

URBAN ELEGANCE

An international style defines this inner-city warehouse transformation

By Lauren Circosta | Photography Simon Wood

It's no surprise the international couple that owns this elegant residence chose to settle in Sydney. After time spent abroad, it was the eclectic charm and dynamic beauty of this city that convinced them to create their own unique space here. For award-winning designer Brendan Wong, of Brendan Wong Design, it was the opportunity to breathe life into an inspiring brief that's come a long way from its industrial beginning.

Looking at the sophisticated interior, it's hard to imagine this

space was originally a taxi depot created back in 1941. With good bones, it's been converted for residential use over time to maximise its prime location in Paddington, retaining the brick Moderne facade and unique faceted internal column structure that mirror its character and charm.

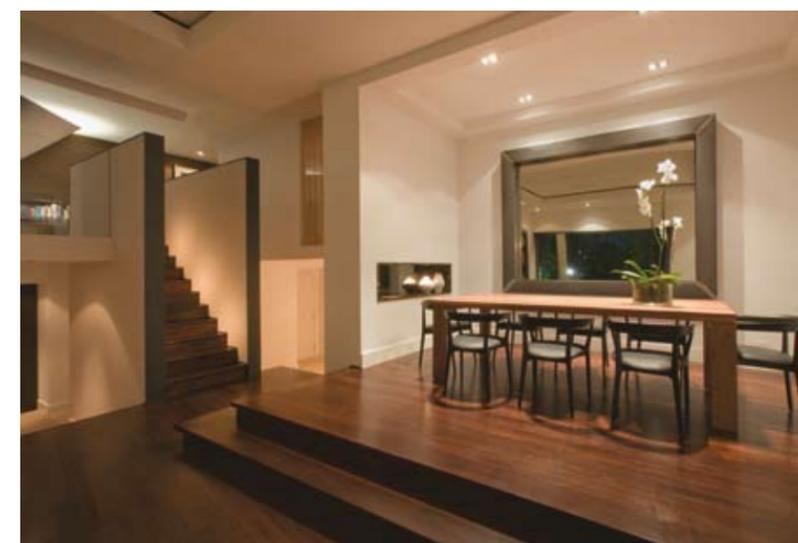
It was essential to inject the newly acquired property with elegance while maintaining the unpolished, urban flair of the building. It's a trait often seen in Brendan's work, which often pays homage to the architectural splendour that already

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exists in each project he comes by. Major internal planning was the key to success for this project. Brendan amalgamated two separate split-level apartments into one and turned five bedrooms and study into a three-bedroom, study, library and media room sanctuary.

The structure boasts a comforting sense of spaciousness and natural light. "I was looking

to blend refined architectural elements with finely detailed furnishings that would be the backdrop for these stylish features," he says. He took advantage of the ceiling height and abundance of windows to produce generous proportions that bring this vision to fruition.

At every turn, a sense of "layering" is heightened throughout the design. With 18

years experience of interior design under his belt, it's a skill Brendan has mastered and used in its best light here. It not only makes for an interesting and textured abode but also allows the height volumes to be maximised and enjoyed from multiple viewpoints in the home.

A love of entertaining has influenced the functional and aesthetic details of the kitchen.

This hub features a glamorous island bench in honed Jura Grey limestone that appears as an almost floating furniture piece. "It's a central point for cocktails and conversations with the sink and cooking area seamlessly concealed behind it," notes Brendan. An ambient glow beams through a series of woven pendant lights hanging above the bench, which also

aids the separation of the zone from the main living area.

Global sophistication oozes from the main living room. Bespoke Italian embroidered silk cushions, American jacquard upholstery, a Laotian bronze rain drum and silk Nepalese rug anchor the space with mesmerising texture that plays on a soothing neutral

