

**KITCHEN** *This page* The island bench features Calacutta Primo Quartz from Quantum Quartz. Guaxs bowl on dining table, Conley & Co. White platter on kitchen bench, Dinosaur Designs. Pendant light, customised by Boaz. Custom dining table with ebonised oak and Bruno marble, Artifex. Poliform 'Grace' chairs surround the dining table, and Poliform 'Sophie' stools sit under the counter. Dulux Pipe Clay Quarter features on walls here and throughout the home. Artwork by Carlos Barrios and sculptures by Stephen Ormandy. **LIVING** *Opposite* Charlie sofa and Lap coffee table by Fanuli. Custom S-fold curtains in 'Linear' white fabric, Simple Studio. Molteni throw, Analu. Knoll 'Platner' side chair, De De Ce. Rug, RC+D. Guaxs vase on coffee table, Conley & Co. Bowl on coffee table, Dinosaur Designs. ▶



## Conscious choices

*This 'vegan' inner-city apartment proves a sustainable approach needn't come at the expense of style.*

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Alexandra Gordon* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*





“THE CONCEPT WAS TO ADD THE OWNERS’ PERSONALITY INTO THE APARTMENT, AND INTRODUCE GLAMOUR AND LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON SUSTAINABILITY.”

*Alena Smith, interior designer*

**LIVING AREA** The Cloud 19 Orb pendant by Apparatus forms a subtle statement in the open-plan living area. The joinery features a low-sheen polyurethane in Dulux Pipe Clay, edged with an anodised aluminium strip. Metallic Paper Weaves wallpaper, Phillip Jeffries. ▶

Owner's own collection of vessels.  
Sculpture by unknown artist.





**DINING AREA** Pale hues and reflective surfaces enhance the sense of space in the kitchen and create a contrast with the custom Artifex dining table and Poliform 'Grace' chairs.



**KITCHEN** *design notes*

**BENCHTOP AND SPLASHBACK** Calacutta Primo Quartz, Quantum Quartz

**FLOORING** Bleached oak chevron timber

**SINK** Sterling 'Quattro' sink, Harvey Norman

**TAPWARE** Envy sink mixer, Parisi

**LIGHTING** Pendant customised by Boaz

*The owners of* this Sydney apartment were nervous about downsizing from a larger home, so interior designer Alena Smith's job was to facilitate their transition by helping them select the right furnishings and devising a colour palette with a "gentle complexity that will reveal itself over time".

The approach to the decoration was twofold: to retain the strong geometry of the base building that Alexandra Gordon of Smart Design Studio had spearheaded, and, under Alena's direction, to "add soft layers and a sophisticated colour scheme". Additionally, the clients wanted to make a few changes in the kitchen: extending the island bench, adding storage and a wine fridge, and creating more space for guests to sit at the bar.

The owners didn't want to use any animal products such as leather, silk or down, so Alena created a "vegan house" with sustainable materials such as GreenGuard-certified joinery, low-VOC paints (which contain less of the 'volatile organic compounds' found in traditional paints) and furniture that would stand the test of time

and not require replacing. "The concept was to add the owners' personality into the off-the-plan apartment and introduce some glamour and luxury, without compromising on sustainability," she says.

Using an intersection of gentle blush highlights and cool silvery greys, Alena created a romantic design scheme with subtle nods to the past. Key elements include Wall&decò's 'Midsummer Night' wallpaper in the master bedroom, which she says is "reminiscent of a faraway place, complete with intricate nature-based details of birds, leaves and trees". Similarly, the Cloud pendant was chosen "because it reminds us of the glamour and soft ambience of grander times".

To further amp up the luxe factor, the second bedroom was converted into a dressing room-cum-guest room with new joinery that includes a hidden yet elegant makeup counter with built-in LED lighting. ▶

**Design and building team Interior design:** Alena Smith Interior Design; [alenasmith.com.au](http://alenasmith.com.au). **Architecture:** Smart Design Studio; [smartdesignstudio.com](http://smartdesignstudio.com). **Builder:** Parkview; [parkview.com.au](http://parkview.com.au).



"WHEN I LOOK AROUND, I SIGH AT HOW BEAUTIFUL MY HOME IS. IT ELEVATES MY EXPERIENCE OF THE EVERYDAY." Homeowner

**MASTER BEDROOM** Wall&decò's 'Midsummer Night' wallpaper, Pure Interiors. Minotti 'Spencer' bed, De De Ce. Guaxs vase, Conley & Co. Marset 'Theia M' table lamp, Est Lighting. Abbinabili bedside table, Poliform. Molteni bed linen, Analu. Elliott Clarke custom bolster in 'Brugge' velvet.



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## SMART SET

*Quality over quantity is the thinking in a home where sustainability sits front and centre.*



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Produced by Saffron Sylvester.

1 Apparatus 'Cloud' pendant light, POA, Criteria. 2 Sunnilyfe 'Palm Beach' candle, \$37/set of 3, Howards Storage World. 3 Flow resin soy dish in Dark Horn, \$45, Dinosaur Designs. 4 Christina Lundsteen 'Mimi' cotton velvet cushion, \$185, MatchesFashion. 5 Knoll 'Platner' side chair, POA, Dedecé. 6 MissoniHome 'Jo 72' bedlinen, from \$345/two pillowcases, Spence & Lyda. 7 Marset 'Theia M' table lamp, POA, Est Lighting. 8 Wabi Inspirations book by Axel Vervoordt, \$85, Coco Republic. 9 Simplehuman 6L rubbish bin in Dark Bronze, \$109, Howards Storage World. 10 Pols Potten 'Steps' vase in Green, \$168, Amara. H&G