



AUSTRALIA

MAY 2008

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EXCLUSIVE
PARIS INSIDER:
The trends from
Maison & Objet fair

CREATIVE MINDS
In Prouvé
near Niemeyer
Michael Young

54
PAGES OF BRILLIANT
KITCHENS &
BATHROOMS

IS **TOKYO** THE
COOLEST CITY IN
THE WORLD?

SO **HOT**
RIGHT NOW



RIGHT NOW SPACES

WORDS BY MICHEL WALTERS



LEFT and BOTTOM An apartment designed by Sydney-based interior design firm RLD. RIGHT Lynn Malone was commissioned to design this two-storey duplex.

Norman conquest

A slick residential tower by a noble architect elegantly rises above an historical Sydney precinct.



RENOWNED UK ARCHITECT Lord Norman Foster's first foray into designing a residential tower may have risen with little fanfare, but now that the results have been unveiled, the world is clamouring to reside within.

His Lumière Residences has already made a public splash – quite literally, given its two water features that can be appreciated by passers-by. A four-tiered, black granite, lava-like fountain bubbles away in the forecourt. But the eye-catching sculpture means many neglect to look upwards; those who do see the glass-bottomed portion of a cantilevered 50-metre pool. The indoor/outdoor pool is part of a facilities floor that also features a gym, sauna, steam room and two private theatrettes.

The 55-level building has 456 apartments. Higher levels boast larger units and fewer neighbours; upper-level views reach Sydney Harbour's heads, while lower floors enjoy an intimate association with the historic sandstone buildings of Sydney's Town Hall precinct.

The high-rise is best described as a cluster of towers designed around a central H-shaped hallway, the two parallel lines of which continue past the hallway's end to create voids in the building's otherwise square shape. These voids access air, light, and minimise shared walls between the apartments on the same floor.

While its units range from one-bedroomers to penthouses, perhaps the most interesting are the two-level loft-styled duplexes. At the invitation of the developer, designer Lynn Malone decorated one of these two-bedroom lofts (pictured), which are, in essence, typical Sydney terraces in the sky.

Both apartments shown feature bathrooms with under-floor heating, wall-hung toilets and sinks by Foster's architecture and design firm Foster + Partners. Only backlit splashbacks in both the bathrooms and kitchens offer a subtle lighting alternative.

Every apartment has a triple-glazed enclosed balcony or loggia (complete with underfloor drainage and sliding windows for ventilation) that can be closed off from the unit with glass concertina doors or, in the case of the Lynn Malone apartment (above), integrated as living space and used as a dining room.

Visit www.lumieresydney.com.au for more details.