

MEETING OF MINDS

A collaboration between two different design studios, this Australian home's refined interior is the perfect foil for an extensive collection of furniture and art

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STYLING SIMONE HAAG AND MELISSA STRAUCH

Living room Lush greenery envelops this space, where a 'Traveller' daybed by GamFratesi for Porro has been upholstered in fabric by Hermès. Behind it, two 'Column' sculptures by Matteo Nasini echo the colours of the pool and garden. An 'Aleph' rug by Cadrys grounds the space, which features a striking panther sculpture by Richard Orłinski. The 'Adnet' coffee table is by Jacques Adnet for Gubi and the marble-topped 'Joaquim' side table by the daybed is a Giorgio Bonaguro design for Tacchini. Three custom '2100 Smoky Quartz' lights by Christopher Boots fill the wall above the capacious 'Sydney' sofa by Jean-Marie Massaud for Poliform. A bespoke side table by Daniel Barbera wraps around the side of the sofa, while the small 'Horn Variation I' and 'III' side tables are by Destroyers Builders ▶



Below A detail of the Hermès fabric-upholstered 'Traveller' daybed by GamFratesi for Porro in the living room. It sits on the 'Aleph' rug by Cadrys, next to Giorgio Bonaguro's marble-topped 'Joaquim' side table for Tacchini

Opposite *Figure 3* by Gregory Hodge brings a splash of colour to the wall behind the sofa. On Daniel Barbera's custom sofa table sits the *Rock Bottom Riser Glass Stone* sculpture by Owen Rye and a vintage Stilnovò table lamp



When the owner of this new-build home in Melbourne started searching for the right team to give life to its interior, she was adamant that the approach should be a collaborative one. Having previously found herself working with a designer whose vision didn't match her own, she turned to interior decorator Simone Haag and interior designer Angela Harry to create a home for her young family. 'She felt strongly that the house shouldn't replicate anything anyone had seen before, and yet largely favoured pieces that were classic and understated,' says Simone. 'During the three-year process, her taste shifted and we were able to help her embrace her more experimental side. We introduced high-impact designs as well as punchy textiles, which contribute to the home's unique sense of identity.'

A substantial residence comprising two pavilions connected via a glass runway, the bones of this two-storey home provided a strong starting point. 'Angela devised a wonderful canvas that became the backdrop for a significant collection of furniture and art,' Simone continues, referencing the careful material selection, which includes a terrazzo-effect concrete, luxurious marbles and soft-grey timber. The refined palette heightens the gallery-like feel of the architecture.

The brief required each room to have a different feel, but to be flexible enough to cater for various day-to-day activities. One example is the family's den: a subterranean space visible from the glass walkway, which was inspired by a room that the homeowner remembers from her grandfather's house. 'She had fond memories of summers spent playing games there, as well as of elaborate parties that were hosted in the space, and wanted to replicate the experience,' explains Simone, who responded with a selection of whimsical 1970s-inspired pieces, such as the 'Botolo' dining chairs by Arflex and a custom geometric rug. In the main living area, the aesthetic is designed to engage and surprise. 'It was intended to be polarising, sculptural and interesting,' Simone says of the space, which overlooks a central courtyard complete with an indoor-outdoor pool. Pops of bright colour are tempered by softer blues and greens here, which create a dialogue with the courtyard and trees beyond. 'It is so refreshing when the brief doesn't revolve around the practicalities of seating arrangements and TV viewing,' she adds.

Downstairs, the his-and-hers study is a little more restrained. Custom shelving provides a space to display books and treasured objects, while a handmade Persian rug is a nod to the homeowner's family connection to rug-making. 'It was fabricated to the highest standards in Iran,' states Simone. 'In fact, every rug in the house was painstakingly created to honour the client's link with the craft.' Details such as this are what help to make this home a thoughtful and authentic representation of its owner, who is delighted with the results. 'We are so proud of the house,' she affirms. 'It's contemporary without being cold, and practical yet unpredictable.'

simonehaag.com.au; angelaharry.com.au ►



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Kitchen Melbourne-based designer Daniel Barbera's 'Great Dining Table' further elevates this glamorous eat-in kitchen, which features bespoke cabinetry, Gaggenau appliances and Vola tapware. A 'Petra II' pendant light by Christopher Boots hangs above the island, helping to zone the two areas. The 'Manta' dining chairs are by Rodrigo Torres for Poliform. Sat at the edge of the lounge in this open-plan space, there's also an 'FDC1' chair designed by Flávio de Carvalho and a 'Tribeca' coffee table by Jean-Marie Massaud for Poliform ▶

