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# CLASSIC CONTEMPORARY

THE DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION OF THIS TIRED SYDNEY CBD APARTMENT IS NOTHING SHORT OF BOLD AND DAZZLING









**WORDS** // DANIELLE TOWNSEND **PHOTOGRAPHY** // MARIAN RIABIC

**L**ocated within an iconic early-1900s heritage building in the Sydney CBD, this one-bedroom apartment speaks of luxury and sophistication and offers a bright, vibrant and masculine palette of contemporary interiors.

Bespoke finishes integrated the client's extensive art collection and the "wow impact" brief, resulting in a grand, spacious living environment that complements the apartment's original features.

The client, a single 60-year-old male, has worked in the interior design industry for more than 30 years, importing lighting products and furniture. The apartment he presented to interior designer Amgad Kamel, of AK Interiors, featured a '90s-style interior with carpet and standard finishes and furnishings. After renting out the apartment for 10 years, the client was ready to renovate it to live in for his retirement. "His brief of wow interiors reflecting luxury and bright, vibrant interiors directed the design concept," says Amgad.

Two bedrooms were converted into one, with a spacious, inviting entry foyer and dining space adjoining the living area. "I love every part of the design, however my standout is the foyer for its simplicity yet sophisticated impact," reveals Amgad.

An open living space offers perfectly proportioned ceiling heights and the existing windows allow a vast amount of natural light through the whole space.

Textured grass wallpaper, silk wall panels, timber wall panels and white-painted walls work perfectly as the backdrop for the vibrant blue, gold and white soft furnishings. The furniture's colour palette of dark chocolate, gloss black and inlaid designs

#### **ABOVE LEFT AND ABOVE RIGHT**

Textured grass wallpaper, silk wall panels and white-painted walls work perfectly as the backdrop for the vibrant blue, gold and white soft furnishings.

**OPPOSITE** Laying the timber floorboards in a herringbone pattern achieves design impact and makes the space visually larger.

#### **PROJECT TEAM**

Interior designer and builder  
Amgad Kamel Interiors  
([akinteriors.com.au](http://akinteriors.com.au))





THE CLIENT'S EXTENSIVE ART  
COLLECTION INCLUDING WORKS BY  
DAVID BROMLEY, ROBERT DICKERSON  
AND DAVID BOYD SET THE BAR





**ABOVE** Black Japan stain for the recycled oak timber boards forms a balanced contrast against the vivid white walls and trimmings.

**RIGHT** The client's extensive art collection was utilised as the backdrop on every wall to deliver visual interest and talking points.

delivers the touch of glamour and luxury required for the space. Standout upholstered furniture pieces add the punch of colour required to complete the design. Bespoke furniture pieces were selected and designed to stand as individual pieces and to form a successful marriage with all other soft furnishing elements, textures and finishes.

The client's extensive art collection including works by David Bromley, Robert Dickerson and David Boyd set the bar for a contemporary, luxury interior with layers of elegance and sophistication. The collection was utilised as the backdrop on every wall to deliver visual interest and talking points without being lost to the extravagant, vibrant furnishings.

Recycled oak timber boards throughout the apartment replace the existing tiled floor and the use of pre-finished Black Japan stain forms a balanced contrast against the vivid white walls and trimmings. Laying the timber in a herringbone pattern achieves design impact and makes the space visually larger.

Recycled floor coverings, energy-efficient lighting and upholstered wall panels with a visually stunning textured surface make up a healthy, sustainable interior with long-term durability.

The finished design delivers a classic contemporary interior that is decorative and a living environment that reflects the client's lifestyle and love of travel and entertaining.







**DESIGNER'S FAVE** "I LOVE EVERY PART OF THE DESIGN, HOWEVER MY STANDOUT IS THE FOYER FOR ITS SIMPLE YET SOPHISTICATED IMPACT." — AMGAD KAMEL





"The client walked into the apartment after it was finished and staged for presentation and he was so happy and impressed, he cried from happiness," says Amgad.

"In his words: 'Wow, Amgad, you have delivered something that is far beyond my expectations. I love it!' That was a special moment for me. The client was so impressed that he gifted me one of the pieces in his art collection to show his appreciation."

The successful use of all materials and finishes works in harmony to create a unique interior that encompasses today's contemporary interior and tomorrow's classic contemporary and fits perfectly with the client brief. "The project reflects my true style of sophisticated interiors and, in my opinion, is a perfect example of today's classic contemporary style," says Amgad. ♡



## Colour Palette

The furniture's palette of dark chocolate, gloss black and inlaid designs delivers the touch of glamour and luxury suited to this space. Meanwhile, royal blue, orange and honey tones lift the room.



AMGAD KAMEL

## Meet the Designer

### AMGAD KAMEL

Egyptian-born architect/designer Amgad Kamel studied a Bachelor of Architecture in Cairo and a Diploma of Architecture at Sydney University. He opened his first Sydney-based interior design studio in 2000, focusing on high-end residential design, cafés and restaurants.

His signature style is bold, decorative and dazzling. He believes that good design involves surrendering to your intuition and breaking rules; using creative intelligence and taking design risks without forgetting that function, scale and harmony form the basis of a timeless interior.

Amgad believes the spaces we design need to serve us in a way that is healthy, inviting and practical yet elegant, sophisticated and, most importantly, fit for purpose.





Two bedrooms were converted into one and it now offers a bright, vibrant and masculine palette.