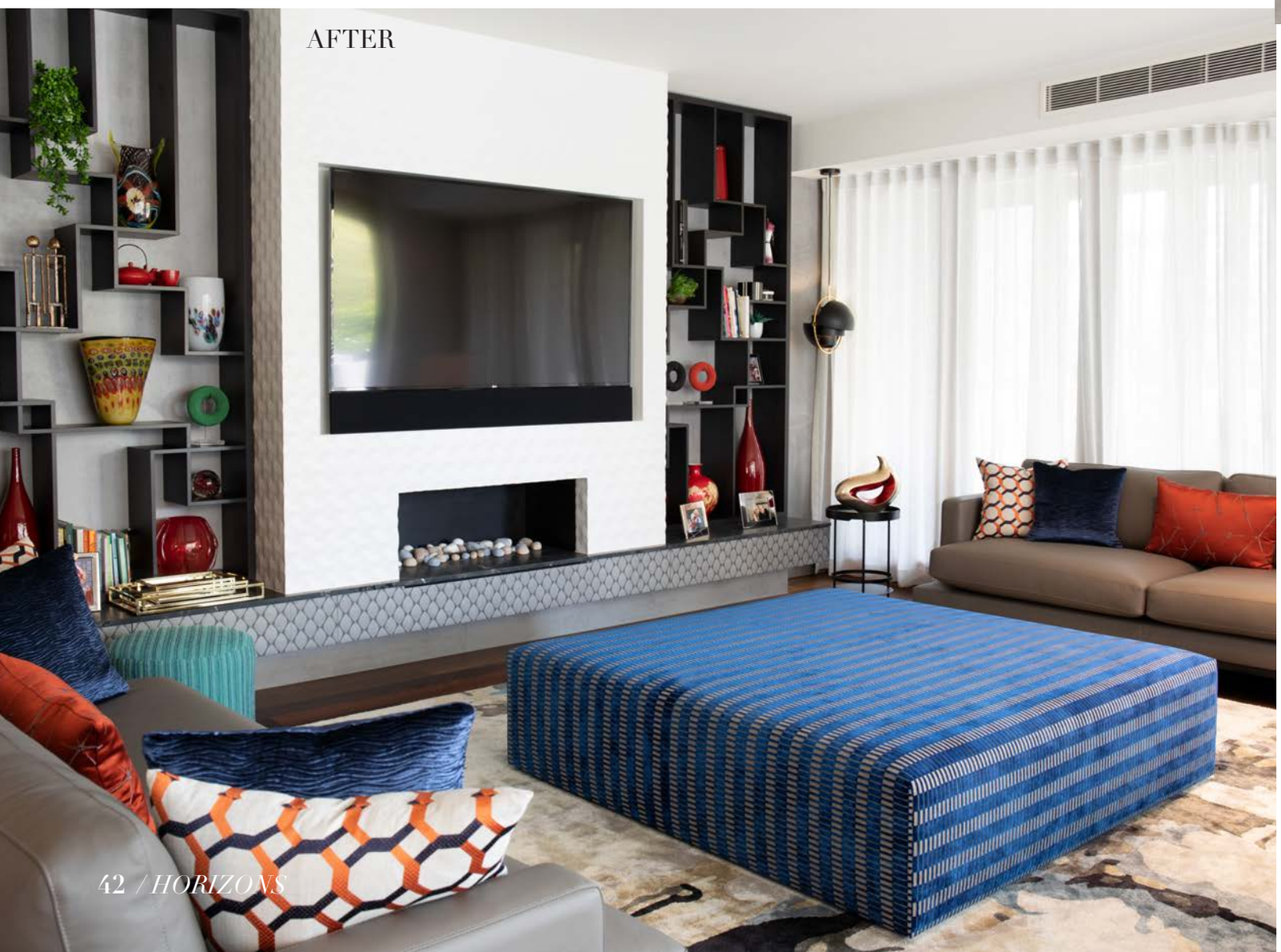
Audio visual equipment has gone WAY beyond the transistor radio, the tape recorder, the big box television in the corner and a record player. Products and technology literally change by the week. Everyone loves music and everyone needs to be entertained in the comfort and privacy of their own home. Equally, audio visual equipment is now part of our everyday working environment as well. Together with security, lighting systems, home theatre, invisible speakers, wireless systems that don't need the freeways worth of cabling to operate, pure sound and faultless vision are all innovations that need highly skilled and trained people to walk you through what is available right here and now.

