

Nº 3

LOCATION MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
DESIGN TRAVIS WALTON
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STYLING JESSICA KNEEBONE

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

This apartment in an iconic tower now feels like a sexy hotel suite, but it's the spectacular skyline that really steals the show



Living room To contrast with the angular architecture, interior designer Travis Walton chose furniture with organic, flowing shapes and a low profile, such as Francesco Binfaré's 'On the Rocks' sofa for Edra. 'That movable back gives you flexibility to turn around and watch TV, but also to sit on the other side and stare at the view. At nighttime, it's remarkable,' he says, smiling. The 'TL61' coffee table by Studio Thomas Lentini sits in the centre, on an 'Olga' rug by Atelier Février. The 'Nuvola' armchair is by Hannes Peer for SEM Milano ▶



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here are few places where it's possible to look down on helicopters, but the top of Melbourne's Eureka Tower is one. 'You're watching people fly in for the Australian Open, landing on the Yarra River,' says Travis Walton. 'It's surreal.' His architecture and interior-design studio was tasked with updating an apartment that takes up a quarter of the 76th floor in this building, which was the tallest in the city for a long time.

Known for his hospitality work, he draws on those same skills for residential projects – an approach that was just right for this brief, where the owners wanted to feel like they were 'on holiday' in their own city. 'We treated the apartment as if it were a private residence in a hotel,' he says. 'It creates theatre.' The original internal architecture was very well built but, adds Travis, 'fast forward 25 years and it had started to feel tired'. He took it back to the bare shell and rethought the plan. 'By opening the spaces up, natural light now flows into every corner.' The internal wall to the third bedroom was removed and replaced with Glas Italia sliding doors. It adds to the bright, airy feel of this home and, furnished with an elegant Flexform 'Eden' sofa bed, doubles as a sunny snug. The shower, meanwhile, has been daringly relocated to the window where it commands a spectacular view. 'It's a moment in the apartment that feels quite special,' says Travis.

It was because this home isn't the family's main residence that Travis could take a more adventurous approach to the layout and the materials palette, which is seriously luxurious. At this elevation, inspiration comes from the colours and rhythm of the city below, rather than what's outside the back door. 'The views are so broad,' he says. 'It was all about focusing on that panorama, capturing it and detailing out any elements that tied us to the building.'

'The clients absolutely love it,' says Travis, of the owners' response to their renewed pad, adding: 'They've gained so much more functionality from the apartment while still preserving the character of the building.' He feels honoured to have been given the opportunity to rethink part of this iconic tower, celebrating its architecture and angular form through a contemporary lens. 'Materials that wear in and patina are a thread in our work,' he observes, satisfied that the finishes he has chosen will serve the apartment well in its next chapter. 'It's timeless; it's going to stand the test of time.' traviswalton.com.au



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Dining area On the southern bank of the Yarra River, the Eureka Tower is positioned to take in the skyline of the Melbourne CBD on the north bank opposite. That view is reflected in Sabine Marcelis' 'Off Round Hue 2' wall mirror. Hannes Peer's 'Nico' table for Minotti is paired with 'Cab 413' chairs by Mario Bellini for Cassina. Overhead hangs the 'Float Wide' pendant from L & G Studio **Snug** Rather than a standard paint, Travis opted for a trowelled-on finish for the walls and ceiling, noting: 'Where there's this much light, you get so much of that texture being read.' In this flexible space, an 'Eden 167' sofa bed by Antonio Citterio for Flexform sits on Atelier Février's 'Gravure' rug. The lighting is by Flos and the 'Sherazade Slide' doors are by Glas Italia ▶



Bar A cocktail bar is contained within the dark cabinetry that runs from the kitchen into the living area. Of the black-oxide, raw-metal finish to the cabinets, Travis says: 'It's got a patina and will change over time. We love that materiality in our work. It grows with you.' The timber flooring – in a linear parquetry pattern with a wire-brush cross-grain through it – was custom-designed by Travis Walton, who collaborated with Easton Construction on the build

Kitchen A vast, angular island – its shape picking up the geometry of the building's façade – in Rosso Levanto marble by Artedomus centres this zone, with Yabu Pushelberg's 'Park Place' stools for Man of Parts making a convivial spot for guests to perch. Appliances are by Gaggenau. 'The lighting is really minimal, even the sink mixer by Vola is recessed slightly, so it focuses on that material and the form,' says Travis ▶





Bathroom Two striking marbles – Rosso Levanto and Calacatta Viola – from Artedomus combine to dramatic effect in the ensuite, which is accessed from the bedroom through Glas Italia 'Aladin' pocket doors from Space Furniture. The monumental vanity unit is a bold element in the space and features Agape's 'Sen' water system, which Travis likens to 'a blade of integrated tap and spout, so there's no physical standard faucet – really cool'. All the other fixtures are by Vola and Artedomus. The standout aspect of this space is the shower boldly positioned in the window ►



Study This is accessed via a walk-through wardrobe, fabricated by NextGen. 'This portal element also conceals a major beam, but you read it as a moment in which joinery is activated to connect spaces,' says Travis. Roberto Lazzeroni's 'Verba Volant Slim Leather' desk and the 'So Far' chair by Studioepepe are both for Baxter. On the wall hangs Lilli Waters' *From Where We Came* (2018). **Bedroom** The bed was custom-designed by Travis Walton with Artedomus, using Calacatta Viola stone; tiny Flos lights are embedded in the upholstered headboard. The large painting on the shelf is *Red Woman Through the Drapes and in the Land* (2024) by Amber Wallis, who Travis has known for more than 20 years. 'It was such a beautiful piece for this space, abstract and moody, with tones that complemented the room,' he says of the chosen artwork. **See Stockists page for details** 

