

smart spaces

Key looks for the year ahead? We bring you Modern Soul, Restrained Glamour, Industrial Raw and Natural

WORDS Anna Flanders

modern soul | eco slick

Natural elements blend with modern function for a sophisticated take on eco-friendly

The environment and respect for the surrounding landscape were the primary concerns for this Victorian home by interior designers Hare + Klein. And the resulting kitchen certainly reflects that brief with an overwhelming natural, but sophisticated, feel. It sits within a living space and is defined by a bank of cabinetry that provides a strong presence in the room cavity, which has six-metre-high ceilings. Bluestone flooring links the zones and grounds the feel, while predominantly Australian-figured Tasmanian oak veneer is a strong feature of the cabinetry, interwoven with punches of light-coloured benchtop and matt-black surfaces. The island bench has been kept clear of fuss ensuring it's a space to gather or prep meals, while the function is virtually out of sight behind. A bank of silver-and-black-glass ovens adds a hit of modernity, and windows above and sliding doors to the side allow in plenty of natural light. *This home is in the running for a 2011 Australian Interior Design Award. Hare + Klein (02) 9368 1234. www.hareklein.com.au. www.australianinteriordesignawards.com.au.*

“Joinery is predominantly Australian-figured Tasmanian oak... this veneer has a rustic appearance with a matt finish to express the authentic grain”

“The height and curves of the basins provide a sensuous addition to what could have been a stark room”



modern soul | organic sleek

Create a softer side of modern with edgy colour and organic form

Colour and form come together to create a softer side to modern in this bathroom that features Laufen's latest Il Bagno Alessi basin collection. "The use of blue-grey/steel-blue on the walls gives a more edgy tone to the usual water theme," says Lavare's Tina Mills, "while lines and curves are interwoven to provide an appealing balance between feminine and masculine." The greys create a restful visual coupled with the warmth of the oak benchtop and allow the smooth, organic shapes of the basins to be appreciated. Meanwhile, a mirror cabinet and chrome tapware keep the look contemporary. "The painted walls are also effective in softening the chrome fixtures – the chrome absorbs colour in certain light, so it becomes less reflective," says Tina. We also love that the shower sits centred on an extended shower arm, and that the sharp lines of the glass are offset by the round inset within the shower tray. *Lavare (08) 9384 6499, www.lavare.com.au.*



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“The use of the 2pac, marble and stainless steel gives it a slick, modern feel with all junctions of materials meticulously detailed. The beauty of this simplicity is also a top design point”

restrained glamour | simplified beauty

Slick style executed with beautiful simplicity defines this luxe kitchen

Family-orientated, functional and fabulous. That was the brief for this kitchen by interior designer David Hicks. “The kitchen looks like a beautiful piece of joinery sitting within the apartment, yet provides a fully functional family kitchen,” explains David, who points to this “art of concealment” as a top design element. He’s used a combination of Arabescato Corchia polished marble and 2pac panels in a smoky grey glossy hue, added a stainless steel splashback and laid timber parquetry in an old-fashioned herringbone pattern underfoot, “which lends relief to the glossy 2pac panels and marble”. The result of the surface mix nods to a slick, contemporary aesthetic, while the flooring elevates it to one of understated glamour. The column was a structural necessity, so David clad it to create a feature, and used it to separate the functional side from the ‘bar’ side of the island bench. All everyday necessities are hidden, with fridges at one end and a scullery at the other. “The panels wrap all the way around concealing the kitchen and storage in a hallway located behind. The kitchen is fully integrated fulfilling the brief from the client to have the design very streamlined,” he adds.

This home is in the running for a 2011 Australian Interior Design Award. David Hicks (03) 9826 3955, www.davidhicks.com, www.australianinteriordesignawards.com.au.

