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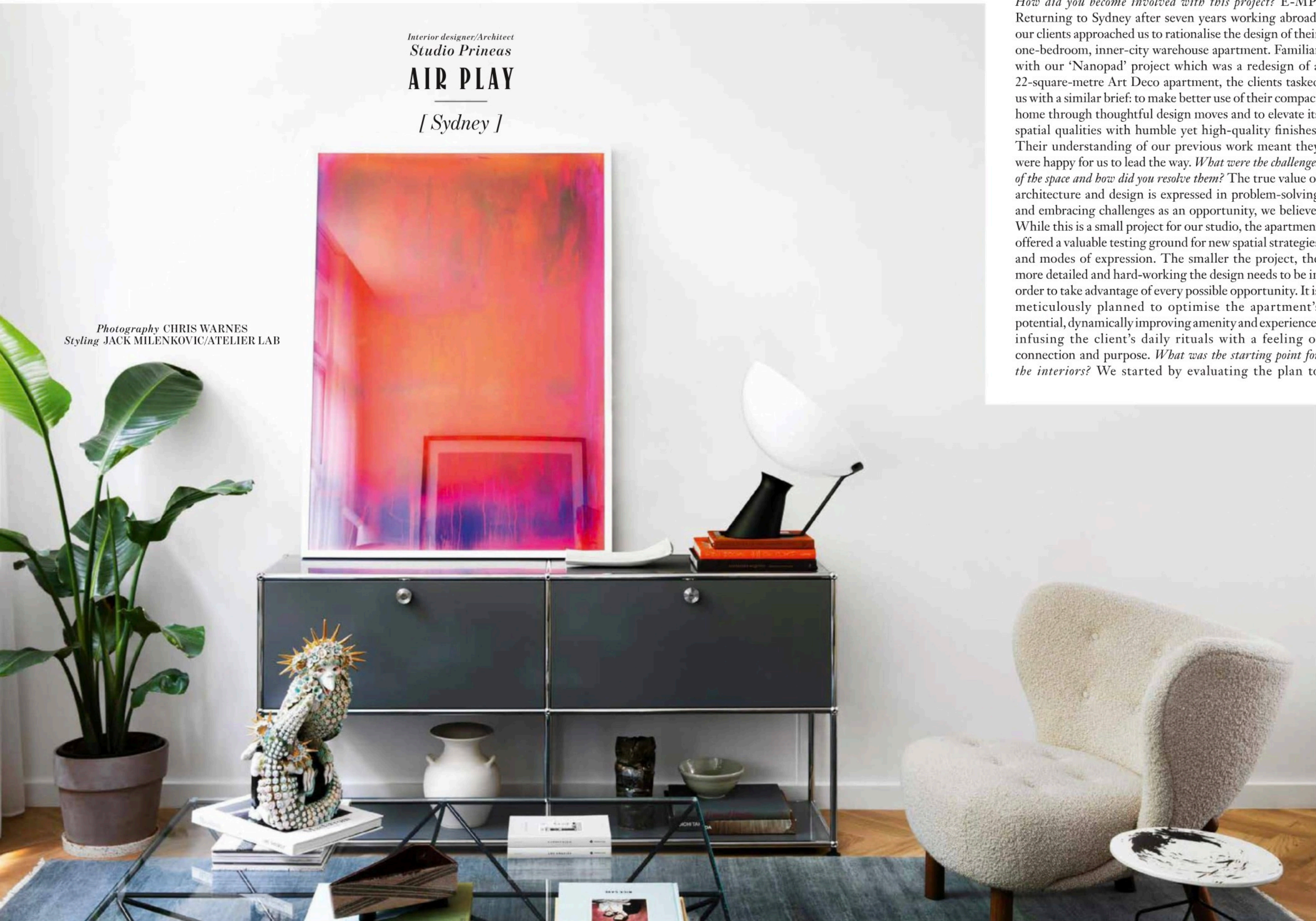
EXCLUSIVE INTERIORS FROM AUSTRALIAN DESIGN ACES

MILANO MAGIC

These pages, from left The addition of skylights to the top-floor apartment floods the living spaces with natural light. &Tradition 'Little Petra' chair from Cult. Fever Dream print by Nick Thomm. B&B Italia 'Alanda' square coffee table from Space. Clairy Laurence *Monkey Bird with Croc* (2022) stoneware ceramic sculpture with 22K gold lustre from Studio Gallery. Karakter 'Aida' table lamp from Cult on USM sideboard in Grey from Anibou. Side table and ceramic bowl both from Ventifact Studio. Custom shelves with lime powdercoat finish house the owners' book collection. *Freya* (2022) by Olivia Valentine.

