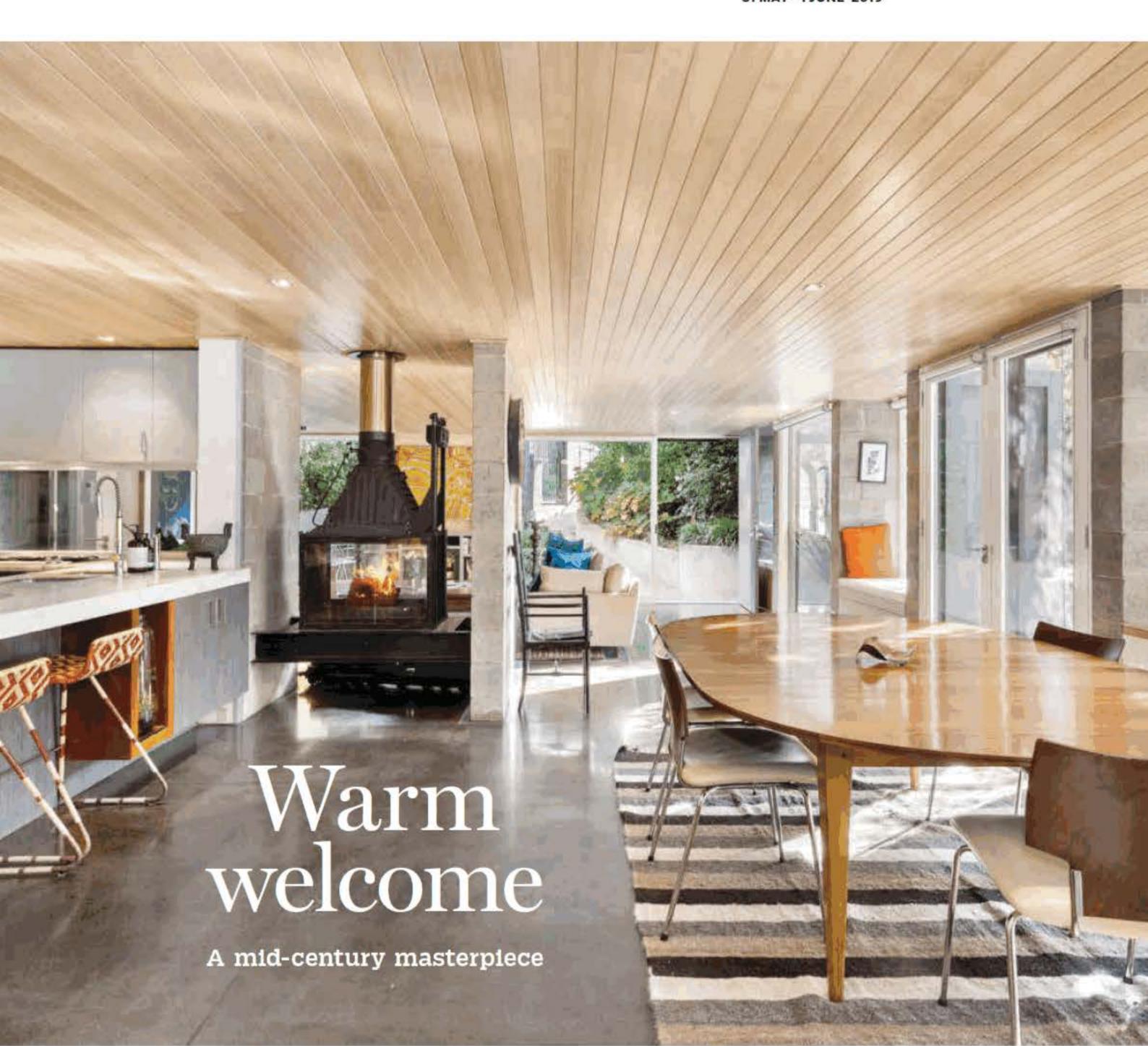
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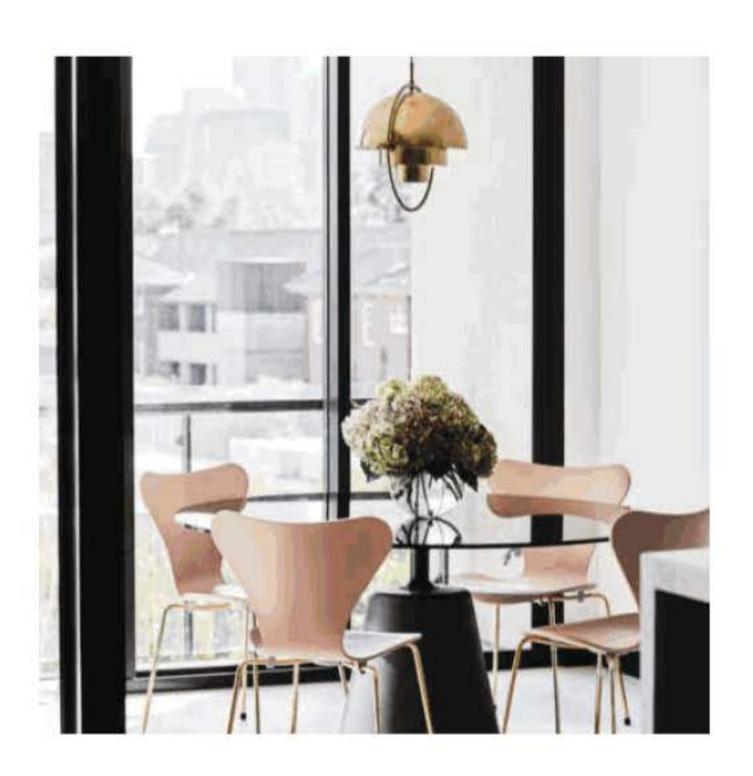
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TRUE CALLING