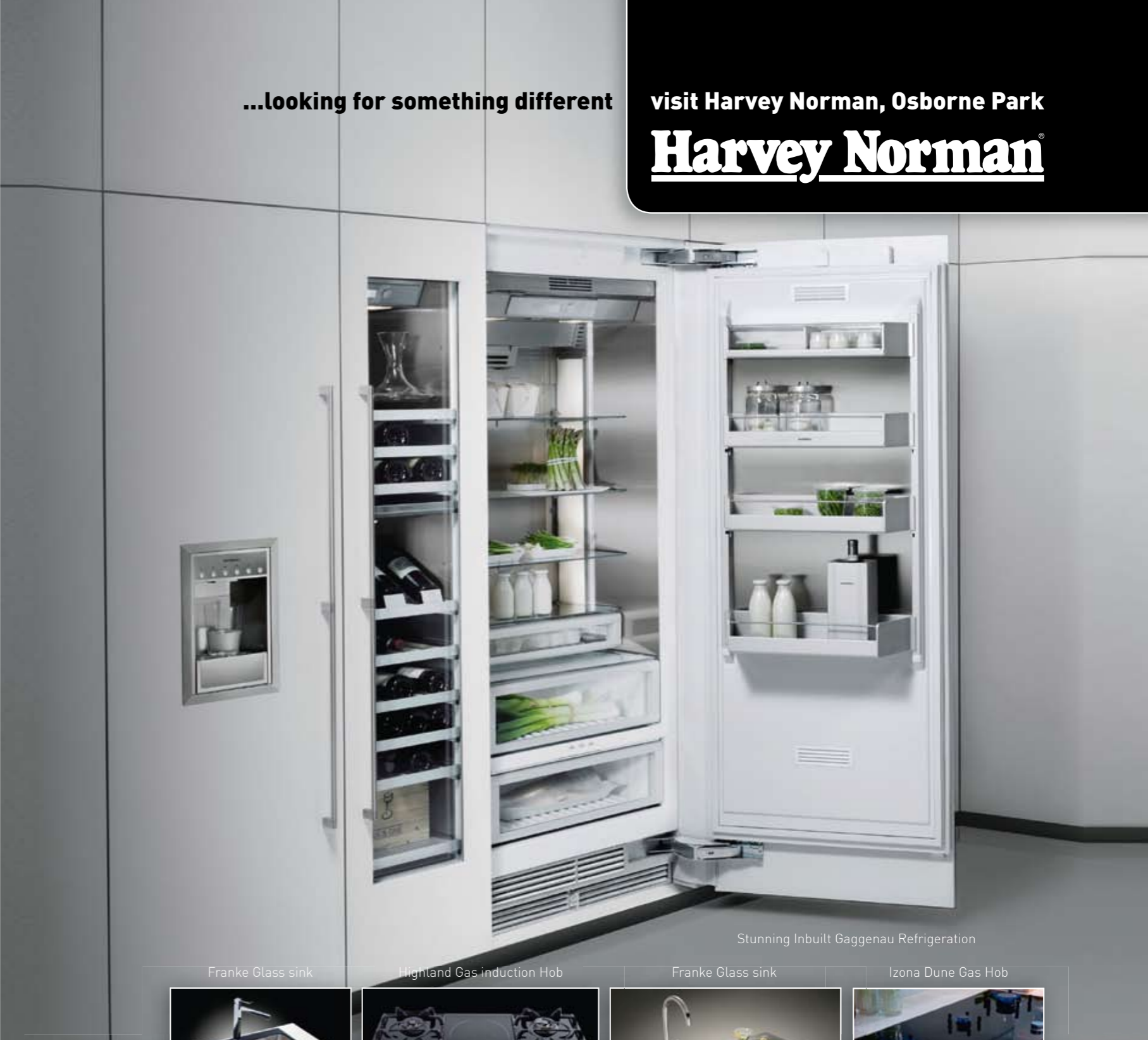


“The bathrooms are also very luxurious in scale, and with direct connections to the gardens, they’re a space in which you can really give back to yourself”

