

The apartment uses a strong yet classic colour palette of contrasting chocolate and black hues lifted by light whites and placed alongside embellishments of gold and stainless steel.



Show stopper!

In a matter of 10 months, interior designer Natasha Levak took this special project from drab to fab



Left: A stunning, sophisticated chandelier lights up the apartment and adds glamour.
Below: By implementing one long sheer white curtain, backlit with embellished wall sconces, the walls became soft subtle surfaces that were a feature rather than distraction in the open space.



The owner of this Sydney-based apartment called on Coco Republic's interior design division to create something special. The client had a simple design brief: "An interesting, eclectic space filled with unique pieces."

The need for open spaces was Natasha's first impression of the home. Very few long smooth walls lined the apartment as there were lots of pillars and structural pillars that crowded the space, causing the wall to "jump in and out. By implementing one long sheer white curtain, backlit with embellished wall sconces, the walls became soft subtle surfaces that were a feature

rather than distraction," she adds.

Another issue faced early on was with the indoor/outdoor area that was sectioned off from the internal space. "A set of big bulky stacking bi-fold doors, along with a central beam and louvred window panes above, meant there was double-glazing of the gorgeous view," she explains. The decision was made to remove these bi-folds and the above panels, allowing the interior space to open right up and enabling room for a dining zone with banquette bench to be implemented here.

With the space now more prominent, Natasha moved on to the kitchen, employing the building services of Kitcheners Kitchens. "By

re-orientating the floorplan, I was able to create a whole new dining zone elsewhere, which, as a result, opened up the opportunity to implement a much-needed island bench," she explains. Introducing the bench was the pivotal point for this kitchen in terms of how it could be used. Adding this not only increased the total storage capacity of the space, but also offered a barstool sitting/eating area," she explains. This concept of the bench also gave them the option of being able to incorporate another dining zone in this wide space. The central island bench, finished in Nero Assoluto granite, incorporates an Ecofire in one end, allowing an open-plan flow from living to kitchen.



Adding this island bench not only increased the total storage capacity of the space, but also offered a barstool sitting/eating area.

The main design consideration for this apartment was to create more kitchen space. "We were called on to create more of a kitchen zone, as opposed to there just being a kitchenette feel," she says. "The colour palette and mix of materials in this kitchen is bold and presents the kitchen in a new way — a practical space but also an interesting space," she says. The gold leaf Bisazza tiles act as a perfect contrast to the tan cowhide leather barstools, giving this kitchen character.

"The Bisazza mosaic tiles are a real show-stopper in the kitchen. It's the flexibility to be able to design your own patterns and choose from a range of different-coloured tiles with this product that give a lot of creativity to design a surface



The central island bench, finished in Nero Assoluto granite, incorporates an Ecofire into one end, allowing there to be an open-plan flow from living to kitchen.



One of the bedrooms is reinvented with a new colour scheme, an elaborate bed and "silhouette" wallpaper behind the bed which can only be described as very different.



The study is a fusion of dark elements such as the wallpaper, TV and desk, mixed with bright furniture such as a desk chair and lounge.

that is typically monotone," says Natasha. "The recessed bar back, along with the decorative Bisazza gold leaf splashback, are a real focal point, giving this kitchen an interesting feature out of a surface that is normally bland."

The kitchen underwent a huge transformation. Originally, it comprised beige polyurethane top cupboards along with walnut-grain Laminex base cupboards. The splashback was white-backed glass with a beige Corian benchtop. The former kitchen did not have an island bench and constituted just one wall and then a wall of cupboards. Now it's a functional, decorative feature in the apartment, which both the designer and homeowner love.

The television is a stand-out piece in this home as it's concealed within a bulkhead in the ceiling and is on an ultra-lift mechanism that enables it to drop from the ceiling electronically. This feature was imperative in the overall

scheme implemented as it meant the functional aspect of being able to view the television exists without it being dominant in the lounge area," she explains.

What can only be described as a sophisticated colour palette with a hint of glamour became Natasha's favourite feature in the Baxter apartment. "A strong yet classic colour palette of contrasting chocolate and black hues lifted by light whites and placed alongside embellishments of gold and stainless," she describes. For the client, it was a close tie between the Ecofire implemented at the end of the island bench and the large-scaled chandelier with shades that Natasha had suspended in the void above the newly created dining table zone.

All in all, this apartment combines function and space — a far cry from its original state. The new contemporary look is a true testament to Natasha's eye for reinventing a room.

"A STRONG YET CLASSIC COLOUR PALETTE OF CONTRASTING CHOCOLATE AND BLACK HUES LIFTED BY LIGHT WHITES AND PLACED ALONGSIDE EMBELLISHMENTS OF GOLD AND STAINLESS" — NATASHA

For more information

COCO REPUBLIC INTERIOR DESIGN
460 Pacific Highway Crows Nest
NSW 2065

Tel: 02 9438 4263

Website: www.cocorepublic.com.au

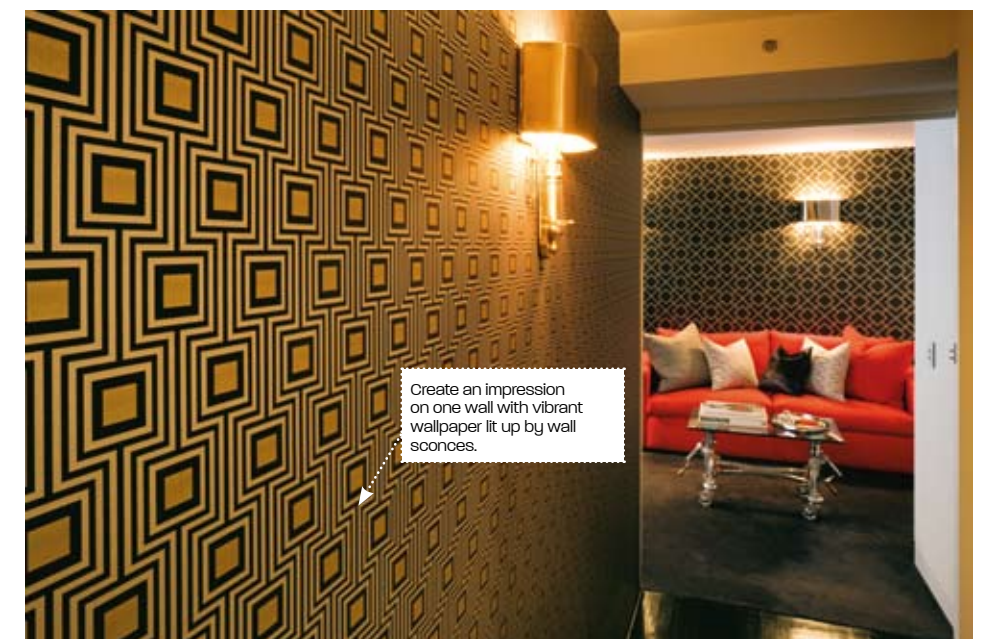
Interior Designer: Natasha Levak

Photography: Steve Back

Kitchen designer: Michael Kitchener,
Kitcheners Kitchens

Tel: 1800 826 144

Website: www.kitcheners.com.au



Create an impression on one wall with vibrant wallpaper lit up by wall sconces.