So, in answer to the question: Is there anything new in the world YES, there is. Keeping up with changes in production methods, innovations in technology, textiles, wallcoverings, appliances, building materials, ceramics, sanitaryware, glass and laminates are challenges that we work through on a daily basis. Interior design is really an applied science, just as much as it is an art form.

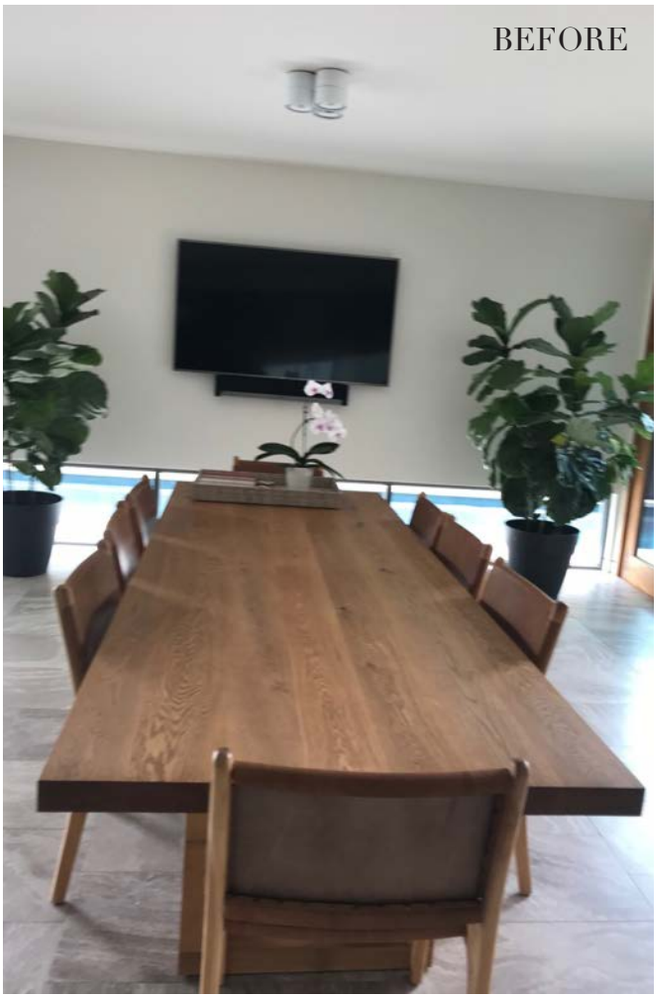
SLEEK IN THE *city*

This brand new house was transformed into a family home injected with personality, character and uniqueness which will be used as an entertainer's dream for many years to come.

We started with an almost brand new house, beautifully built and detailed, but not quite finished and no real personality. So, we thought we'd inject a LOT of personality into this incredible residence by adding features to every room, including a full fireplace wall and display shelving in the lounge, total transformation of the dining space into an elegant, sophisticated room with a nod to Hollywood and a wine cellar (formerly a dark store room on the lower ground floor) that would be the envy of every silver-service restaurant in the country.