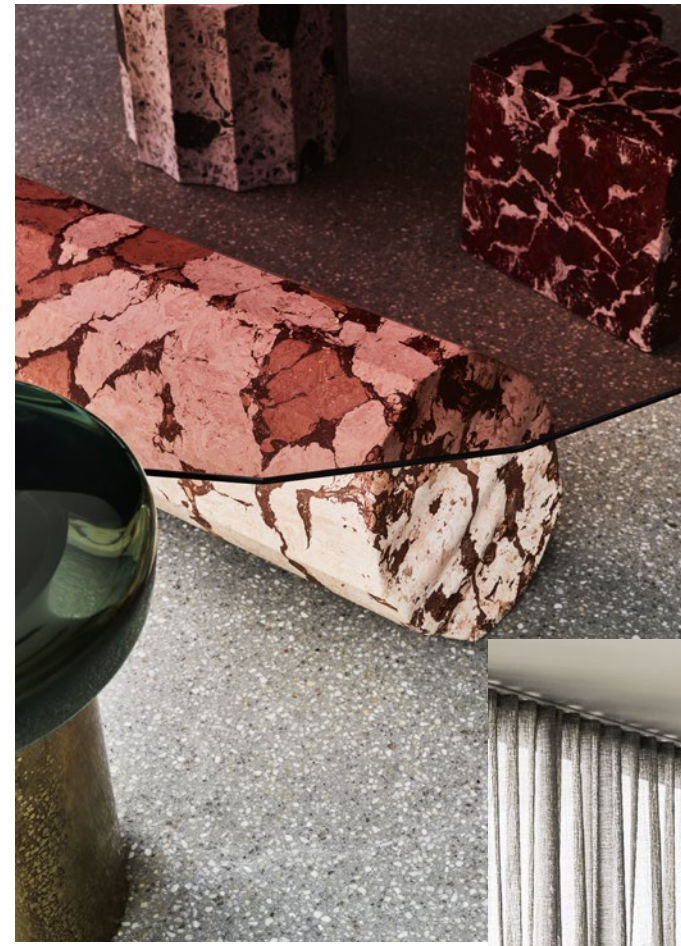




Kitchen Black leather 'No 1' chairs by JM Szymanski flank an island in Silver Wave marble, designed by Angela Harry, above which hangs the sculptural 'Petra II' pendant light by Christopher Boots. Sheer curtains soften the space and provide a decorative divide from the hallway beyond

Hallway The geometric motifs evident in the home's architecture are mirrored by the 'Asmara' rug by Federico Pepe for CC-Tapis. Custom-display plinths by Sozou Studio are topped with a granite sculpture by José Manuel Castro López and a 'Lantern' table lamp by Apparatus, adding to the gallery-like feel. A brass 'Dandy Day' bench by Kifu Paris sits beneath a textural 'Vertebrae' tapestry from Moses Nadel, which is reflected in a series of vintage mirrors on the opposite wall. In the courtyard beyond is a 'Rive' bench by Draga & Aurel ▶





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Courtyard 'Jade' stools by Draga & Aurel surround an 'Olympia' coffee table by Roberto Sironi from Carwan Gallery, which is made from three pieces of Marmo di Rima, topped with coloured glass. The bench behind is another Draga & Aurel design. The sunken seating was designed by Nathan Burkett, who also did the landscape design **Den**. This 'rumpus' room, as the owners call it, features a 'Marechiaro' sofa by Mario Marengo for Arflex (one arm of which is visible). A custom Simone Haag rug extends beneath the 'Botolo' dining chairs by Cini Boeri for Arflex and 'Tria' chairs by German designers Lorenz + Kaz for Colé, which surround a 'Pillar' table from HK Living. Michael Vale's *After the Deluge* artwork hangs on the wall, below which are two 'Penelope' storage baskets from Pinetti ▶



Family living space A striking artwork called *Mountain* by James Smeaton hangs above an Arflex 'Hollywood' sofa by Claesson Koivisto Rune in this relaxed sitting room. Custom floor cushions in 'Golden Sunburst' fabric by Jim Thompson are stacked beside a 'Joaquim' coffee table by Giorgio Bonaguro for Tacchini, which is decorated with a bronze sculpture by Andrew Rogers and glass objects from Pépite. A vintage B&B Italia lounge chair by Gaetano Pesce, upholstered in 'Cat's Pyjamas' fabric by Jim Thompson, sits opposite the sofa. The floor lamp is Square In Circle's 'Balance' model

Staircase A 'Siamese' sofa by Pietro Franceschini, available at The Invisible Collection, and a 'Nautilus' rug from Atelier Février echo the curves of the spiral staircase. The 'Ziggy' small side table is by Pietro Russo, while the floor lamp is a vintage find ▶

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Main bedroom Sheer curtains and a cashmere rug by Cadrys provide softness and texture, while a 'D.154.2' armchair by Gio Ponti for Molteni & C offers a quiet spot to admire the garden. The 'Antitesi' side table is by Ivano Redaelli; the 'Cilon Mini' floor lamp is by Rakumba. On the wall is a piece by Derek Wilson Ceramics. A 'Sculptural Lidded Vessel' in onyx by Alison Frith sits on the 'Lou' nightstand by Christophe Delcourt for Minotti. The 'Kelly' bed is by Emmanuel Gallina for Poliform and is dressed in Cultiver linen. Porcelain Bear's 'Acrobat, Forward Bend' pendant light draws the eye into the equally serene ensuite, designed by Angela Harry, where an Apaiser marble bath sits against a wall of marble. The shower stool is a piece by Kelly Wearstler
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