

# SKY GALLERY

A STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF CLIENT BY ARCHITECT ANDREW WALLER HAS RESULTED IN A PRECISELY CREATED INTELLECTUAL GALLERY IN THE SKY

Water views are highly sought after worldwide – particularly so in Sydney, a city that is, in many ways, defined by its harbour. The opportunity to showcase a stunning view, however, often results in a space dictated by aspect, rather than the needs of inhabitants. Not so in this harbourside apartment where “the view is almost secondary,” says architect, Andrew Waller. Instead, the focus here is on a carefully layered interior that imbues the apartment with what Waller refers to as “a physical sense of security”.

Moving to the apartment from a secluded compound property surrounded by a large garden, the client desired a home with a sense of space but also privacy. The view across the harbour, to the city, Manly heads and Port Botany doesn't immediately present itself, but is slowly revealed. Unusually, the view is most spectacularly presented in the en suite, where the bath is raised to take advantage of the harbour below. This view is the client's new garden – one that can be revealed or entirely concealed through a series of timber venetians and curtains according to the desired level of privacy.

The timber venetians are coupled with a series of timber screens and rails throughout the apartment that create a sense of privacy and security. In many areas, such as around the bed in the main bedroom, this Spotted Gum timber joinery serves the additional purpose of supportive handrail for the client, who has limited mobility. The form of the repeated rail in the joinery was derived from the screened element of an Indonesian buffet that resides in the hallway, and is part of the client's large collection of Indonesian and African artefacts.

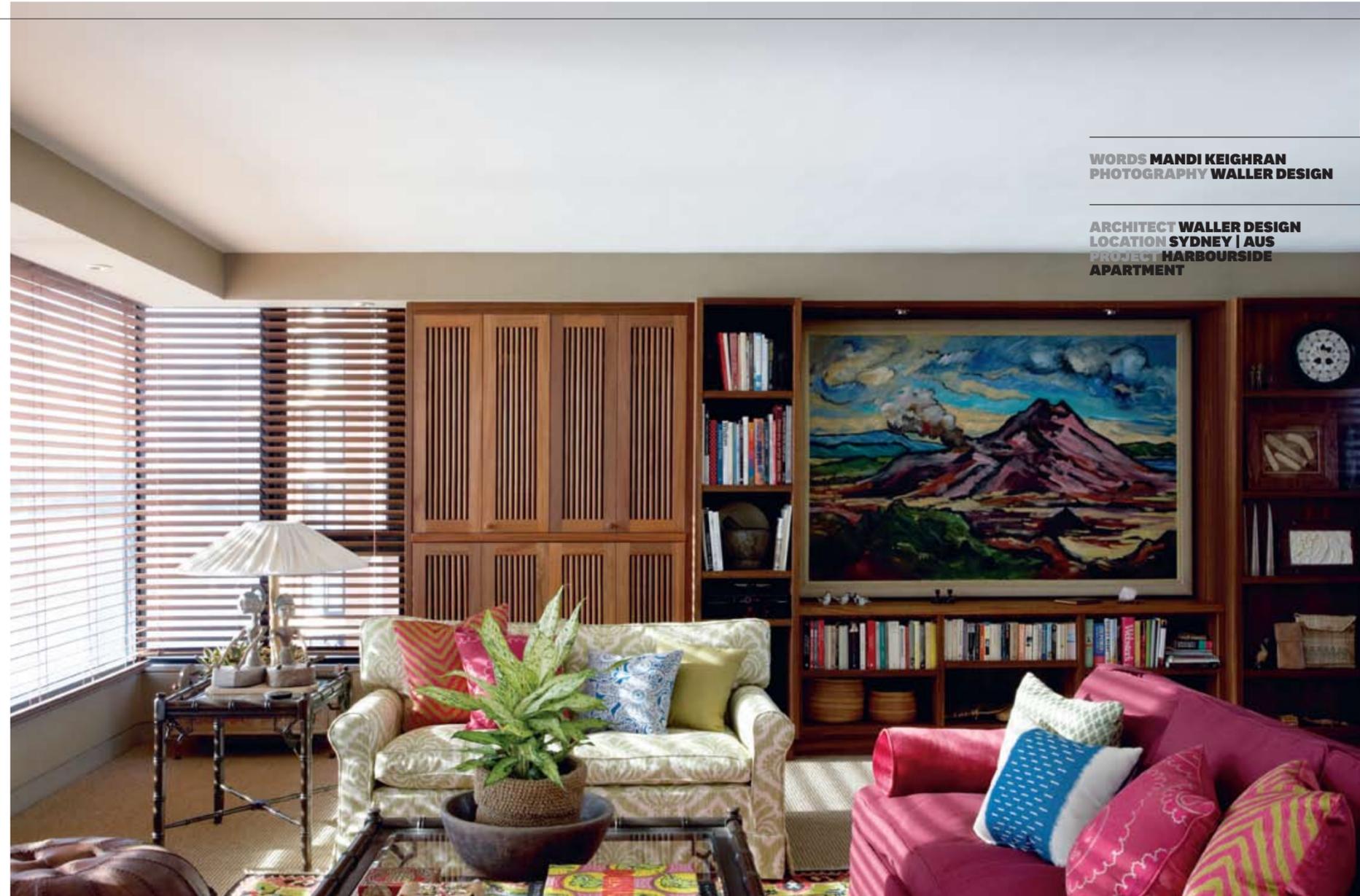
The apartment is described by Waller as “an intellectual gallery in the sky”, and alongside the collection of artefacts, it houses a library and extensive art collection. The art collection comprises works sourced by Waller for previous properties – he has a long working relationship with the client – as well as several pieces sourced specifically for the apartment.

