

SPEAKS VOLUMES

Expansive size is just one of the many attributes of this sophisticated apartment that is also remarkable for its *quiet luxury* and restrained design.

PHOTOGRAPHS EARL CARTER WORDS CARLI PHILIPS



THIS PAGE A glass-encased north-facing terrace links the entertainment zone with the casual dining area. KnollStudio table, MDF Italia 'Flow' chairs, and Lindsey Adelman pendant light. OPPOSITE PAGE Tundra Grey Limestone tiles create a streamlined feel throughout the apartment. The oculus skylight bathes the space in natural light, while the full-length windows offer panoramic views across Carlton Gardens, the Royal Exhibition Building and Melbourne Museum.

What do you get when you cross a global design firm, Australia's leading multidisciplinary practice, and a sophisticated local architecture studio with an award-winning, seven-star energy-rated development? The result is timeless, resort-style sophistication in one of Melbourne's most coveted locales.

Destined for greatness, this garden apartment was conceived by the dream team triumvirate of Woods Bagot, Hecker Guthrie and Dominic Piccolo of Piccolo Architects who spearheaded the interior architecture. The only penthouse in a boutique block of just 49 in the heart of Carlton, it's a stone's throw from the CBD, major landmarks, and the neighbourhood's Little Italy. Fitting then, that this contemporary residence would look equally at home in Milan or Paris as in the historic streetscape of humble, terraced Rathdowne Street in Melbourne's north.

Flooded in light from the oculus skylight, the open-plan living area boasts full-height windows with views out to the Melbourne Museum, the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens through the oak treetops. This breathtaking view is rivalled only by the home itself, which is accessed via a private lift that opens directly into the penthouse. Oriented to the north, it is gently divided into two distinct zones: private quarters to the west; living areas to the east. At the junction is the first of two internal landscaped areas that Dominic says make the interior feel like an extension of the outdoors. "The internal



THIS PAGE, ABOVE Minotti lacquered oak table and Maxalto 'Febo' chairs furnish the dining area. Chandelier by Barovier & Toso and 'Taccia' table lamp, both from Euroluce. Giatti side table is in satin aluminium. BELOW The design of the apartment has a contemporary European style. "This classic approach ensures an effortless way of living and entertaining," says Dominic. OPPOSITE PAGE The glass-enclosed fireplace topped by a granite pillar forms the entry to the apartment and acts as a partition.





"FLOATING CEILINGS, SKYLIGHTS AND THE GLASS-WALLED INTERNAL COURTYARD MAKE THE SPACE FEEL MORE INTIMATE," SAYS DOMINIC.

THIS PAGE A Mies van der Rohe 'Barcelona' chaise longue and Maxalto table in the study overlook the internal garden with its Barry Thompson sculpture and landscaping by Trevor James. OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT In the kitchen a thick limestone bench in Tundra Grey echoes the flooring throughout. The internal courtyard's and floating ceilings make the rooms feel more intimate. Velvet-lined domed 'Versailles' chair punctuates the space. The living area features a Maxalto sofa and side table, and a gold Bonaldo coffee table. Teal Ligne Roset 'Harry' armchairs from De Die Ce add a flash of colour to the neutral scheme.

forms are carefully articulated to give the residents the impression that they are in the garden looking back towards their home," he says.

The internal atrium is enclosed by a glass-walled study, powder room, master bedroom and dedicated steam room. Accessible and visible from all four rooms, this peaceful central sanctuary has been landscaped by Trevor James and showcases a Barry Thompson sculpture and lean cactus alongside disc-shaped stepping stones.

Moving from a traditional, suburban family house, the client brief was simple and open ended: neutral stone, natural light, and two large bedrooms, with a clean, minimalist aesthetic that could be layered with new furniture. In the lounge, a Maxalto sofa with oyster-hued cushions is teamed with chrome console tables, punctured by a velvet-lined 'Versailles' domed burlap chair and teal Ligne Roset 'Harry' armchairs. This carefully considered furniture layout stays true to the apartment's "opulent yet restrained aesthetic", says Paul Hecker.

Channelling the mood of a luxury hotel suite, an oversized European oak pivot door leads to the spacious private quarters which are textured in a range of rich materials from brushed oak to granite, nickel and leather in tints of kohl, metallic and bordeaux. Functional yet elegant, the master bedroom features a Maxalto 'Febo' bed framed by Minotti bedside tables and overseen by a cluster of 'Stand By' pendant lights by Aqua Creations.

Throughout the apartment, rooms have been created through volume rather than the harsh division of walls. "Floating ceilings, skylights and the glass-walled internal courtyard make the space feel more intimate," says Dominic. "The idea of the central passage was to create clearly visible pods to formalise entry to the rooms."

Dominic extended this seamless interior design right down to the built-in joinery. "You walk in and you're uninhibited by light switches, exhausts and plugs," says the architect, who meticulously conceived everything from recessed hinges to concealed power-points and in-built kitchen appliances. "You appreciate the space more when utilities are hidden." The result? "A luxurious and streamlined home with premium, hand-picked finishes and customised elements carefully designed according to the client's needs." 15

SPEED READ

A stellar team of design professionals - Woods Bagot, Hecker Guthrie, and Dominic Piccolo - collaborated on this penthouse on the edge of Melbourne's CBD. + City views are not the only drawcard - the home has two internal landscaped areas that add to its sense of expansiveness and connection with the outdoors. + Relocating from a suburban family home, the owners specified a neutral palette and a minimalist aesthetic, the perfect canvas for a standout collection of new furniture. + An assortment of tactile and luxury materials from brushed oak to granite, leather and nickel in muted tones lend a sophisticated air.



MELBOURNE HOME

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Agape 'Pear' basin and Lauren Alessi floorstanding lavatory in the bathroom. Access to the terrace is through automatic sliding glass doors. The brief was to create a resort-style main bedroom. A marble partition separates the bed from the ensuite. Aqua Creations 'Stand By' pendant lights hang over the Maxalto bed. Baker 'Cristobal' chest is in varnished silver leaf. OPPOSITE PAGE Apaiser 'Haven' bath and Zuccheti 'Bellagio' freestanding tap set. KnollStudio 'Platner' side table. Aqua Creations 'Sikus' wall light.

