

Nuts &

Whether it's interiors, furniture or architecture, Andrew Waller imbues his work with a unique sense of craftsmanship. Elana Castle explores this through his many projects.

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In a culture dominated by a throwaway product market and jerry built construction techniques, it's refreshing to come across a designer whose work is rooted in the tradition of craftsmanship. "It's important that my designs and products are expressive of how they were made," Andrew Waller explains. "All too often, the making and materiality of an object get lost in the outcome." Waller is the principal of Waller Design, a boutique practice based in Sydney, and his work spans furniture design, architecture and interiors with a focus on custom joinery.

His most recent project, a penthouse apartment interior in Darling Point was conceived of as a curation of bespoke artwork, furniture and joinery. "Because we had an intimate understanding of the client's needs and tastes our design was developed to not only fulfil a practical purpose but to reflect the client's cultural history and design inspiration," he explains.

For example, the oriental style shutters throughout the space temper the light but also refer to the client's Oriental influences. The "birdcage" joinery around the bed and in the living room reflect a desire for privacy and the bed posts were shaped to assist with impaired mobility. Waller also re-interpreted furniture and objects the client had collected over the years including a large art piece which set the tonal palette for the whole scheme. The furniture, originally white bamboo, was painted and every piece individually sourced and chosen to result in a gallery-like, yet intimate space.

While this latest scheme has garnered Waller the most attention, the bulk of his work remains in retail design. "It took me some time to develop an understanding of the market," he says. "Every decision impacts on the client's ability to showcase and sell their stock and I needed to manipulate my skills to achieve that."

In the Glass Marketing studio, Waller took the challenge one step further. "The client asked us to furnish the space and instead of buying off-the-shelf pieces, we designed a range of furniture to complement his collection of Scandinavian objects. It was a telling choice – we all know how detail-oriented Scandinavian design is!" Despite committing to an arduous process, Waller used the opportunity to focus closely on the tectonics of every piece. The flexibility of plywood was teamed with solid American Oak and laminates. "We made a conference table, couches, shelving and even a bed with slide-out tables," says Waller. "We like to have a bit of fun wherever possible."

This playful approach was further explored in their interior for Spring in Alaska's new offices. "We had a client willing to experiment and we took the opportunity to work with a palette of salvaged and recycled materials. Reclaimed timber pool decking and plastics were used to clad a series of pods which define the various private and public zones, as well as carve a route through the space.

The team are currently working on a refurbishment to an Arts and Crafts house in



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Cremonne. Inspired by the original leather wallpapered interiors (the original owner was a shoe manufacturer), Waller is using materials like ostrich egg wallpaper and punctured teal linoleum. "The idea is to reference the arts and crafts notion – a movement which explores simple construction techniques with limited adornment," he explains. "It advocated truth to materials and craftsmanship and we want to bring attention to the joinery elements by using them to create continuity through detail and colour."

Buoyed by the success of the Scandinavian style furniture range, Waller continues to add to his repertoire of pieces. His 'Loop' chair, for example, was inspired by Vietnamese manufacturing techniques. "We are passionate about getting our designs produced," says Waller, "and we are constantly working with our partners to achieve that goal."

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