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In the open-plan kitchen, custom brass benchtop by Arent & Pyke; custom bench seat by Arent & Pyke covered in Eco Outdoor Nomad fabric; Classicon Roquebrune chair by Eileen Gray from Anibou; handles on bench seat from Made Measure; wall light by Serge Mouille; European Tortoiseshell sisal carpet from International Floorcoverings Australia. Details, last pages.

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SMART KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

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and bathroom into the
21st century with these
innovative tips.*

« CHARACTER STUDY »

Arent & Pyke

Principals of Arent & Pyke, Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke, share how they modernised this 1970s apartment on Sydney's harbour.

Produced by ANNA DELPRAT
Photographed by FELIX FOREST

66 The apartment was completely original 1970s including silver foil wallpaper on the bathroom ceilings. Our brief was to reconfigure the spaces for a more modern approach to living. The clients were a couple retiring to the harbour side, which was a change of location and lifestyle for them.

We opened up the kitchen to the harbour views and stripped the apartment back to the structure. Then we layered up a new interior with rich materiality and detailing. The spaces work well functionally, with oodles of storage, but it's

the beautiful bespoke details, such as the solid brass kitchen handles, that really stand out.

From our early conversations with the clients we talked about materials that would develop a patina and show the passage of time. This led to the choice of raw brass for the kitchen bench, tapware, and the framing of bathroom vanities. The use of marble and handmade tiles complement the brass, so the overall feeling is of natural, timeless materials. The apartment was transformed in every way. The quality of light, the generosity of spaces, and the seamless flow of the interiors out to the harbour view all came into focus. The materials we chose are robust and warm, creating a natural ease that makes the home so inviting. It was a delight to work with clients who were both passionate about the process, and completely trusting of our design direction. When you have that meeting of minds, the entire experience is joyful, and decisions come easily. We managed to balance our clients' desires for a home that is incredibly comfortable and welcoming to family and friends, with their need for something that reflected their personal style.

In a relatively compact space the kitchen and dining space are linked, sharing the Serge Mouille wall light and beauty of the sculptural brass bench. This functions as the heart and soul of the room. Allowed to oxidise and patina, with the warmth of bright brass in areas of high use, it tells a story, and will change over time. The light joinery and splashback give the brass bench room to shine. Rather than having stools, the bench seat allows for conversation while the meal is being prepared, while enjoying the view out to the harbour.

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* **AN ADJUSTABLE WALL LIGHT** adds flexibility — point it down towards the benchtop for focused light while cooking, or angle it up towards the ceiling for a diffused, ambient glow.

* **RAW BRASS** is an interactive material that naturally responds to the environment. It develops a patina over time, ever-changing and therefore constantly adding new character to your kitchen.

* **THIS ROOMY SHOWER** transforms what could have been an awkward, neglected corner into a super-smart use of space.



“The materials are robust and warm, creating a natural ease that makes the home so inviting”

THIS PAGE: in the kitchen, custom brass benchtop by Arent & Pyke; joinery by Arent & Pyke painted in Dulux Antique White USA; Ananke marble splashback from Artedomus; Astra Walker mixer; Zip Miniboil tap; Tongue n Groove engineered oak floorboards in Chamoisee. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP: Arent & Pyke principals Sarah-Jane Pyke (left) and Juliette Arent. In the bathroom, handmade Aii Manos wall tiles from Onsite Supply & Design; marble floor tiles from Bisanna Tiles; Dunlin Mount St sconce; Alabama marble on vanity from Artedomus; Superfront Ball handles; Vola tapware from Candana. Details, last pages.

PHOTOGRAPHER: NIKKI TO (PORTRAIT)