

DESTINATION STOCKHOLM + DESIGN SPY: BLUE IS THE COLOUR

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IN THE PINK

Andrea D'Cruz used vibrant colour accents to spice up a Sydney apartment, reflecting its owner's aesthetic.

PHOTOGRAPHS NICHOLAS WATT WORDS JEAN WRIGHT



Prêt-à-couture' – the witty phrase used by Italian entrepreneur Diego Della Valle who was responsible for reviving the Schiaparelli name and atelier – could well be used to describe the apartment shown here. Set within a 1930s Art Deco building, the apartment is a true reflection of the personal aesthetic of its New York-born, Sydney-based owner.

"This is so Laura," friends say when they walk into the glamorous entrance hall. "You can almost match the apartment to the owner and the clothes she wears," say interior designers Andrea D'Cruz of RLD and her assistant Jessica Heneka. "Ordered and business savvy; precise and confident; warm and stylish," are words they use. "Laura is very precise with the colours she likes and wears," says Andrea, "and so we drew from that."

Throughout the apartment RLD's strategic use of one highlight colour in each space contributes to a sense of theatre and excitement: red tiles and a red pendant from Ke-Zu against a black and white mural of the Manhattan skyline in the kitchen/family room; a guest bedroom-cum-office has accents of cobalt blue; while the formal living room is in a neutral, monochromatic palette, with the greenery outside the north-east facing windows providing the colour.

The main bedroom has dramatic touches of Schiaparelli pink – the signature hue of the legendary Italian fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli who coined the phrase 'shocking pink'. "I love the feel of the bedroom – the colour, the light," says Laura. A slipper chair, the lightfitting, the banding of the curtains – all are in pink and the perfect counterpoint to the grey carpet and fabric-upholstered walls.





The finishes and materials are matched to the function of the room: tactile in the informal spaces, highly polished and glamorous ebony-stained timbers and gloss black in the formal rooms, contrasting with the soft whites and greys.

The sense of glamour starts in the apartment's black and white entrance hall. Reflecting the Art Deco building, Jessica designed a graphic rug that was custom made by Designer Rugs. "I loved it instantly," says Laura. "It is so rewarding when someone gets you." The owner was involved in all the design decisions. "Laura likes to connect with something before she says 'Yes, I will put that in the room' – even if it takes time," say the designers. One wall in the living room is still waiting for just the right artwork.

As soon as Laura spotted the cocktail cabinet at James Salmond Furniture she knew it was what she wanted – "I've always thought a cocktail cabinet was so chic." Along with a matching credenza it is the focal point in the dining area opposite a customised Cavit & Co dining table that seats up to 14 people. "I love to entertain," says Laura, "whether it's a few family members or larger gatherings."

Joinery throughout the apartment is organised so that everything has a home and a purpose, right down to a place for the exercise bike in the cupboard in the guestroom/office. The wardrobe in the main bedroom was customised to accommodate the owner's needs with three-tier hanging for her clothes and a whole cupboard just for shoes. The entrance hall closet in a stepped design with smoked mirrored doors was designed to accommodate linen on one side, wine on the other and coats in the taller, middle section. "It's a practical place to hang a coat, ready to grab when you run out the door," says Laura. "In America homes always have a hall closet." 15

For more go to rldesign.com.au.



DESIGN DETAILS

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The sofa was custom designed to fit the living room. Customised dining table from Cavit & Co can be extended to seat 14. Red mosaic tiles from Academy Tiles provide a jolt of colour in the kitchen. In the main bedroom the wall is upholstered in a Zepel fabric. Grey curtains are banded in pink. Flos 'Ktribe' wall lamps from Euroluce. Custom-designed lightfitting, Carrara marble and ebonised timber in the bathroom. OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Cocktail cabinet from James Salmond Furniture. A Lizzie Pwerle painting, *My Country Atnwengerrp*, and a Robert Dickerson oil, *Compatibility*, hang above. B&B Italia 'Papilio' chairs from Space with an Eero Saarinen marble-topped table. The backdrop is a mural of the Manhattan skyline. LZF 'Agatha' suspension lamp is from Ke-Zu. Jessica Heneka of RLD designed the Art Deco-style rug in the entrance which was made by Designer Rugs.