AFTER

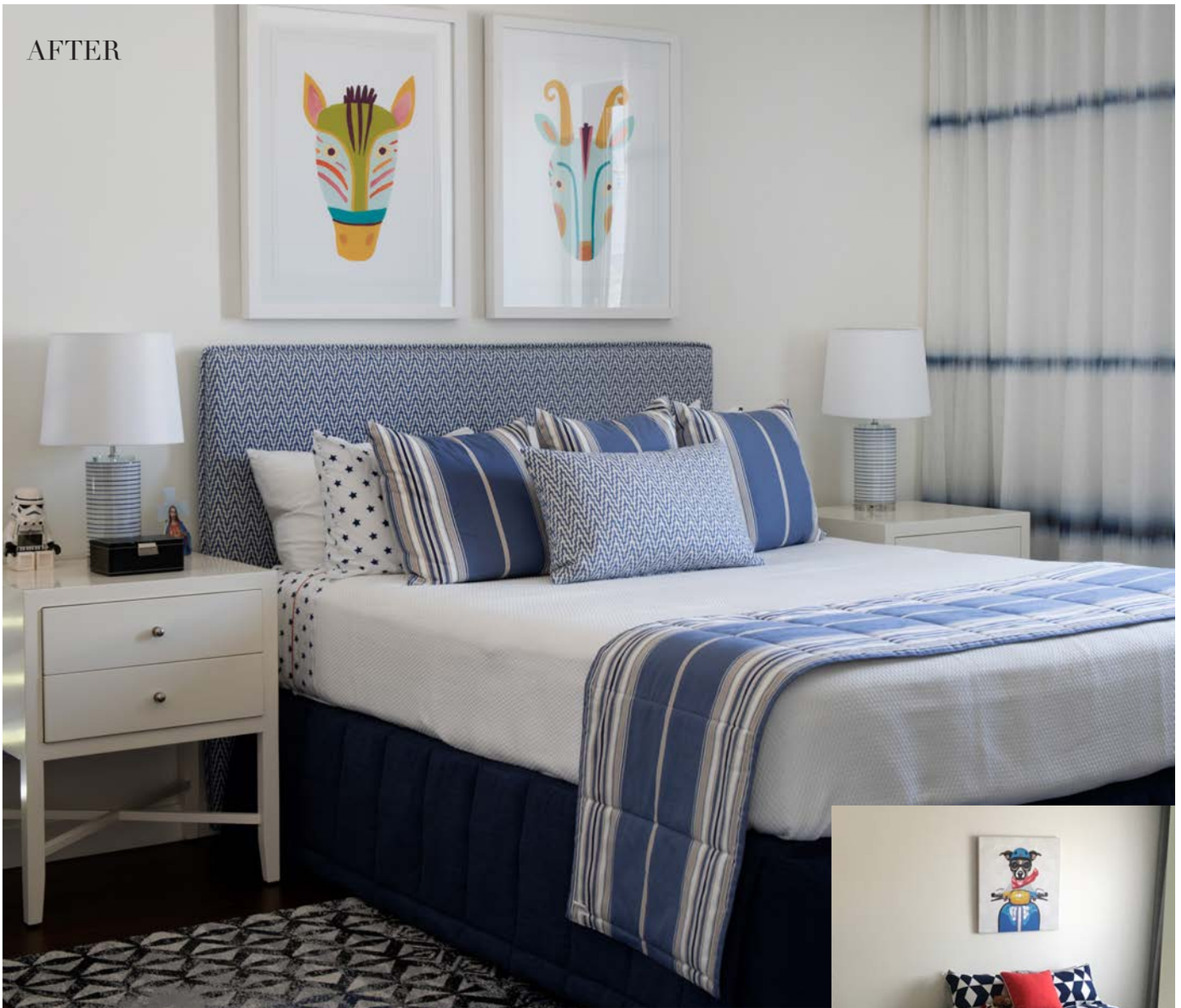


The dining room which comfortably seats twelve, includes a full bronze-tiled wall paired with decorative feature pendants to create an entertaining space which will be the topic of conversation. The dining table was custom made with a marble inlay in the centre to hold all steaming hot dishes without damage.

