

The first step

More than just a first foot in the door or a downsizer's empty nest, a killer apartment such as this is the ultimate forever home

Design classics and contemporary art create "lifestyle moments" in every pocket of this harbourside apartment by interior design studio Arent&Pyke.

It's deliciously layered with rose-pink velvet, patterned rugs, 1930s fretwork and '40s, '50s and '60s references. The result is a unique mix that celebrates detail.

Home to a high-flying couple who spend much of the year abroad, this jewel box could never be reduced to mere property-ladder rung. "This ▶

STYLE TIPS

A furniture plan goes a long way towards creating a space that functions well. Start by identifying any modifications you would like to make, or extra storage you may need.

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Only bring furniture, art and objets d'art into an apartment that mean something to you. The objects around you should make you smile.

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Invest in rugs. Apartment living is all about the detail. Typically, spaces are smaller, so there is greater emphasis on quality over quantity.





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE In Dulux Hildegard, the bedroom is intimate; a PP Møbler chair from Cult and art by McLean Edwards are forever pieces; velvet Moroso chairs from Hub inject colour.

is very much a forever apartment,” says designer Juliette Arent.

Arent, a founding partner at interior design studio Arent&Pyke, has completed a string of luxury apartments for her upwardly mobile clientele seeking convenience over space. Asked to define what apartment owners want, she cites happiness, a sense of self and a solid connection to an alive part of the city. “The love of a family home is still important,” she says. “They crave a space they can spend lots of time in – but without all the baggage of a house.” When put in those terms, living on a higher plane sounds like the ultimate lifestyle upgrade. So, why then do so many Australians have a complex about apartment living?

According to a recent HSBC survey, Australians living in units are less content than those who live in a house. Of those residing in apartments, 78 per cent were at ease with their living arrangements, compared with 88 per cent of those in houses. With almost 10 per cent of Australian residents now calling an apartment home – according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics – perhaps it is

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time to expand our fenced-in dreams to include loftier ambitions.

Long-term happiness in an apartment, explains Arent, comes down to good design. "It needs to feel very special, very personal and, above all, it should function beautifully." All attributes Arent&Pyke is known for delivering. Since Arent established the business with Sarah-Jane Pyke in 2007, the duo has captivated the international design crowd, creating delightful spaces against a torrent of homogeneous designs. Their approach, Arent says, is "experience based". Working with the spots in a home her clients feel drawn to, Arent establishes in those zones a variety of atmospheres and experiences: the sunny spot for reading, the intimate nightcap nook.

Instead of playing it safe, Pyke advocates a more adventurous style. In a forever apartment, that often means customising furniture that has been with her clients for years, or piecing together a unique mix of colour, texture and pattern. "It's about bringing joy into people's homes – creating something truly yours," Pyke says. "In the end, that's what everyone wants."



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE A Cassina coffee table from Space Furniture creates a lifestyle moment in the living room; artwork by David Hamilton elevates the ensuite; the apartment exterior.

