



At home with
THE BEAUTY CHEF,
CARLA OATES

belie

Charlotte Coote
TRANSFORMS A RURAL LANDMARK

SALTBURN
SUAVE

LUXE COASTAL & COUNTRY

CLO STUDIOS + JOHN BECHINI + KENNEDY NOLAN + TAMSIN JOHNSON

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(N2533595) 1000080687



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R I G H T M O V I E



Backdropped by Otis Hope Carey's swirling mural, *Gaagal* (ocean), new and vintage objects compiled by Simone Haag occupy cabinets in Capella Sydney's McRae Bar, designed by BAR Studio.

Cultivated and covetable: art, architecture, luxe shopping, creative spaces and places.

Photography ALICIA TAYLOR & TIMOTHY KAYE Styling SIMONE HAAG

ROOM SERVICE

With Capella Sydney as her canvas, Simone Haag curated sumptuous and storied collections to enrich the stay of guests.

WHAT WERE THE REQUIREMENTS AND WHAT APPEALED ABOUT THE SITE? We were first brought on as creative consultants for the 192 rooms and suites, the brief being to provide the feeling for guests of inhabiting a beautiful residence. We were then invited to layer the public spaces with objets d'art, which led to the acquisition of more than 4000 pieces. For much of the sourcing period, the building was under construction. We saw some digital renders of the proposed architecture by Make and interior design by BAR Studio, but mostly we took inspiration from the heritage context of the c1912 former education building. WHAT WAS THE CONCEPT FOR STYLING THE INTERIORS? At all Capella hotels, there's a guest-only space called the Living Room. In many ways it acts as the "home base" for guests during their stay; it's



This page, clockwise from top left Flea market gems sit alongside fresh finds from local makers in the Living Room. Haag's commission began with the curation of vessels and other curios in the 192 rooms and suites. Backlighting accentuates the silhouettes of ceramics in the hotel's Auriga Spa. Make's architectural intervention rises from the sandstone facade of Capella Sydney. Public spaces are adorned with styling touches reminiscent of a chic residence. Opposite page Guests in the Living Room are encouraged to thumb intriguing tomes sourced by Haag, while seductive ceramics bring a layer of luxe.

where they interact with the culturist team – who organise itineraries in the same way a traditional concierge might, but with a Capella twist – and it's the place where they enjoy the rituals offered by the hotel. It's also meant to feel, as its name suggests, like the living room of a chic yet comfortable home. This concept of home informed our styling response. We wanted to create spaces that felt lived in and storied, showcasing collections that felt right, beautiful and functional where needed. WHAT ARE YOUR ENDURING CREATIVE INFLUENCES? We are good at combining old and new. We find inspiration in the backstories of the special pieces we uncover, which informs our work in surprising ways. We are excited and inspired by travel and the element of discovery in what we find. It's not about following trends or mimicking a period in design history, rather we are driven by the excitement and energy that comes from bringing together new pieces, objects and art. HOW DOES THE SPACE REFLECT THE WORK YOU DO? To some degree, it doesn't, as we often curate the furniture, art and objects in a project. Our brief called for focusing solely on the objects, giving us an opportunity to hone in on the styling. Threads of our aesthetic run through the property, and we always try to bring out the stories of pieces we introduce to a space. As unofficial "educators", we carefully chose objects and ensured the culturist team was versed in communicating those stories with guests to enrich their experience. WHAT WERE SOME FAVOURITE ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT? That we had creative control. We were given carte blanche to procure a lot of things, not knowing exactly where they were going to go, but using our intuition, with the client's trust, that they would all find a home. Towards the end, we were also able to engage with the hospitality team. They had specific requirements such as how they wanted to present beautiful garnishes and cocktails. So, we went quite granular, engaging with them to ensure we sourced beautiful ceramics and barware. IS THERE AN AESTHETIC THAT RUNS THROUGH YOUR WORK? It's about being considered, authentic and honest, looking further and wider than what's within our immediate sphere – while that's not always the easiest path. Incorporating pieces with humour or quirk is also a significant aspect. WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO? The original Capella hotel on Singapore's Sentosa Island – we are excited to have been invited by the team there to work on some of the spaces in the manor houses. We are curating furniture as well as objets, so it will be nice to show more of what we do while also sharing Australian style on the global stage. simonehaag.com.au; barstudio.com; makearchitects.com

