

ARTICHOKE



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Issue 52

Dining spaces after dark
Medibank's healthy HQ
Balancing art and interiors

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Design Metro

compiled by: Karla Dodge

To underestimate the power of the antipodes may leave one creatively uninformed today. Sparsely populated, isolated from traditional design centres and too often subjected to unfair stereotyping and prejudice, the Australians simply get on with it and are producing quirky, covetable objets, furniture, fashion and architecture. Even their cuisine is being referenced and mimicked across the globe.

Sydney-stay

Pier one Sydney Harbour

photography: Tom Evangelidis

Part of the Autograph collection located on the Pier One finger – wharf, Bates Smart's Interior Design has drawn on the architectural language of the Pier to create a contemporary, luxury hotel on one of Sydney's best waterfront locations.

In the lobby, the rawness of reclaimed timber wall cladding contrasts with the polished stone floors with a hint of gold. The bar has been relocated front-and-centre to become the central hub of the ground floor lobby.

'The space now invites patrons to become part of the activity at the bar and restaurant as they enter the hotel. The private dining room is also transparent, and can be seen from the restaurant and bar – it's an exclusive space designed for patrons to *see and be seen*', says Brenton Smith, Studio Director of Interior Design, Bates Smart.



A specially designed frame for the glassware crowns the bar, along with custom-made boat shaped lights. Guest rooms and suites follow a nautical theme with original timber and ironwork, which are centerpieces of the historic Pier One Wharf.

With views of the Opera House and Fort Denison, sink into a lounge and enjoy the Sydney sunset.

www.pieronesydneyharbour.com.au

Much like South Africa, Australia has two competing cities. Sydney is to Johannesburg what Cape Town is to Melbourne. The rivalry is just as intense with each staking their claim as the epicenter of contemporary Australian design.

Without taking sides, Karla Dodge highlights a few eye-catching elements from a country awash with worthy talents.

www.somethingbeginningwith.com.au



Sydney-design

Something beginning with

Ari is a new sofa, inspired by fine lines and sweeping curves, from industrial designer Ms Vincitorio and creative accomplice Laelie Berzon. Lisa Vincitorio made her mark as the youngest Australian designer to partner with Alessi.

Ari is available in a choice of sizes and configurations ranging from: 3-seater, 2-seater and chaise. Made to last and green conscious, this sofa is ultra customisable. Clients specify their own fabric or leather by choosing a colour from Dulux's vast powder coat colour range.

Melbourne-dining

Fancy Nance

adrianozumbo.com/locations

The famed pâtissier Adriano Zumbo has opened a playful salon in South Yarra, Melbourne. Flamingo tea parties painted on walls and plush pink booths are among the quirky design features designed by new interior architecture practice Studio Tate.

The space has a dual function, by day it's a hybrid café and by night, a cocktail bar.

Zumbo's extravagantly stylish mother is the venue's muse.

The contour of flamingo feathers, as well as Zumbo's architecturally sculpted cakes, have informed the design and crafted a visual language of curves.



Photographs: Anson Smart



below left:

Study: A scallop chandelier by Barbara Barry, Platner coffee table from Knoll and vintage William Haines Brentwood chairs re-upholstered – make this a classic contemporary study.

below:

Living room: Painted in Heaven Sent Quarter by Dulux, a vintage bronze stork, assorted Fornasetti pieces and lofty soufflé chair from Kelly Wearstler, create a perfect balance.



Sydney-design

www.gregnatale.com

Greg Natale

Greg Natale is creating inspiring spaces that span from awe-inspiring to intimate, Natale's style is a study in vibrant colours, contrasting graphic details, geometric patterns and rich textures.

In September 2015 Greg Natale's will launch his first book, *The Tailored Interior*. With a forward by Jonathan Adler, this is a design-lovers tome, demystifying the process of interior design by addressing the process holistically and in real terms.

One of the original inspirations for this Edwardian restoration in Sydney were the houses' arches, in which Natale created a series of repeated arches that not only became a standout feature but also opened up the house significantly. Internally the interior makes use of Natale's rug collections as well as many Jonathan Adler and vintage design pieces. Through exploring the layering of textures, tightly editing a visual sense of balance, as well as thoughtfully placed modern touches – this interior is beautifully refined.

right: The Helm Pendant

below: Pillow chair, stool and high chair

Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane-design

Luxxbox

www.luxxbox.com

Industrial designer Jason Bird heads up Luxxbox where his collection of diverse residential and commercial products explore negative space.

The latest products from Luxxbox are The Helm and Pillow chair collection. Initially it looks like a soft upholstered top, but it is really a heavy duty moulded seat, which adds a definitive durability to what is a curvaceous low profile chair, stool or high chair.