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DECOR & DESIGN

By FELICITY MARSHALL | Photos by SHARYN CAIRNS



The perfect setting

he plush interior of a jewellery box inspired the opulent aesthetic of this apartment in a well-known, inner-city high-rise development.

The flat – located in Mirvac's

Melburnian building on St Kilda

Road, designed by architecture firm

Bates Smart and completed in 2001

is home to a pair of empty nesters
who engaged Alex Hopkins of

Studio Tate to update the
interior from its original early
noughties-era condition.

The mature-aged couple originally occupied a penthouse at the development overlooking the Shrine of Remembrance and Botanic Gardens, but sold the property after Hopkins' LA-inspired makeover of the space attracted an unsolicited offer from a buyer who saw the project featured in a magazine spread.

The clients' new apartment was smaller than their previous residence so Hopkins drew on the concept of a jewellery box, based on the old adage that good things come in small packages.

"An important part of the creative process on each of our projects is the development of a narrative that takes us, the client and our collaborators on a journey," Hopkins explains.

"In terms of the selection of the quality of the finishes and colours, the narrative that we created was based on the classic jewellery box.









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DESIGNED BY

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"The project is intended to evoke the tinkling of the music as the ballerina moves around and the velvet-lined interior. It's luscious and delicious."

To achieve this aesthetic, Hopkins combines simple, clean lines with rich materials such as marble, velvet and brass and a dramatic palette that ranges from pastel pink and soft grey to deep navy blue.

The en suite, for example, features purple-veined marble on the vanity with walls lined in the same tundragrey stone used in the kitchen.



The kitchen allows for an integrated refrigerator and appliance cupboard, above left; luxe details in the en suite, above.

Working within the constraints that are part and parcel of a multiresidential development, Hopkins worked to squeeze the most out of the property's floor plan.

The kitchen – the centrepiece of the house – was extended, allowing for an integrated refrigerator, an appliance cupboard and additional storage, while retaining the service areas such as sinks in the same position.

The three bedrooms at the back of the apartment were also reconfigured, with the main bedroom tweaked to accommodate a more generous walk-in wardrobe and one of the additional bedrooms converted to a study.

The living and dining areas were retained in their original state, apart from a complete refresh of finishes.

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