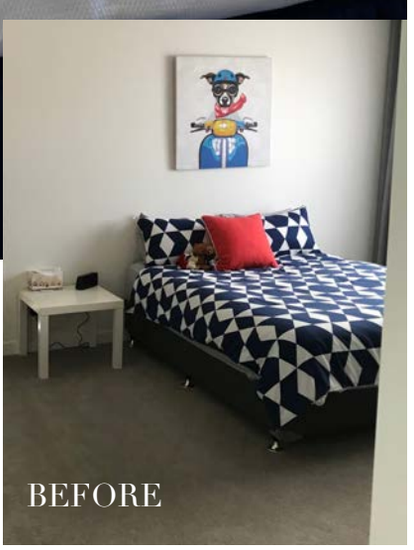
Subtle yet careful changes in flooring and furnishings have provided a sense of completion and comfort that was lacking in unfinished spaces like the retreat.

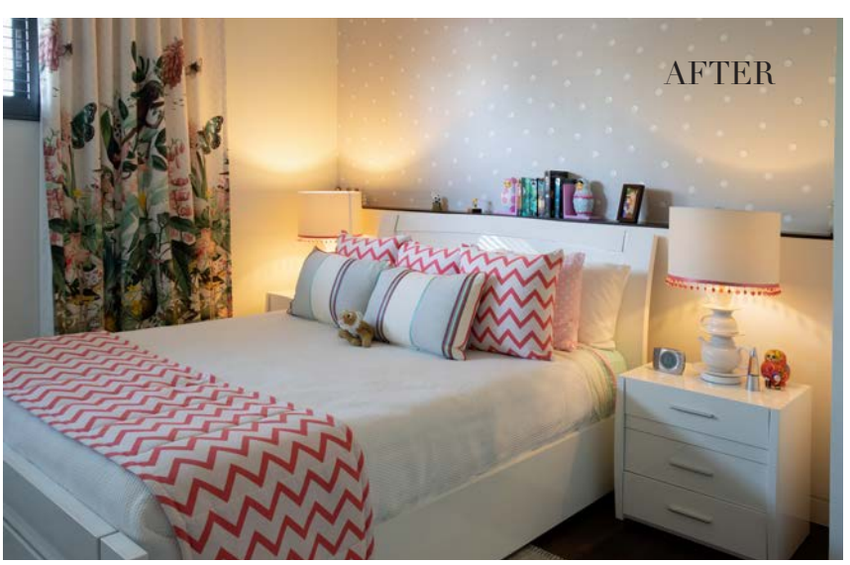
BEFORE

AFTER