The beauty of this seemingly delicate design is the juxtaposition of several high performing materials, with the leg variations including natural, black stained American Oak or fashionable copper legs.



www.helenkontouris.com



Jason Bird says the design is one he has been toying with for some time.

'I've been playing with the idea of this design for nearly 10 years – the key design elements of the collection, the soft-look top, the integration between this and the timber legs and the sleek chair profiles.

'It has taken this long for design technology and production techniques to develop to a point where we could achieve the fantastic juxtaposition between a moulded top and timber legs,' he says. The Helm is a large polished pendant at 450mm. The unique side entry for the power cord sets it apart from the crowd as it begs the question 'how does it hang straight?'

Melbourne-design

Helen Kontouris

left:

Softscape lounge, ottoman and glass lamps

Helen Kontouris has an original power to create, having partnered with Alessi, DePadova and Ritzenhoff. Award winning – with a creative energy that is palpable – Ms Kontouris' products delight in the design process and are made with a green consciousness.

'We believe ecology in design today rests on the role of the designer as cultural architect, creating products with clear purpose, intelligent material appropriateness and function that arrest with their beauty; and promote a movement 'against throwawayism'.



Sydney-design

Anaesthetic

www.anaestheticdesign.com

Based in Sydney, Kiwi designers Ben and Kiri Wahrlich opened ANAESTHETIC in 2011. This brand is based on simple values: to create clever, sophisticated products that are original in design, and made to a high standard from carefully considered materials. Anaesthetic endeavours to follow what is right in design rather than what is established.

'Our work is not just about styling, everything we do is made without compromise.'

above:
Hide in black brass

right:
Bezel lamp in navy and white



Sydney-design

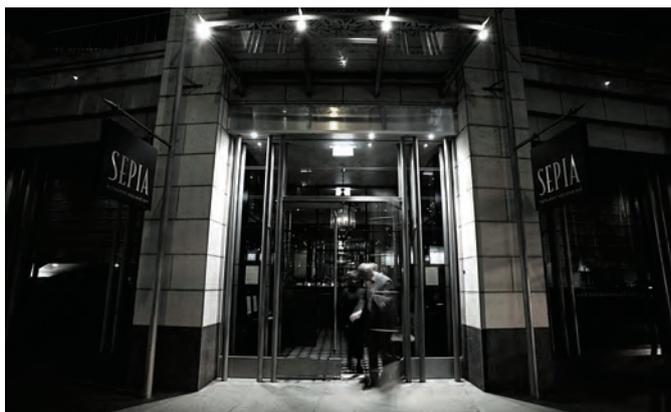
Trent Jansen

left: 'The Nuptial Pendants were designed as an expression of the beautiful intimacy that exists between two people that have been together for a long time. Like an elderly couple who have spent their lives together, just as in love as the day they met,' Trent Jansen.

A philosophic approach runs through Trent Jansen's design process from his studio in Sydney where he creates commissioned pieces, as well as his own designs. His burgeoning career began with an internship with acclaimed Dutch designer Marcel Wanders in Amsterdam. To date, Jansen has achieved International awards and residencies, is involved in workshops and retrospectives.

The product illustrated reflects the logical reasoning as to why he executes designs of philosophical value.

www.trentjansen.com ➤



Sydney-dining

Sepia

www.sepiarestaurant.com.au

Martin Benn was born in England and began his career as a chef at the Oak Room in London, later he came under the tutelage of Marco Pierre White.

Returning to Sydney, Martin opened Sepia Restaurant in 2009, collaborating with George Costi to supply the restaurant with the best quality seafood available.

Since opening, Sepia has gone on to become one of Australia's most awarded restaurants and was recently named 'One to Watch' at The World's 50 Best Restaurants. Renowned restaurant critic Terry Durack describes the cuisine at Sepia as: 'smoky, sweet, crunchy, creamy, soft, gentle, toasty, scented, clear, brothy, earthy, floral. The focus is on texture and contrast even more than taste - there's always a crunch, always a cream. It's like the love-child of Tetsuya Wakuda and Rene Redzepi of Noma; a Nordic kaiseki.' In October 2014, *Sepia - The Cuisine of Martin Benn*, was published by Murdoch Books in Australia and released globally during 2015.



left: Martin Benn

Travel Notes:

Melbourne furniture Shopping on Johnston Street:
 Used Pty Ltd (Vintage and restored)
 Mark Tuckey (Sustainable luxury wooden furniture)
 Ajar (Playful and elegant pieces from Spain)
 Exhibitions: InDesign Sydney August 2016