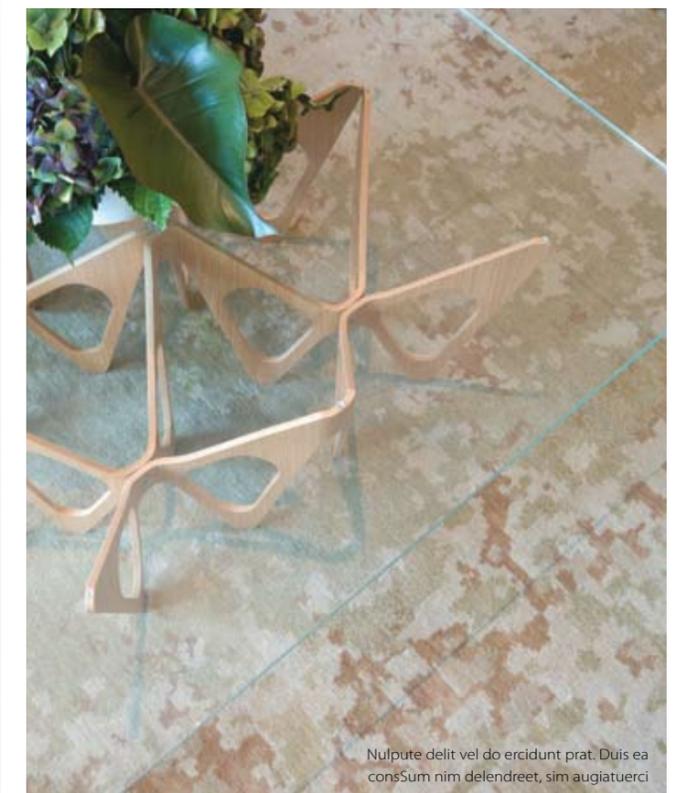
palette. An original 1930s advertising poster is a flamboyant spark by the owners in an otherwise quiet, elegant interior. Glass doors from the living room to the balcony retract to allow a seamless connection to the balcony.

The dining space is elevated from the main living room. It's a dynamic area that allows guests a view over the living area through

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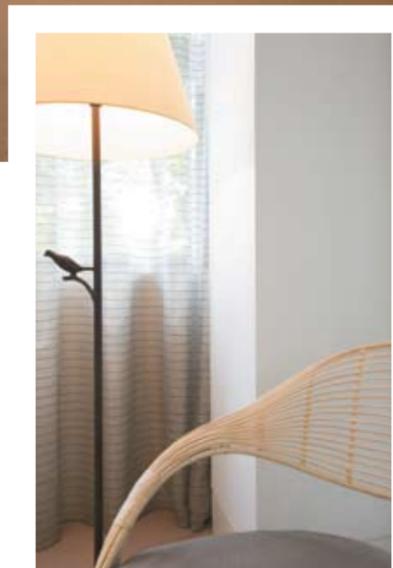
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“THIS WALL IS A FOCAL POINT OF THE ROOM THAT ACTS AS ARTWORK, FINISHED IN A CUSTOM HAND-PAINTED SILK WALLPAPER,” SAYS BRENDAN



to the outdoors. “The clean bold lines of the furniture here were added for a graphic yet orderly effect for the exciting space,” says Brendan. A large raw steel-frame mirror reflects both the natural light during the day and evening glow for an ever-changing mood, while a marble-lined recessed console is a practical addition for entertaining that does not impose on the room’s geometry. Natural light floods the master bedroom through double-height windows. The private haven is one cohesive suite, with a three-quarter-high wall separating the bedroom and bathroom. “This wall is a focal point of

the room that acts as artwork, finished in a custom hand-painted silk wallpaper,” says Brendan. The bed is upholstered in luxurious bronze green velvet and is dotted with bespoke cushions and angora blankets. It’s a serene escape from the city life that’s worked in a fresh, soft palette. A step behind the exquisite hand-painted wall is the pod-shaped Haven Island freestanding bath that’s the centerpiece of this wet area. This dreamy space features a generous double shower that makes use of an existing semi-circular alcove in the structure. The double vanity plays on

this theme, with curved drawer handles reminiscent of a luxury handbag. A touch of the original building’s warehouse origins can be found in the granulated dark charcoal paint that frames the vanity. Brendan’s respect for the original building and the potential of this structure have resulted in a carefully crafted masterpiece. It’s a sophisticated city apartment with international appeal that ticks all the boxes for his clients, who no doubt revel in its modern makeover. ■ For more information, visit www.brendanwong.com



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