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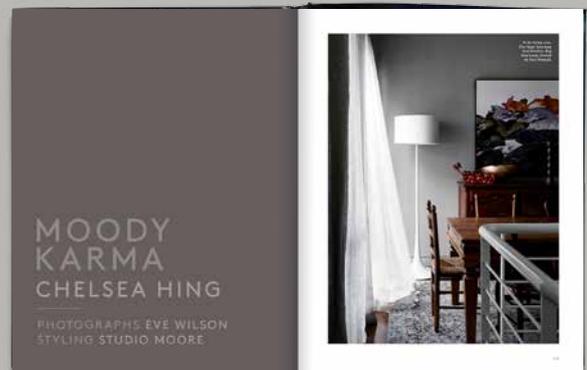
Smart Spaces

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AUSTRALIAN INTERIOR DESIGNERS and architects are imagining some of the most innovative and clever 'smart spaces' for the wave of Australians eschewing traditional suburban living for a more millennial existence in penthouses, apartments and semis. *Smart Spaces*, the stylish new tome from the team at *Belle* magazine, introduces readers to an incredible array of smart spaces all around Australia designed by Australia's leading creative names including SJB, David Hicks, Greg Natale, Justine Hugh-Jones, Chelsea Hing, Tom Ferguson, Anna-Carin McNamara, CM Studio, Mim Design, Cameron Kimber and many more. This is a must-read for the chic downsizer and anyone choosing clever layouts and exciting locales over traditional houses. Normally retailing at \$49.95— order now, for early October delivery at just \$30 per copy. This is a fabulous client and supplier Christmas gift!



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MOODY
KARMA
CHELSEA HING

PHOTOGRAPHS EVE WILSON
STYLING STUDIO MOORE



In the dining room,
Flos 'Spun' floor lamp
from Euroluce. Rug
from Loom. Artwork
by Alice Wormald.



Baker 'Bauble' drum stool from Cavit & Co., Poliform 'Camilla' armchair and Jordan 'Harrison' shelving unit. Artwork by Alice Wormald.

DIRECTION FOR CHELSEA HING's renovation of this home came from the owners in the form of Hans Blomquist's *The Natural Home* as a guide to the moody feeling they desired. Colour was not really on the agenda, so the designer focused on an interplay of texture, combinations of hard finishes with soft, reflective with matt, to create tension in an otherwise monochromatic palette.

What was the client's brief? We came into the project when a quick fix was already underway. The client had renovated the bathrooms downstairs but came unstuck on how to best configure the open-plan kitchen and living with a rather disconnected dining area. We were asked to resolve this space, then the brief extended into all areas of the house. *What were the challenges of the space and how did you resolve them with your design scheme?* Unremarkable living spaces upstairs had low ceilings, limited natural light and no focal points to draw the eye. We installed a horizontal gas fireplace to anchor the space and fitted out the kitchen to interface with the living area but not dominate it. We introduced a breakfast bench at the end of the island to provide a gathering point, and dedicated the dining area to more formal occasions. We dealt with the low ceilings and light level by introducing a soft grey tone to give personality and warmth. Classic white shutters and soft linen sheers lend a sense of enclosure and privacy. Downstairs, we turned the soulless light-starved main bedroom into a deliberately moody space by covering the walls in a grasscloth paper, adding soft pendants by the bed and layering fabrics, rugs, art and objects to create texture and interest. *How would you describe the interior?* Like a sanctuary. The layering of finishes, textures, lighting and abstract art, all within a restrained colour palette, bring a sense of calm sensuousness. *What are your favourite design elements?* The living room fireplace and joinery were critical to transforming the interior. It now creates a much-needed focal point and camouflages the TV which was previously front and centre, so often a mood killer in living spaces. Structure and layout should always come first and, once that's right, the decorative elements can be handled with a more dramatic flourish. To maximise the sense of space, we used overstuffed sofas to create a familiar symmetry while elevating the rest of the furniture and joinery for a lighter feel. *Were the owners happy with the finished project?* The work was completed over time, allowing us to peel back the layers of how they wanted to live. As the owners said, not only did we renovate their house, we renovated their life! chelseahing.com.au



THIS PAGE Jordan 'Cleo' sofa, Jonathan Adler Mongolian lamb bench from Coco Republic. Moooi 'Heracleum' pendant light from Space. OPPOSITE PAGE Gubi 'Semi' pendant light and 'Grasshopper' floor lamps, from Cult. Stools from Vincent Design. Custom mirror by In-Ex Living.



THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT
 Looking from the living room
 to the dining area. Flos 'Spun'
 floor lamp from Euroluce. Rug
 from Loom. In the bedroom,
 Baker 'Petaló' mirror from
 Cavit & Co. Jonathan Adler
 horns from Coco Republic.
 Michael Anastassiades lamp
 from Hub. OPPOSITE PAGE
 Abaca grasscloth wallpaper in
 Platinum from South Pacific
 Fabrics. 'Retro' pendant light
 from Rothschild & Bickers
 above a Jonathan Adler
 table from Coco Republic.
 'Kantha' bedding from Fenton
 & Fenton. Commissioned
 artwork by Barbara Kitallides.
 Rug from Armadillo & Co.