

A touch of *luxe*

Interior designer Brendan Wong blends sharp contemporary design with a dash of opulence in this Sydney loft apartment. *CAMILLA WAGSTAFF* writes.

PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER



Seamless blend. A monochromatic palette sets the stage for the industrial playfulness of Jasper Knight's painting.

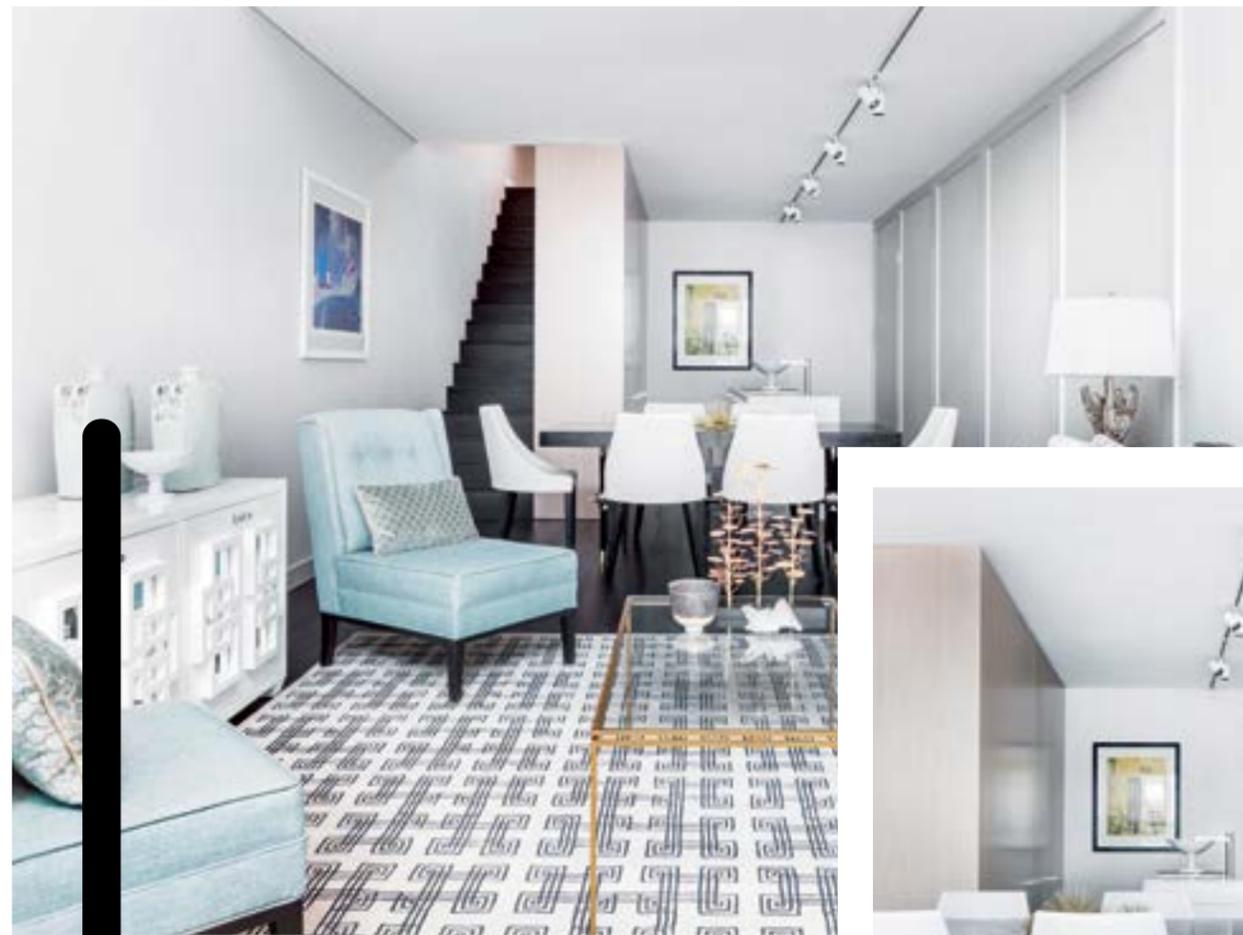
LOVE IT
BUY IT
HANG IT
LIVING
WITH ART

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Brendan Wong



Follow the leader. A striking lamp and printed cushion take cue from the colour and line work in Knight's painting while still holding their own presence in the space.



Rounding out. A work by Jeffery Smart finishes the dining area.

Black beauty. Onyx timber flooring makes a modern statement.



If you're looking for an interior that fuses modern design with pared back opulence, look no further for inspiration than this chic loft apartment. Nestled in Sydney's inner-city suburb of Darlinghurst, the original brief for the project "was to transform a soulless double height volume into a light-filled loft apartment that was energetic yet luxuriously restrained," says interior designer **Brendan Wong**. Wong achieves this through a seamless blend of minimalist detailing, classic furniture and contemporary art.

"A graphic, monochromatic palette creates the perfect backdrop for furnishings that are rich in texture, form and pattern," explains Wong. So while the overall effect of the space is quite contemporary - with black timber floors, sharp detailing and expressed track lighting combined to create an intentionally modern feel - the details together create a perfect backdrop for furnishings and accessories "that are more opulent, allowing their decorative

elements to shine." The overall feel is one of subtle luxury. "It's the same sense of luxury you might feel when you see a beautiful vintage necklace being worn with a new pared back **Giorgio Armani** dress - both contribute equally to the overall effect," says Wong.

Home to a professional lawyer with a keen interest in art and design, placement of artwork was an integral part of the interior and of great importance to the overall look and feel. Although primarily open plan, Wong creates distinct zones between living, dining and kitchen through clever design and the careful placement of artworks throughout the space. Wong says that the **Jasper Knight** work in the living room "has a playful, industrial quality which is exaggerated by hanging it above the buttoned velvet sofa". Its scale and bold abstracted style helps to anchor the living area so that the height of the room doesn't become overwhelming and Wong also mentions that "Knight's work

takes on a more subdued quality at night which makes it really dynamic". A work by Australian painter **Jeffrey Smart** finishes out the dining space.

"The two mid-size pieces adjacent in the dining and kitchen tend to be rotated with other works from the clients collection," says Wong. He explains that displaying only a few works at once is a deliberate decision that allows some breathing space between them. "I think this principle is appropriate for mid-size open plan interiors," he says. "Some restraint in the amount of artworks gives the sense of different zones such as living, dining and kitchen." ●