Interior designer/Architect
Studio Prineas
AIR PLAY
[Sydney]

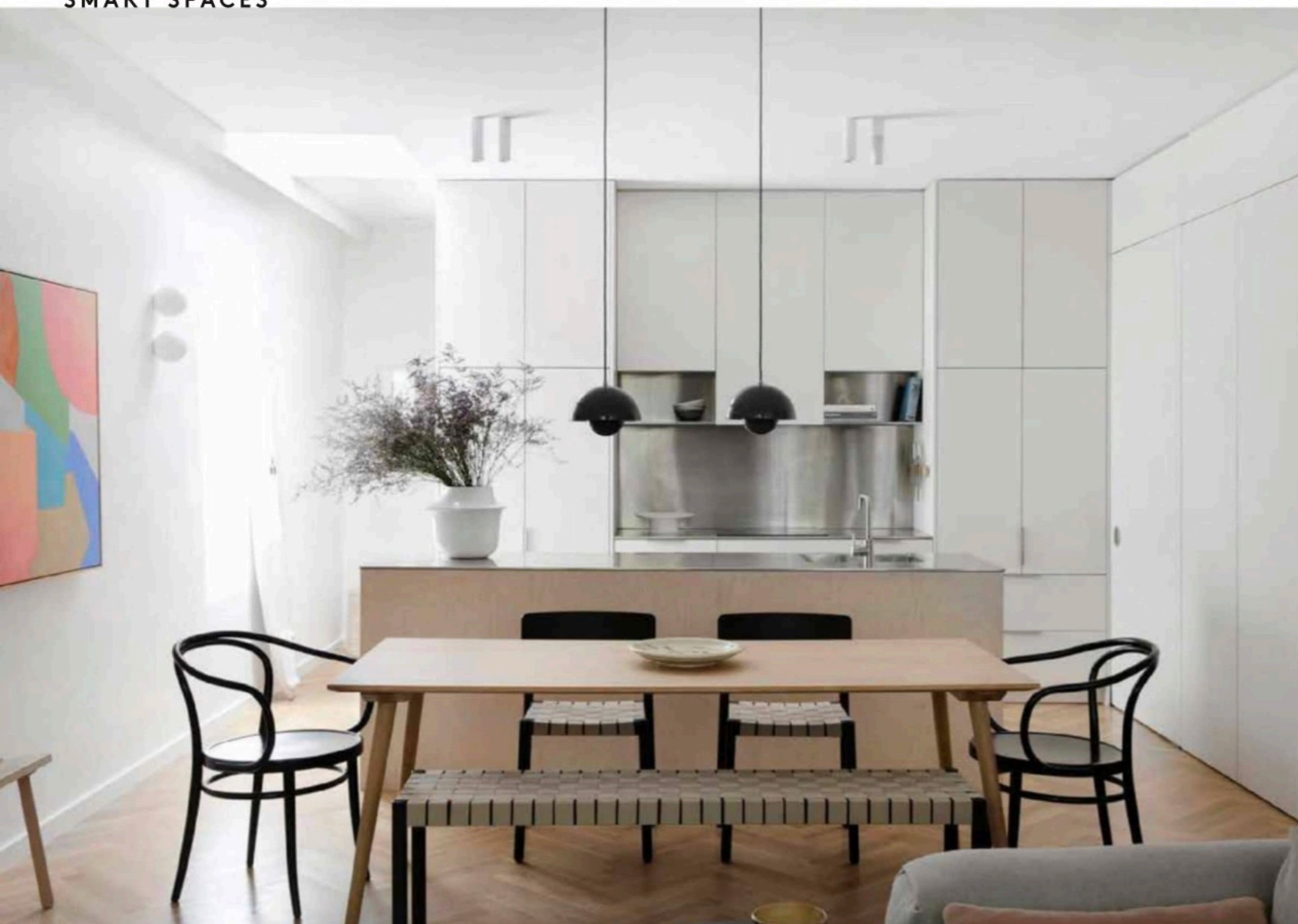
Photography CHRIS WARNES
 Styling JACK MILENKOVIC/ATELIER LAB



