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HOME TOURS

From inner-city swank to beachy chic to majestic modern, these four undersized homes are overflowing with flair, thanks to smart, stylish solutions.



PHOTOGRAPHY ANNETTE O'BRIEN / PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT ETHAN MASTERS
STYLING JULIA GREEN / STYLING ASSISTANTS EMILY EVANS AND GEORGIE FITZGERALD

SMALL APARTMENT BIG ON STYLE



When a young Melbourne couple decided to purchase an apartment off the plan, they collaborated with Petrina Turner Design to create a stylish home they are proud to call their own.

PHOTOGRAPHY ANNETTE O'BRIEN / STYLING JULIA GREEN / WORDS PIP MILLER



COLOUR CRUSH

Cabinet painted in Dulux Green Wash

CLEVER ADDITIONS Petrina added a small wall unit to the kitchen (pictured top right), which conceals the telephone outlet and also has enough storage space to display glassware, cups and bowls. Dining table from Jardan, and Ercol dining chairs from Temperature Design.

After a decade of renting in the CBD, Jason Potter and Penny Bolgia said they were keen to invest in their own property, and craving the chance to create, inhabit and enjoy their own space.

Having purchased an off-the-plan apartment in Flinders Street, the couple set about designing something that would suit their needs and personalities. To do so, they secured the services of Petrina Turner, whose design aesthetic they had both admired – particularly her use of colour and texture. The couple agree they made the right decision and, thanks to Petrina's involvement, are living the dream in a functional and stylish home.

"We wanted to make the most of our apartment plan, and that meant not losing any space," Jason says. "Apart from that, all we needed was a pop of colour. We happily left all those decisions to Petrina, who lived up to – and exceeded – all our expectations."

While Jason says he loves the multi-use practicality of their second room – which can be a study, bedroom, reading or indoor cycle training area – Penny prefers the dining table and seating, which comes with the beauty of hidden storage. Other favourites include Petrina's custom-made rugs, and the LED macramé sculptural light feature that adds a glow of warmth to the bedroom, while providing a fun talking point for guests.

According to Petrina, providing clever storage solutions that integrated with the furnishings and fit-out was one of her clients' main objectives when designing the apartment.

"I spent quite a bit of time in initial design meetings to establish what they wanted to be able to store (and hide from view). My aim was to make the space highly practical, multi-functional, light-filled and fresh, to reflect Jason's and Penny's personalities."

Thanks to Petrina's involvement, each room is packed with bespoke joinery, complete with hidden storage solutions designed to accommodate the couple's lifestyle needs, while increasing visual space in the guise of beautiful furniture.

Examples of Petrina's savvy approach include a custom L-shaped banquette, positioned off the back of the kitchen island, which generously seats the extended family when they visit.

"It has plenty of drawers underneath, storage niches in the back with power points (for laptop or iPad charging), and a metal vessel that fits inside, to be used for herbs or chilling wine when entertaining," says Petrina.

"In the living room, we designed a quad-door, floating TV unit that cleverly conceals a 65" TV, and all of the technological gadgets and gizmos of which the client

COLOUR-FILLED LIVING “I really love the balance between form and function in the living and dining room,” says Petrina. “The amount of space and storage solutions we have created in this area is thoughtful and really takes on board the clients’ need for maximising every inch of the apartment. This is enhanced by the bright, fresh colours; patterns; and rich textures, to bring out their personalities and make it a home.” Artwork by Lisa Lapointe from Greenhouse Interiors; floor lamp from ISM Objects; sofa and armchair from Jordan; cushions from Sage and Clare, and Ink Object; coffee table from Tuckbox; ‘Purls of Wisdom’ rug by Petrina Turner Design for Designer Rugs.

★ Meet Petrina DESIGNER TO WATCH

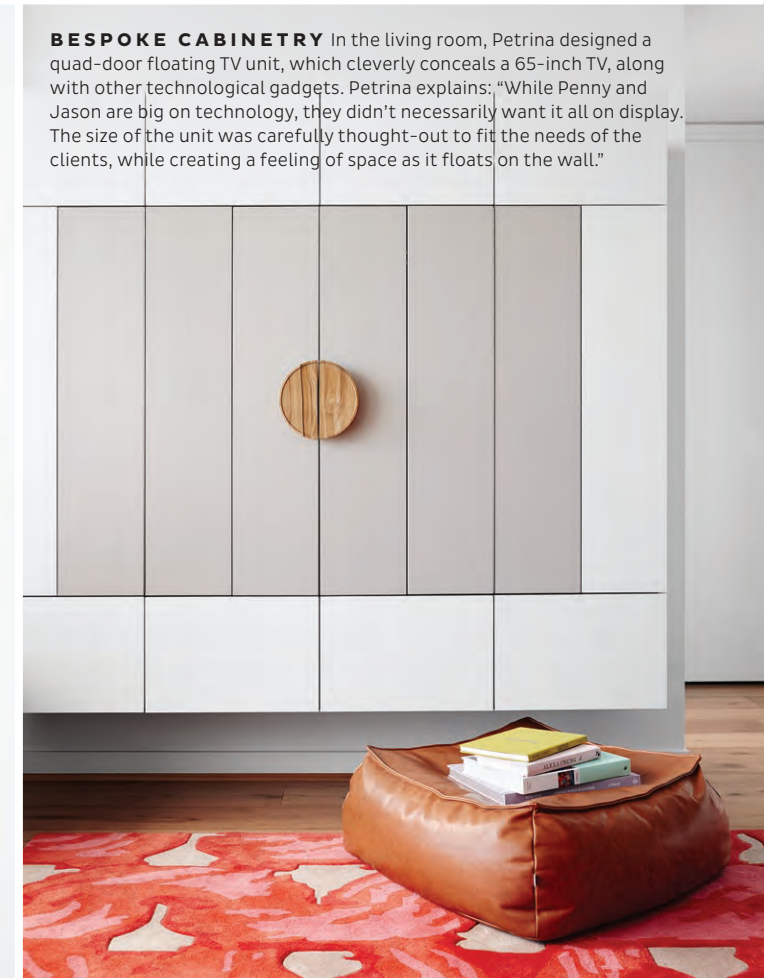
At the helm of her Melbourne-based, multidisciplinary design practice offering over 20 years of experience, Petrina Turner believes “in creating with exceptional detail, integrity, joy... and a little of the unexpected”.