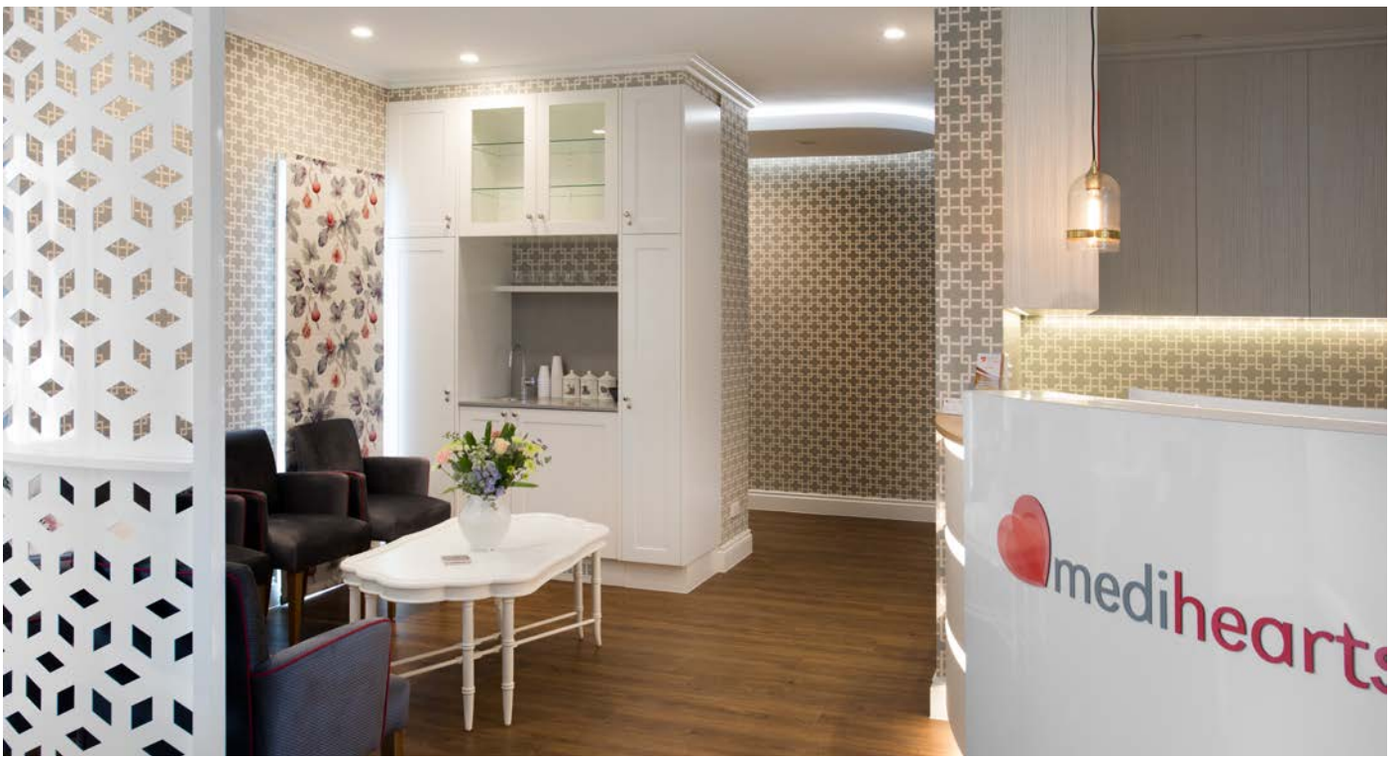
The glamour and charm weren't left out of the children's bedrooms. We created spaces which complement each of their children's interests, favourite colours and even animals through using patterned wallpaper, custom fabrics, artwork and furnishings.