LIGHT AND AIRY INTERIORS boost the sense of spaciousness in this compact one-bedroom warehouse apartment to maximise the dwelling's opportunities to deliver quality of life for its inhabitants, in a project helmed by Eva-Marie Prineas, principal of Studio Prineas. *How did you become involved with this project?* E-MP: Returning to Sydney after seven years working abroad, our clients approached us to rationalise the design of their one-bedroom, inner-city warehouse apartment. Familiar with our 'Nanopad' project which was a redesign of a 22-square-metre Art Deco apartment, the clients tasked us with a similar brief: to make better use of their compact home through thoughtful design moves and to elevate its spatial qualities with humble yet high-quality finishes. Their understanding of our previous work meant they were happy for us to lead the way. *What were the challenges of the space and how did you resolve them?* The true value of architecture and design is expressed in problem-solving and embracing challenges as an opportunity, we believe. While this is a small project for our studio, the apartment offered a valuable testing ground for new spatial strategies and modes of expression. The smaller the project, the more detailed and hard-working the design needs to be in order to take advantage of every possible opportunity. It is meticulously planned to optimise the apartment's potential, dynamically improving amenity and experience, infusing the client's daily rituals with a feeling of connection and purpose. *What was the starting point for the interiors?* We started by evaluating the plan to

maximise the dwelling's spatial opportunities. The entry, which once opened directly into the kitchen, is now defined by a double-sided storage unit separating it from the mudroom, while the U-shaped room is reconfigured with an island bench, addressing the living spaces beyond. An underutilised outdoor terrace was repurposed as an extension of the interior, allowing for generous lounge and dining spaces that support the owners' daily lives. We reworked an over-scaled second bathroom to deliver concealed storage and a laundry off the kitchen, with the remaining footprint acting as a study or second bedroom. *How would you describe the completed interior?* The interior is inspired by our client's relaxed and understated character in that each space embraces a light and airy material palette with minimalist details. Crisp white kitchen cabinetry is complemented by stainless steel and oak accents, while sheer white drapery lines the perimeter, gently filtering natural light. An in-built day bed to the main bedroom combines soft grey upholstery and oak framing, providing a quiet, sunlit space to retreat to. Brushed stainless-





This page, from top In the dining room, &Tradition 'In Between SK5' table, 'Betty TK5' bench and 'Betty TK1' chairs, all from Cult, with Ton 'Era' bentwood armchairs from Design Within Reach. *Precipice* (2021) artwork by Claire Nakazawa from Day Gallery. View of the laundry from the kitchen. In the main bathroom ABI Interiors wall-mounted 'Lola' basin with 'Elysian' minimal mixer and spout set. Society Limonta towels from Cultiver. Vessels from Ventifact Studio. **Opposite page, from top** On the B&B Italia 'Alanda' square coffee table from Space, *Monkey Bird with Croc* (2022) stoneware ceramic sculpture with 22-karat gold lustre by Clairy Laurence from Studio Gallery and vases on table and shelving both from Ventifact Studio. Fredericia 'Sequoia' pouf from Cult and &Tradition 'Lato LN8' small side table from Cult. *Meet Me There* (2022) artwork by Richard Whadcock from Studio Gallery. The main bedroom features a quilted bedcover in Lake from In Bed. &Tradition 'Flowerpot' pendant light from Cult and Artemide 'Dioscuri' wall lights. Karakter 'Tab' coffee table from Cult.



steel fittings and fixtures, and orb-shaped wall lights follow the apartment's sleek language, while herringbone oak floors overlay a subtle sense of crafted detail. *What are some of your favourite elements?* We are passionate about understanding and adapting places that are already special. Here, we sought to reinstate aspects of the warehouse's original detailing, much of which was lost during its 1990s conversion. Aluminium-framed glazing is replaced with timber-framed windows, while the introduction of skylights in the entry, second bedroom and bathroom celebrate the light, lofty qualities of the warehouse typology. We hope these gestures reinvoke the building's historic character and create a unique quality of living. *Were there any devices employed to maximise the sense of space?* Taking advantage of the top-floor location of the apartment, the skylights are a key device that increase the sense of space and quality of light. Pivot joinery doors expand and contract space without the domestic detailing of architraves and door jambs. Multiple configurations allow for both large gatherings and solitude, important when working within a small footprint. *What informed the selection of furniture, art, fittings and finishes?* We were fortunate that our clients already owned some timeless pieces which formed the basis of both the interior expression and the curation of additional elements. *Were you happy with the execution?* *What do you enjoy about being in the space?* Owners David and Ashta: "We are impressed by every aspect," says David, "but the lighting really stands out for me, with the incorporation of natural light through windows and skylights and efficient use of space that makes the apartment feel bigger." Adds Ashta, "The kitchen and daybed are my favourite parts. Also, how each area feels as if it's both actively and passively organised, allowing for the flow of modern-day living."

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