restrained glamour | moorish luxe

Glints of gold against a neutral base merge in the name of luxury

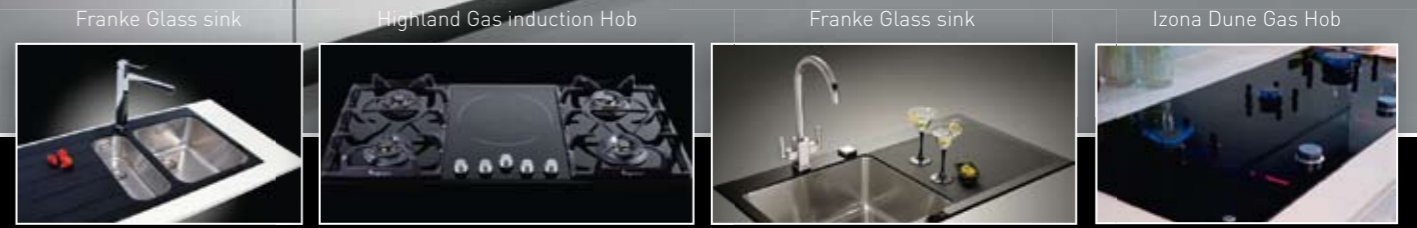
‘Moroccan modern’ is how Jade Jagger has been quoted on the interiors of The Baglioni Marrakech villas in its namesake city. We’d also throw in ‘earthy luxe’. And her bathroom design is no exception. “Our design for Marrakech used individually cut zellige tiles in a fishscale pattern, with bronzed-framed mirrors and polished chrome wall lights,” explains Jade. With concrete floors and bone-coloured walls, the burnished gold of the zellige tiles brings glamour to the space. And the pink glass doors, which light up at night, give a hit of contemporary style. It’s this mix of the handmade (tiles and mirrors from a local souk) and high-end design (Tom Dixon lights and Dornbracht tapware) that Jade loves to use in her designs. “Definitely the bathroom,” she says when asked which is her favourite room to design. “I have a very open-door policy with my whole house, but my bathroom is really my sanctuary away from it all.” *Jade Jagger for Yoo yoo.com.*



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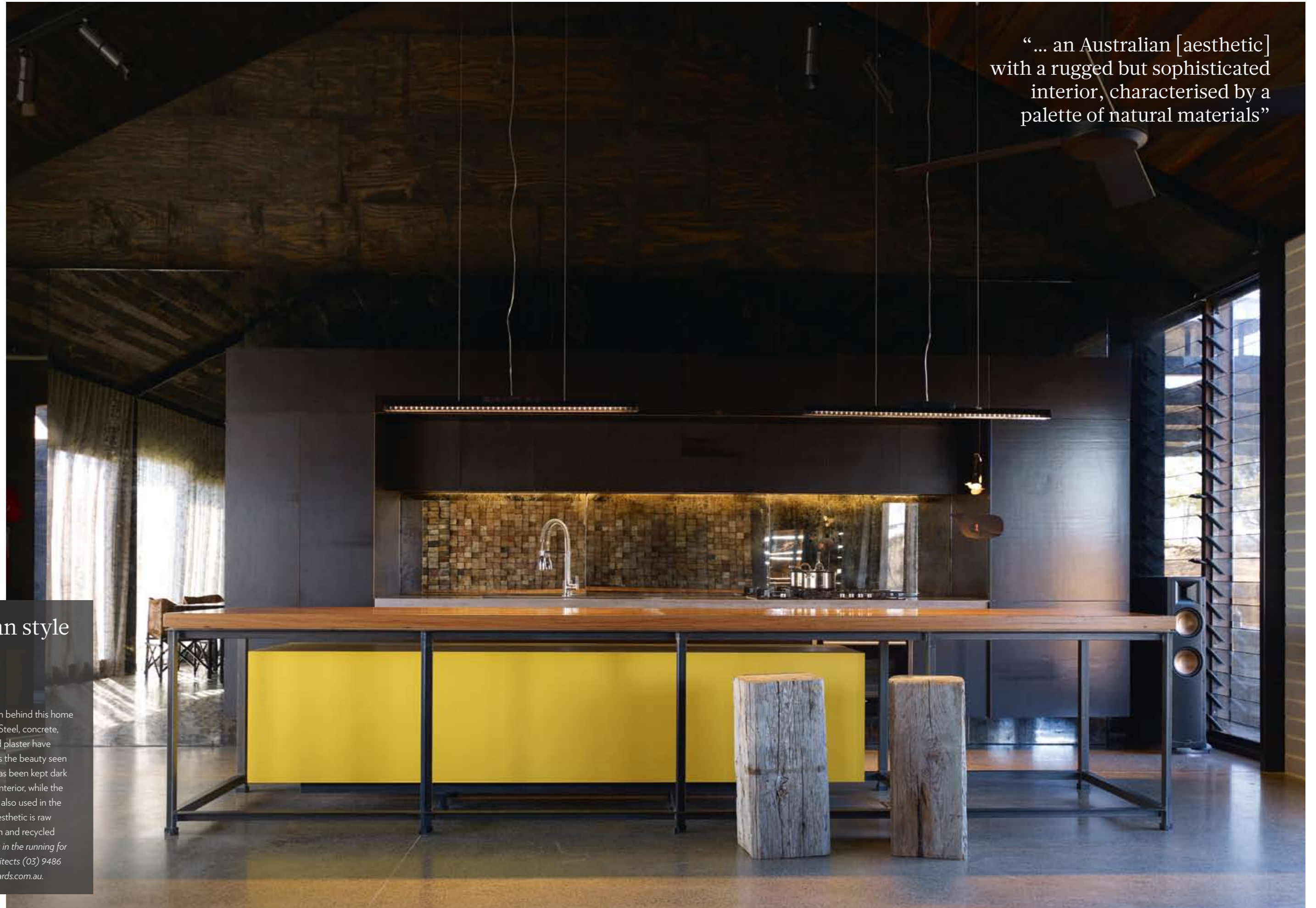


