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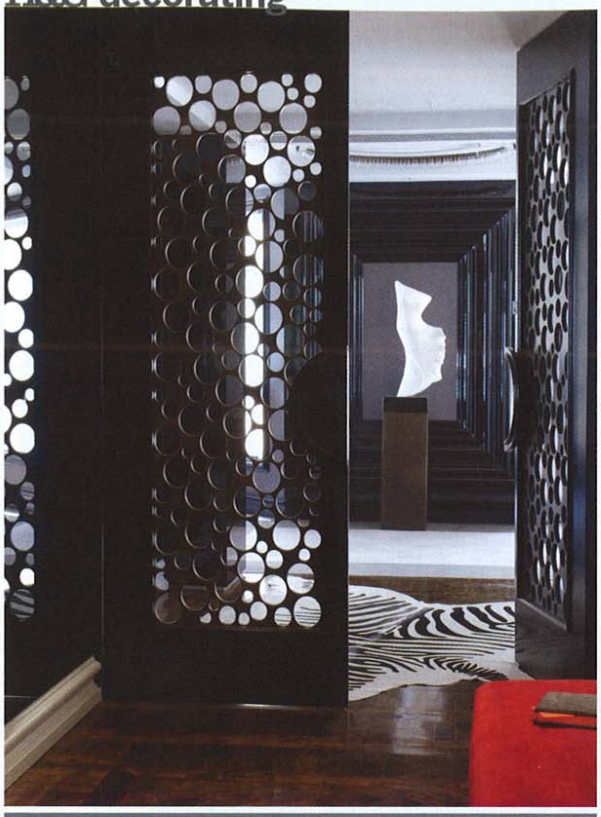
10 STEPS TO TAILORED

Classic design and beautifully tailored furnishings triumph in this elegant city apartment. Interior designer Andrea D'Cruz of RLD shares the journey.

PRODUCED BY **JEAN WRIGHT** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NICK WATT**



1 A CLEAR BRIEF The owners, a busy couple who travel a lot, wanted their Sydney apartment to have a distinct Manhattan-style sophistication. "Warm, welcoming and comfortable" with an emphasis on tailored design, was the brief.

2 CONSIDERED LAYOUT The main living area is open-plan, with formal seating at one end, family living at the other and a partly recessed kitchen and dining zone in the centre of the space. The main bedroom suite leads off the formal area; the guestroom, study and bathrooms from the family zone. Both living areas open onto generous balconies with iconic Sydney views to the east and west.

3 MAKE AN ENTRANCE "Strategic use of theatrics" was Andrea's approach. "The entry foyer is unashamedly bold, setting the scene for the apartment". The custom-designed security doors resemble ornate screens. The marble sculpture by Graham Radcliffe has striking frame-like panelling as a backdrop and creates a direct focal point on entry.

4 **FORM & FUNCTION** Furniture selection was driven by purity of form. It is comfortable and placed to encourage conversation, and flexible in order to accommodate both small and large gatherings. The palette is monochromatic, with a pair of red Maxalto Febo Poltrona chairs providing a striking counterpoint. Accents with graphic pattern complete the scheme. In the living area, carpet is used to create a formal border.

5 **DELIGHT IN THE DETAIL** In the kitchen high-gloss black was used for the joinery and the height of the counter conceals the workspace. The carved-stone top, turned-leg detail and decorative stools are fun yet sophisticated.

6 **MATERIAL MAGIC** Silk, mohair, waxed leather and hides are juxtaposed with polished and aged metals, stones imported from Europe and highly polished timbers in the formal seating area. In the casual living area, defined by a pair of Maxalto Kalos armchairs, a variety of linens summons a tactile luxury, befitting of this more relaxed living space. >

ENTRY The steel entry doors were made by Axolotl to RLD's design.
KITCHEN/DINING Custom-designed bar stools mimic the lines of the Antoinette dining chairs in the adjoining dining area. Artworks by Robert Dickerson (kitchen) and Terri Brooks (dining).
LIVING An existing sofa was teamed with vibrant Maxalto Febo Poltrona chairs and a custom-made coffee table. Artwork by Dianne Fogwell. **For Where to Buy, see page 228.**

MAIN BEDROOM The array of fabrics used here was sourced from Mokum and Zepel Fabrics; the wallpaper is from Kvadrat Maharam. Gourd lamp from South Pacific Fabrics. For Where to Buy, see page 228.

7 THE BEAUTY OF BESPOKE The joinery throughout was custom-made for the apartment. Leather-clad bedside tables and built-in wardrobes with timber bases and handles are a feature in the bedrooms – all custom-designed by RLD. Elsewhere, coffee and side tables, the desk and turned leg of the kitchen bar are also bespoke designs.

8 LUXE LIGHTING Varying the lighting styles creates visual interest. Designer pendant lights (Crystal Ring Two by Dean Phillips in the entrance and dramatic red Bover Mei 60 pendant light over the dining table); wall lights; table lamps; general down and task lights and concealed wall washers create a sophisticated ambience. >

9 **WALLS & WINDOWS** Silk-effect wallpaper in a deep, moody hue allows the elegant lines of lighter-toned furniture to star in the living spaces. Bedroom wallpaper is contained within plaster mouldings for a formal twist. Cosy and cocooning, the curtains in all rooms feature a sheer inner layer as well as a block-out layer for controlling sun and maintaining privacy.

10 **FABULOUS FLOORING** The existing oak floor in the foyer and kitchen was treated with an ebony wash. A two-toned and dual-textured Wilton carpet in the living areas creates a formal border and clear definition of spaces. **H&G Project by interior designer Andrea D'Cruz of RLD; (02) 9331 4066 or www.rldesign.com.au.**

CASUAL LIVING Maxalto Kalos armchairs from Space. Custom-made console. Framed Picasso print.

GUESTROOM/STUDY A screen from Orient House sets the tone for the room. Andrea D'Cruz is seated at the desk she custom-designed for the space. **For Where to Buy, see page 228.**