Petrina takes a holistic approach to design, with personalised, bespoke spaces and furnishings that reflect her clients’ characteristics and lifestyle needs. Her style mantra is very much about enhancing the way in which her clients engage with their worlds, while drawing on a sophisticated – sometimes whimsical – interpretation of a brief.

Underpinning Petrina’s passion for design, style and creativity is a love of mid-century architecture; contemporary furniture and lighting; lush textiles; and the power of colour. This is beautifully exemplified in her latest collaboration with Designer Rugs – four pantone-drenched designs that will add ‘pop’ to any floor.



BESPOKE CABINETY In the living room, Petrina designed a quad-door floating TV unit, which cleverly conceals a 65-inch TV, along with other technological gadgets. Petrina explains: “While Penny and Jason are big on technology, they didn’t necessarily want it all on display. The size of the unit was carefully thought-out to fit the needs of the clients, while creating a feeling of space as it floats on the wall.”





FUN MASTER BEDROOM “Polka dots became a subtle, recurring theme throughout the home, as I find them a perfect salve to soften the hard lines of the city architecture. I didn’t realise at the time, but when I presented the wallpaper for the master bedroom and the fabric for the table linens, Penny told me she loved polka dots and had hoped we could incorporate some,” says Petrina. Bedside table from Pierre + Charlotte; lamp from Douglas and Bec; bed upholstered in ‘Casso-Safari’ fabric from Sparkk; ‘Jumbo Circles’ wallpaper from Porter’s Paint; blush and floral pillowcases from Sage and Clare; round cushion and spotted pillowcase from Castle; knitted throw from Jardan.

ENSUITE Hand towel from Sage and Clare; blush vessel from Reduxr; Chilewich bath mat from top3.

< required housing,” says Petrina. “Two-tone bespoke joinery and a beautiful, handmade, 250mm round split feature door handle add a subtle pop of colour, and a lovely, light, furnished feel.”

Petrina says the bedrooms also received the storage treatment to ensure they remained clutter-free zones. The master bed was custom-made to accommodate Jason’s bike roller underneath, and a slim, floating bookshelf was fitted to the narrow walkway to the bedroom’s balcony.

In the second bedroom, Petrina used her genius to meet the varying lifestyle needs of the couple, and create two rooms out of one – a guest room and a home office.

“A full-length desk with concealed cable channels and plenty of storage in the drawers was built along the front windows of the room, and a wall cabinet for files (clears the way for) views to the Royal Botanic Gardens,” she explains. “But the real secret in the room is the concealed Murphy bed: The original mirror-door wardrobe was replaced with bespoke joinery that houses a pullout, queen-size bed.”



STUDY NOOK The second bedroom works hard to offer two rooms in one. One side acts as a study (shown), and on the opposite wall (shown on next spread), a concealed Murphy bed works to accommodate guests, if needed. Pictured: 'Mallard' custom designed rug by Petrina Turner Design from Designer Rugs; Anglepoise table lamp by Paul Smith from Cult Design; Bahnsen + Fog-Fredsgaard for KreaFunk headphones from top3; ceramic vase by Karen Morton and artwork by Anne-Sophie Tschiegg from Greenhouse Interiors; Thonet 'No. 18' bentwood chair from Huset.





Space-saving idea

GUEST ROOM MURPHY BED

"The feature banana leaf wallpaper from Sparkk (in the Murphy bed niche) makes a beautiful bedhead when guests are staying over," says Petrina. Cushions, pillowcases and quilt (styled as a flat sheet) from Sage and Clare; throw from Kesem Boy; lamp from ISM Objects; green vase from Marmoset Found.



PRINT Lisa Lapointe 'Tree of Knowledge' print 80 x 63cm (unframed) \$850 greenhouseinteriors.com.au / **ARMCHAIR** Jordan 'Harper' armchair in 'Blossom' Acre wool with American Oak frame \$2353 jordan.com.au / **VASE** Mud Australia 'Tear' vase in yellow \$55 mudaaustralia.com / **COFFEE TABLE** Tuckbox 'Place' coffee table from \$1035 tuckbox.com.au / **PILLOWCASE** Sage and Clare 'Margeaux' gingham pillowcase \$45 greenhouseinteriors.com.au / **HOOK** Lightly 'Big Top' wall hook \$38 lightly.com.au / **CUSHION** Sage and Clare 'Delphine Tapestry' cushion \$169 greenhouseinteriors.com.au / **CHAIR** Harto 'Rosalie' chair in pastel green \$495 clickinfurniture.com.au / **THROW** Kesem Boy 'Luxe' throw in sand \$329 kesemboy.com / **TEACUP** T2 teaset cup and saucer in yellow \$22 t2tea.com / **HANDLE** MadeMeasure 'Leather 02' handle in natural with matching stitch and natural edge \$24 mademeasure.com / **BOWL** Fazeek 'On Point' triangle bowl (large) \$65 greenhouseinteriors.com.au / **SOFA** OZ Design Furniture 'Charlie' three-seater sofa in Stamford fabric \$2599 ozdesignfurniture.com.au / **LAMP** Mumoon Belgium 'Glob' table lamp in white by \$119 liferinteriors.com.au