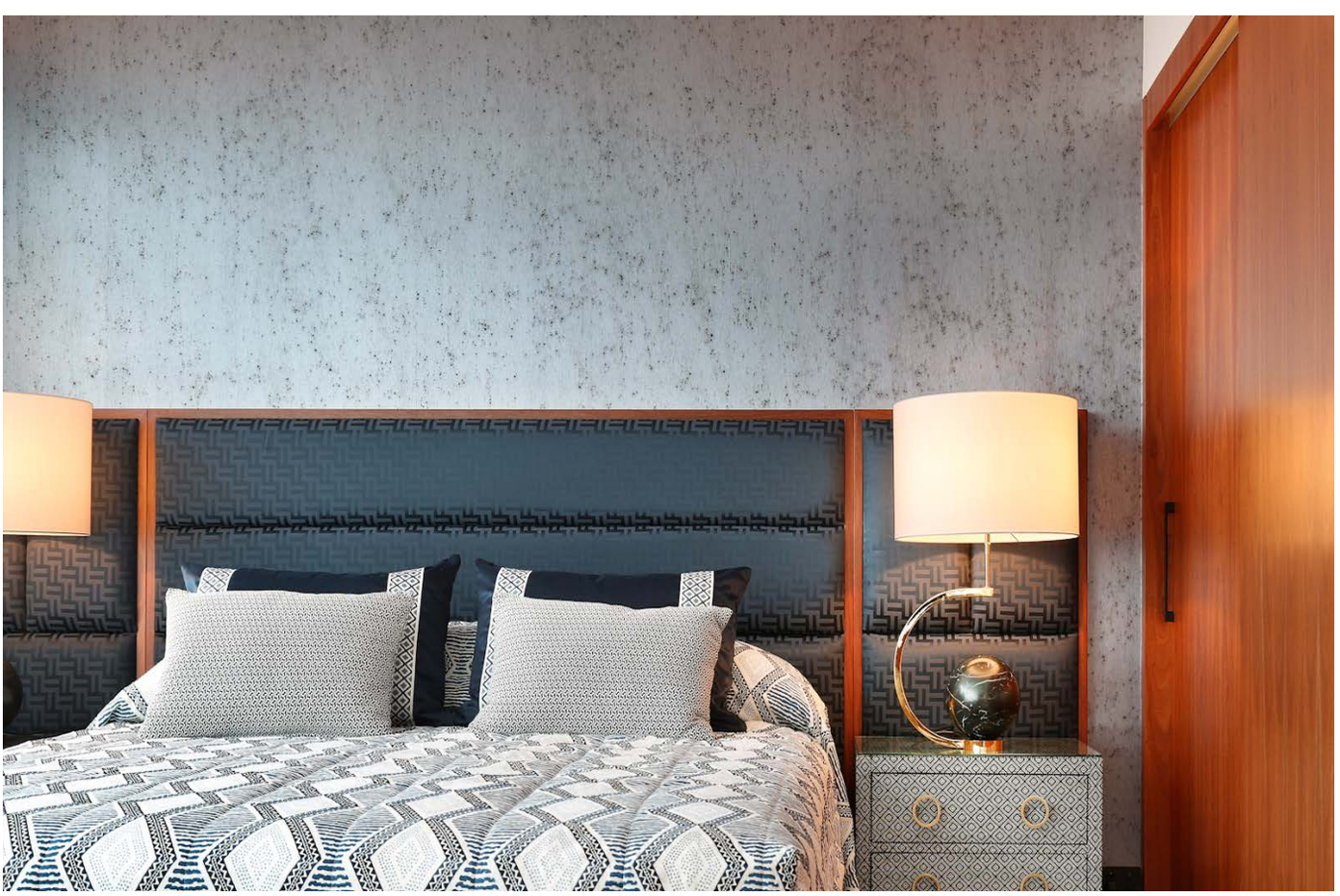
WALL TO *wall*

WALLPAPER COMES OF AGE IN THESE DRAMATIC RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS, PROVING THAT WALLPAPER – A DI HENSHALL SIGNATURE TOUCH – HAS COME A LONG WAY.


medihearts

LOCALLY PRODUCED

USING DECORATIVE WALLPAPER IS ONE OF THE EASIEST AND QUICKEST WAYS TO TRANSFORM A SPACE.



A BOOK REVIEW ABOUT ARCHITECTURE BY WOMEN.