A painting of a volcano by New Zealand-based artist John van der Sterren is used to conceal a large window onto a neighbouring building. The colour scheme for the apartment, and the furniture within, was derived from the greens, plums and blues of this painting.

The main living areas are essentially open plan – accomplished by stripping the interior back to the slab ceiling and removing internal walls from the original plan. In the new layout, air conditioning and lighting are located in the perimeter bulkhead, which is painted the same khaki colour as the wall to increase the sense of height and space. It was important that there be no white in the apartment, as the client finds it harsh – and so, in fitting with the rest of the design which responds directly to the client's needs, the ceiling is 5% of the wall colour.

In this harbourside apartment, says Waller, “all the elements of the design relate to the idiosyncrasies of the client's experience,” and the result is a precisely created environment.

Mandi Keighran is Assistant Editor of Indesign.



WORDS MANDI KEIGHRAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY WALLER DESIGN

ARCHITECT WALLER DESIGN  
LOCATION SYDNEY | AUS  
PROJECT HARBOURSIDE  
APARTMENT



*This view is the client's new garden – one that can be revealed or entirely concealed...*

MANDI KEIGHRAN

LEFT Entry into the first-floor apartment  
ABOVE Entry into "Snow Pony" and ground floor apartment



**ABOVE** Northern elevation showing connection to garden and pool  
**BELOW** Roofscape shows the new pavilion and the two original pavilions

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**HARBOURSIDE APARTMENT**

**DESIGN** Waller Design  
**PROJECT TEAM** Andrew Waller, Ant Parsons  
**BUILDING WORKS** CDC Building Services

**TOTAL FLOOR AREA** 270m<sup>2</sup>  
**TIME TO COMPLETE** 8 months

**WALLER DESIGN** (61) 422 992 676  
 mrwaller.com

**ARTWORK** In Living, volcano painting by John van der Sterren, and Yoruba Crown (white beaded headpiece) imported from Nigeria. Indian columns sourced from a gallery in Jodhpur Rajasthan, India, and imported by Waller Design.

**FURNITURE** In Living, soft furnishings existing from client, re-upholstered in a selection of imported fabrics from France, Italy, USA, UK and Brussels. In Dining, 1960s bamboo dining furniture and side tables with

new custom paint finish. In Main Bedroom, African Bameleki chair from Cameroon  
**LIGHTING** Main recessed light fitting is 'RV50' in custom finish from Inlite.

**FINISHES** Paint throughout is Porter's Paints, on the walls is 'Mandalay' colour, and on the ceiling is custom mix 5% 'Mandalay' colour. Blinds are automated timber Venetians with custom stain from Seaforth Blinds. Floor throughout is sisal and wool mix carpet from Natural Flooring Company. Timber joinery by Hoffman's Interiors is Black Bean veneer and Spotted Gum solid timber with custom stain by Waller Design. In Kitchen, Laundry and Bathroom, Poly finish joinery doors in custom 'Khaki' colour to match walls, and CaesarStone bench in 3141 'Osprey' installed by CMK Joinery.

**FIXED & FITTED** In Bathroom, Kaldewei 'Duo Oval' undermount bath, available in Australia from Bathe.



Bathe (61 2) 9518 0163 bathe.net.au CaesarStone 1300 119 119 caesarstone.com.au CMK Joinery (61 2) 9789 4416 cmkjoinery.com Hoffman's Interiors (61 2) 9698 4067 hoffmansinteriors.com.au Inlite (61 2) 9211 3544 inlite.com.au John van der Sterren info@ohnvandersterren.com johnvandersterren.com Natural Flooring Company (61 2) 9516 5726 naturalfloor.com.au Porter's Paints 1800 656 664 porterspains.com Seaforth Blinds (61 2) 9971 5782 seaforth.com.au