



DARREN JAMES
Darren James Interiors

Who lives here?

A young professional couple with two small children who had embarked on a major renovation of their home.

What was your clients' brief for this project?

To create a bright hub for family life, a space that suited the changing needs of a growing family. The main living area runs from east to west and enjoys uninterrupted city views so it was imperative that the design of the upper level living spaces (kitchen, living and alfresco area) maximised this outlook.

Our clients also wanted the spaces to flow harmoniously to ensure continuity in the design. It was important the kitchen integrated into the adjoining rooms, including the study and alfresco areas. They also specified that the kitchen should be open and inviting to guests when entertaining, and the large scullery provides the perfect place to hide away the everyday items and appliances that can clutter a kitchen.

What primary selection of colour combinations and surfaces was used in this project?

A combination of different textures and finishes were incorporated to ensure high aesthetic qualities as well as top performance. Overall the objective was to achieve a neutral palette by combining timber and stone.

We wanted to achieve a more dramatic and elegant feel in the bathrooms. The powder room features frappuccino quartz benchtops and a beautifully custom designed and made glass pendant from Darcy Clarke. Wallpaper was used to create a striking feature.

Do you have a design rule you always abide by (or love to break)?

Stemming from my early work on luxury timber yachts I absolutely love working with wood, stone, leather and metal – any material that is natural, textured, layered or real. I strongly believe if you want an interior that is timeless and enduring in both design and decoration, where possible incorporate natural materials where possible.

Do you see any trends emerging in interior design?

The trend we are seeing in interiors is a direct reflection of a society that wants to take a step back, slow things down. The more high-tech we become, the more we want to surround ourselves with textures and objects that ground us and connect us with nature. Handmade and sustainably sourced is far from a micro trend, it's now become a way of life. In particular, there is a focus on beautifully hand crafted objects that celebrate the natural material.