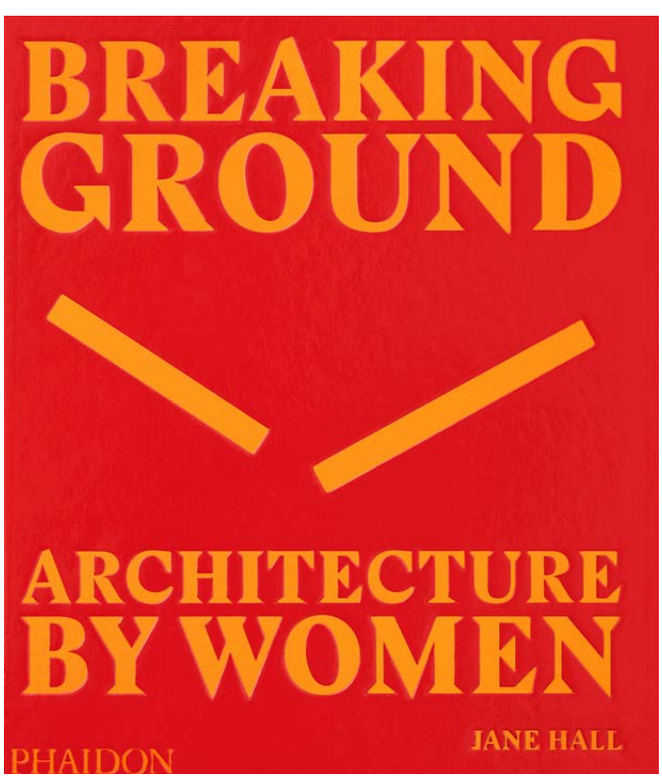
book review

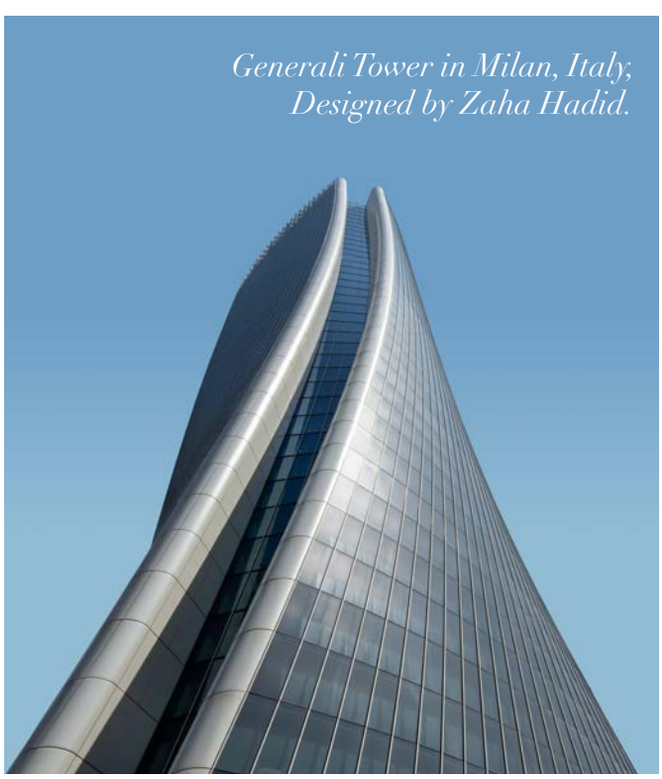
How many world-renowned architects can you name? How many female architects are on the list?

In her 2019/2020 book, Breaking Ground, Dr Jane Hall gives evidence of her research into some truly awe-inspiring work by women architects around the world. A familiar name, known to many, is Zaha Hadid, who of course features in Jane's book. Sometimes described as Queen of Curve, if you are not familiar with the late and great Zaha, please look up some of her amazing buildings that are dotted around the world. I have been lucky enough to visit some of them and Zaha's earlier training in mathematics shines through like the great architect that she was, she challenged thoughts as well as structural engineering, some of her buildings are feats of imagination and construction. Rem Koolhaas, himself an amazingly talented visionary, described her as "a planet in her own orbit".

Jane's book explores and questions how female architects are viewed in the world- as she says in her introduction, "Often portrayed as a feminized version of a hyper-masculine character, women architects are actively judged on their personality before they are on their buildings".

She looks at many female architects ("I am not a female architect, I am an architect" Dorte Mandrup Danish architect) from 1900 through to the present day. The line-up is impressive and hammers home the nonsensical concept that there is a difference between female and male architects, both in their approach and their final designs. It is a fascinating book, not dry at all, written by Jane, herself an esteemed architect who has a PhD from the Royal College of Art, who I was privileged to meet and listen to during my tour of Palm Springs for Modernism Week early in 2020.





Generali Tower in Milan, Italy; Designed by Zaha Hadid.

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When you work wth Di Henshall Interior Design, you benefit not only from Design Director Di Henshall's unrivalled experience, but also the strength of her team.

The Di Henshall Interior Design team is creative, reliable and professional in their approach to every design, renovation and furnishing project arriving at the optimum, unique solution for you, on time and on budget.

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