

BRIAN HOY

FUSING DIFFERENT ERAS AND STYLES, BRIAN HOY IS REINVIGORATING THE NOTIONS OF TRADITION AND LUXURY WITH SIMPLE AND SOPHISTICATED DESIGNS.

The chances are that all over the world countless interior designers share a common dream: to one day restore a historic chateau somewhere within France's architecturally inspired land. For many of them, it will remain just this – a dream. But, when you boast the natural talent and artistic eye that Sydney interior designer Brian Hoy has, this dream will surely become a reality. In a time where the world is beckoning for innovation and fresh eyes, contemporary artist Hoy has catapulted onto the scene of interior design, restoring old homes and creating clean modern spaces.

Since he was a child, Hoy has been entertained by a particular penchant for architecture and interiors. "From a young age I had an interest in architecture, antiques and history. I remember being the only child at school having an interest in antiques," he says. For Hoy, what was once an interest has now evolved into not only a passion but also a profession. "I enjoy the process of design

and deciphering what a client is looking for; often, what someone thinks they want is not in fact what they are really looking for," says Hoy. "It is also very nice knowing someone loves living in something you have designed," he adds.

Hoy's work can be described as minimal and clean and also includes layers of texture and subtle decoration. He believes items that have design integrity, such as good proportions, honesty and quality, should be able to sit together and work, even if they are from different periods and styles. This timeless fusion of juxtaposed worlds and techniques is evident in a recent showcase of his work, the renovation of a 1960s residential property in Sydney's South East. "I designed the interior and exterior. The client brief included the fact that the house was to have a sense of arrival," says Hoy.

The original exterior of the house was very low and simple, so Hoy skillfully added a large steel cantilevered roof structure over the front entrance area and he also incorporated an entrance portico. These two features have worked hand-in-hand to give the house the unique and graphic street presence that it deserves. Upon entering the house, you reach a front courtyard with a carp pond descending from six large floating bluestone steps. You then arrive at a custom made large pivot front door that opens into an entrance hall, directing your vision towards a perfectly opulent waterfront view.

The interiors of the house stay true to Hoy's aesthetic – they are subtle and simple. He has used dark brown stone on the floors and Stucco plaster in off white and ivory for the walls; most finishes are also separated by the use of different details and shadow lines, allowing each finish to interact together softly. Hoy maintains it was important that the interior was elegant, allowing a range of eclectic mid-century furniture and salient fabrics to work together. The dining room is comprised of design classics, like the Saarinen marble table, which is complemented by the upholstered custom hot pink Brno chairs; both of which sit surprisingly well with the Aboriginal Art, Lalique crystal and gilded antique French furniture.

Hoy is also renowned for his intricately structured and designed bathrooms. When recently assigned the complete renovation of an old Federation-



style house, Hoy's brief was to design a large and functional family bathroom. He redesigned the bathroom by using a simple palette of pieta gray stone for the floors and callacutta marble for one slab wall above the bathing area. Once again, the bathroom is simplistic in line and form, but the products, which are by the Italian Manufacturer Boffi, are unique and impressive on the eye. Hoy maintains that instead of trying to hide certain restroom furnishings, one should choose quality pieces that you want to be seen; and whilst it is no easy feat to select a toilet that you want people to look at, Hoy manages to select products that are striking without being imposing.

Marble features have been used on both the floors and walls of the bathroom, bringing a sense of tradition to a modern space, and a backlit opaque glass wall that gives the space a moody atmosphere. Hoy has also installed a Boffi vanity onto a full height mirror, which he says "creates a floating quality with a pendant light above, bringing visual focus to this area of the room." Like many other discerning artists, he attributes much of his inspiration to exploring shapes, forms and lifestyles from all over the globe. "When I am not working, I love trawling antique and furniture shops and markets in different cities – I find great inspiration through travel and being in new places and seeing the different way people live. I also get a lot of inspiration from old buildings and items from the past; it could be a Victorian timber carved chair or a 19th Century Minton piece of ceramic – for me, this could provide hours of inspiration."

Hoy's passion for travel has ensured that his work is not limited to the shores of Sydney. He has completed projects in London and is currently working on the design of a waterfront residential property in Greece. Hoy is the first to admit that, "being able to work as an independent designer has given me the freedom to work on some interesting local and international jobs."

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BOX BRIEF

NAME ■ Hoy is renowned for his intricately structured and designed bathrooms, as well as his ability for restoring old homes and creating clean and modern space

STAR ■ Hoy is responsible for the design of a number of prestigious retail spaces including the Leona Edmiston store in London and celebrity chef Donna Hay's studio in Sydney

CAREER ■ Hoy has juggled various artistic mediums throughout his career including working as an Art Director in film following his graduation from The Australian Film TV and Radio School

PROTOTYPE ■ Hoy is currently working on designing furniture prototypes that demonstrates his artistic talent is far from limited to interior design

NOW ■ Hoy is currently working on the design of a waterfront residential property in Greece