“... an Australian [aesthetic] with a rugged but sophisticated interior, characterised by a palette of natural materials”

raw industrial | australian style

Raw and industrial materials are brought to life with a hit of colour

Robust, functional and 'Australian' is the design direction behind this home by Wolveridge Architects. And the kitchen follows suit. Steel, concrete, recycled timber and black-stained recycled plywood and plaster have been employed, creating a dark interior that accentuates the beauty seen from expanses of glass doors and windows. Cabinetry has been kept dark and includes a charcoal smoked mirror that reflects the interior, while the island bench has been given a splash of yellow (a colour also used in the bathroom), making it a strong focal point. Overall the aesthetic is raw and pared back, while the steel frame of the island bench and recycled blackbutt flooring give it an industrial edge. *This home is in the running for a 2011 Australian Interior Design Award. Wolveridge Architects (03) 9486 9882, wolveridge.com.au, www.australianinteriordesignawards.com.au.*





raw industrial | refined warmth

Raw and refined work together for a sophisticated side to industrial

Spanish fashion designer Antonio Miro is behind the strong, stylish bathware collection in this bathroom. While a concept space, we love the juxtaposition of the raw interior against the sophisticated lines and colours of the basin and strength of form in the tapware. Plus, the use of a natural-fibre rug and contemporary floor lamp bring a modern sensibility and lifestyle feel. However, the square-shaped basins are the heroes in the space, with the chocolate tones of iroko wood bringing in warmth. The iroko wood (an African timber sought by high-quality furniture makers for its durability and aesthetic appeal) has been treated with oils to ensure its longevity in wet environments. While not pictured here, accessories, such as towel rails, come in wood or rubber instead of the usually de rigueur chrome. It's the perfect look to bring sophistication to a warehouse conversion. *Paco Jaanson 1800 006 260, pacojaanson.com.au.*

“Industrial meets sophistication through strong lines in the warmth of woodgrain, while raw flooring grounds the overall feel”



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“The wood becomes a backdrop to key pieces, and it ensures there is no demarcation between the shower and the rest of the space”



natural | sun catcher

Play with perception by combining glass and mirror

Some have hailed it as nautical, but that wasn't the design intention. Mark Cashman, director of Sydney-based architects MCK, says they were after the feeling of space. This bathroom is in a central position in a new-build part of an existing house. With no outdoor outlook, a skylight that stretches the length of the 2.5x3.5m room bathes the area in light by day and moonlight by night. "Because it is not the biggest of bathrooms, we decided to mirror an entire wall, and we put forward the idea to do decking... it is something we have done before and it is a nice alternative to tiles and stone, and gives an external feel," explains Mark. Further simplifying the look is that there is no separate shower, instead it is just part of the entire space. "They are utilitarian rooms, but you can make them more enjoyable by making them experiential," says Mark, adding that the tub has been positioned to ensure soakers can enjoy the night sky. *The design took out a commendation in the 2010 Australian Interior Design Awards. MCK (02) 9211 4146, mckarchitects.com.*