

A R T

A N D

F O R M

photography dave wheeler styling decus interiors words bron bates

Sherbet hues, sculptural pieces and unusual materials reign supreme in this effervescent Sydney renovation by Decus Interiors



picture this

Create pleasing perspectives by considering your space as if through a series of frames. Here, the hallway vignette is harmoniously balanced: tonal hues set the colour scheme and the rule of thirds has been employed, with the mirror to the top left and the console below

**Set and match** When designing the hallway, Decus Interiors was led by the goal to create a "consistent design language that would set the tone for the house". Various colours of Marblo was used to create the custom-made console that's affixed to the wall with small steel rods and adhesive, with the design of the console referencing the skirting. ->

everything is art

Want to achieve a similar look in your home? "Mix mediums," advises Alexandra Donohoe Church of Decus Interiors. "Photography, painted works, sculpture – choose pieces that add a voice to the conversation of the space and don't be shy!"



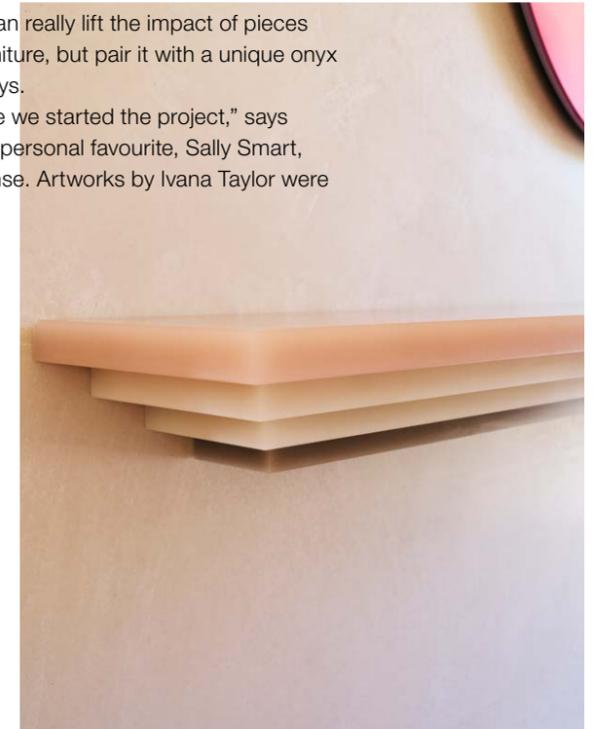
**Shine bright** *The Artist's Ballet (Duet)* by Sally Smart hangs above a Scрино cabinet by Fernando and Humberto Campana for Edra. The mirrored Colorflex gold finish of the cabinet adds a dynamic – and decadent – element to the room. **Show piece** Blush quartzite was used for the custom-made coffee tabletop with a gloss two-pack finish on the base in a custom colour. Decus designed the coffee table and made sure it was 3D modelled before being brought to life by the joiners. "We wanted a truly unique piece for the coffee table," says Alexandra. **Plush pink** A reupholstered vintage Groovy Chair by Pierre Paulin rounds out the sitting area.

A "FASHION-FORWARD NARRATIVE" was the brief given to Decus Interiors for this partial renovation of a home that had previously displayed a "somewhat beige-on-beige" aesthetic, says Decus Interiors' Alexandra Donohoe Church. Inspired by her client's sartorial sense and adventurous choices in art, Alexandra and her team got to work, making over several rooms in the Sydney terrace. Key to the home's transformation from beige space to artful dream, was the use of custom joinery and unique materials such as blush quartzite and Marblo to create conversational pieces such as the stunning hallway console and sculptural coffee tables. The result? A series of rooms to demonstrate that anything – and everything – in the home can be art.

**EYE ON THE PRIZE** For the custom joinery to be a success it was crucial to use 3D drawings during the design process. "Some pieces involve complex geometries which are hard for a client or a fabricator to fully understand, unless they see it in a model form," explains Alexandra.

**UNIQUE PROPOSITION** The use unusual materials in your home can really lift the impact of pieces and the overall effect. "Anyone can do polyurethane on a piece of furniture, but pair it with a unique onyx or handmade glazed bricks and it can add some real interest," she says.

**ART SMART** "The clients owned some pieces of their own art before we started the project," says Alexandra. "We augmented their existing works with new pieces by a personal favourite, Sally Smart, whose work is energetic and, in my opinion, triggers a visceral response. Artworks by Ivana Taylor were also selected for their contribution to form and relief in the spaces." ●



get the look

Create the perfect marriage of form and function



**1** Formes velvet **armchair** in Dust Pink, \$569, Life Interiors. **2** Pomelo Home 'Zircon' **light shade**, \$97, Hardtofind. **3** *Portrait of Duc artwork* by Camille Olsen-Ormandy, \$3000 (51x41cm, unframed), Olsen Gallery. **4** **Candleholders** by Tatsiana Shevarenkova, \$70, Saint Cloche. **5** Kiono **coffee table**, \$1100, Casa Blanco. **6** Gubi 'Multi-lite' **pendant**, \$1550, Cult Design. **7** Mother of Pearl resin **dish** in Chalk Swirl, \$60, Dinosaur Designs. **8** Terry **outdoor cushion** in Mint (60x60cm), \$265, Jardan. **9** Vase Versa **bud vase** by Dean Toepfer, \$180, Makers' Mrkt. →

FROM LEFT **Curve appeal** A custom cream boucle banquette by Decus Interiors sits atop a custom Tencel silk rug with material from Whitecliffe Imports, also by Decus. The custom cushions are made from Lelievre 'Regate' fabric in Flamant from South Pacific Fabrics, Kvadrat Maharam 'Byram' fabric, and Nya Nordiska 'Raja' fabric in Powder from Ascraft. *Peach Wall* artwork by George Byrne. Copycat table lamp by Michael Anastassiades. **On balance** The Nepal armchair by Baxter provides fabulously fuzzy character alongside a custom piece by Decus, with Ivana Taylor's sculpture *Arch Bend* in pride of place. *Pirate Physiognomy #13 (The Exquisite Pirate)* by Sally Smart adorns the wall. **Art house** *Wrapped Circle Sconce* by Ivana Taylor and a pair of artworks by Camille Olsen-Ormandy, *Portrait of Jess* and *Portrait of Duc*, hang above a Russell sofa from Minotti with custom cushions in Mokum 'Satori Stonewash' in Petrol and a Society Limonta throw from Ondene. The delightfully curvy coffee table is a custom piece by Decus. **Good in bed** Polished brass adds shine in the form of a Multi-lite pendant from Gubi. The light hangs alongside artwork by Sally Smart and above a custom Sabine Marcelis bedside table.



balance

Repeating shapes – especially curves – creates a sense of calm and visual harmony. In the living area, Alexandra added a 'flourish' near the ceiling that has the dual purpose of concealing the curtain pelmet and providing a shelf for a projector, which the owners prefer to a TV



contrast

"Team sweet/strong/saturated with earthy/dirty/washed out ones," says Alexandra. Here, the glossy black sideboard provides a smart contrast with the gentler, natural tones of the rug and timber flooring, with the artworks tying all the elements together



punctuate

Don't be afraid to bring interest to your space by adding punctuation in the form of sculptural pieces such as wall sconces and side tables in unusual shapes. Choose pieces in luxe materials or bold hues to elevate and lift your rooms, then sit back and enjoy the new gallery feel



mix

"Mix opposing textures and finishes," advises Alexandra. In the bedroom a brushed brass pendant light and polished cast polyester resin/tempered steel bedside table complement the soft textures of the Minotti 'Tatlin-Cover' upholstered headboard and Society Limonta bedding