

# DECOR & DESIGN

By FELICITY MARSHALL

## Revamp, remodel, rethink

It almost goes without saying that modern apartment developments are designed to be sold – not lived in.

For all but the most imaginative of us, it can be hard to see past the deliberate blandness of the fit-out and envisage how the property can be transformed into a comfortable, workable and engaging space reflective of its occupants' taste, lifestyle and background.

However, the Pymont Apartment project by leading interior design firm Arent & Pyke shows how a cookie-cutter residence created with commercial ends in mind can be given new life as a warm, welcoming and very personal home.



TOM FERGUSON

An extensive overhaul of this Pymont apartment by Arent & Pyke took 12 months.

The client, a young couple with a love of the arts and entertaining, bought the three-bedroom flat for its bustling inner-city location in Pymont, just two kilometres from Sydney's central business district.

The large balconies, with views of the Harbour Bridge, were another major drawcard.

However, the interior was typical of its type, with a masculine, noughties aesthetic characterised by a multitude of downlights, dark grey carpets and blue and white painted walls.

During the 12-month project, which was shortlisted in the Australian Interior Design Awards, lead designer Juliette Arent oversaw an extensive overhaul of the interior, including lighting, layout, paint,

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carpet, joinery, furniture and objects. “More so than most clients, this couple were really excited about learning how furniture and art can really transform a space,” Arent says. In the living area, the walls were repainted a soft, pistachio green, the carpet was replaced with a geometric-patterned rug in beige, rose pink and slate grey.

A custom-designed Abrascato marble and American oak window seat with additional storage space was installed under the windows. About 80 per cent of the downlights were removed to make way for more subtle sources of illumination, such as the Buddies wall sconces by New York-based Apparatus and the

translucent Roman blinds that allow natural light to filter in through the windows, even when drawn. The space was then furnished with an Eames lounge chair and ottoman in tan leather, tinted glass and metal Classicon Bell side tables and ceramic vases by Barcelona-based interior designer Jaime Hayon, among other items.

The dining area was designed with the owners’ love of entertaining in mind. The large marble and timber dining table can comfortably accommodate 14 people, while the low-hanging Parachilna Aballs pendant lights, also by Jaime Hayon, create a sense of intimacy. The KnollStudio dining chairs, with their lace-up backs reminiscent of women’s corsetry, add to the overall soft, feminine ambience. In the main bedroom, a custom-made folding screen by London-based de Gournay, featuring the image of a willow hand-painted on to metallic wallpaper, hides a cumbersome junction in the corner of the room. [m](#)

**OUR COVER**  
Pyrmont apartment by Arent & Pyke.  
Photograph by Tom Ferguson.

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