



While the last few years have dropped *creativity* into survival mode, local talents have turned mounting challenges into *awe-inspiring designs* that have made us stop, see and reflect. Here, we salute their resilience and their refusal to accept the status quo.

The VL50 represents *Australian creatives* held in high regard, as noted by repeat blips on the radar, sell-out shows, book deals, *best-in-class awards* and rave reviews from those in the know. The *future* of Australian design has never looked brighter.

*Compiled by* THE VOGUE LIVING TEAM *Written by* VIRGINIA JEN

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# Interior designers



**YSG**  
*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** There has always been an element of surprise to principal Yasmine Ghoniem’s work ever since her Amber Road design days. Her eponymous studio is known for its rich and instinctive approach to an intoxicating concoction of colour, pattern and texture with nothing but panache and confidence — ‘the magnetism is in the mix’ as her website states. You wouldn’t expect anything less from a creative team looking for ‘seekers of the unexpected’. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects culminating in this issue’s cover story, the Vacluse family home of Zoë Foster Blake and Hamish Blake. A commercial project with a pioneering maison is nearing completion.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Formerly the interior design firm known as Doherty Design Studio, Studio Doherty and its founder Mardi Doherty have a long-held reputation for an intuitive and holistic approach to crafting modern homes awash in a bold blend of materials, linking to time, place and architectural respect. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects including the vivid Gloss House.



**FLACK STUDIO**

*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** It’s apt to include this portrait of David Flack exhausted in one of his studio’s most impressive projects yet, Ace Hotel Sydney. Flack and his partner Mark Robinson alongside their Fitzroy-based team continue to push their contemporary personality-packed and art-filled interiors agenda. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects, but the standout jewel in the crown has to be the Ace — the boutique hotel chain’s first south of the equator — a home away from home that reflects the neighbourhood’s tangible creative spirit and sense of community.



**BRAHMAN  
PERERA** *Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Having worked with two of the best in the business, Fiona Lynch and Hecker Guthrie, designer Brahman Perera has established himself as a purveyor of beauty, craft and layered spaces made for reflection and storytelling. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential work including the Terra House, retail spaces such as Henne, and the majestic Diana pendant light as part of Oigáll Projects' Offsite exhibition for Sydney Design Week.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Statement materials, tones and elements continue to strike a chord with Greg Natale's client base and the designer's marriage of all three is seen in sweeping expanses of stone, enveloping coloured walls and hubs of the home made to stand the test of time through sheer character alone. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential clients keep Natale busy, yet somehow he's also managed to complete his latest range with Designer Rugs, a new bedding collection for his own retail space, and a third book, *The Layered Interior*.



**GREG NATALE**  
*Sydney*

**DECUS**  
*Sydney*



**SIGNATURE STYLE** Alexandra Donohoe Church and her team at Decus are known for elevated and balanced contemporary elegance that is highly livable, bringing together global influences with refinement, polish and a palpable sense of timelessness. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects across Sydney with clients clamouring for Donohoe Church's seamless blending of architectural detail and spatial awareness while speaking to everyday life as seen in the Monsieur G project in this issue.

**FIONA  
LYNCH**  
*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** A harmonious, craft-forward and highly creative approach is at the multidisciplinary core of designer Fiona Lynch's 'spirited minimalism'. Her indelible style is inherent with texture, detail and depth.

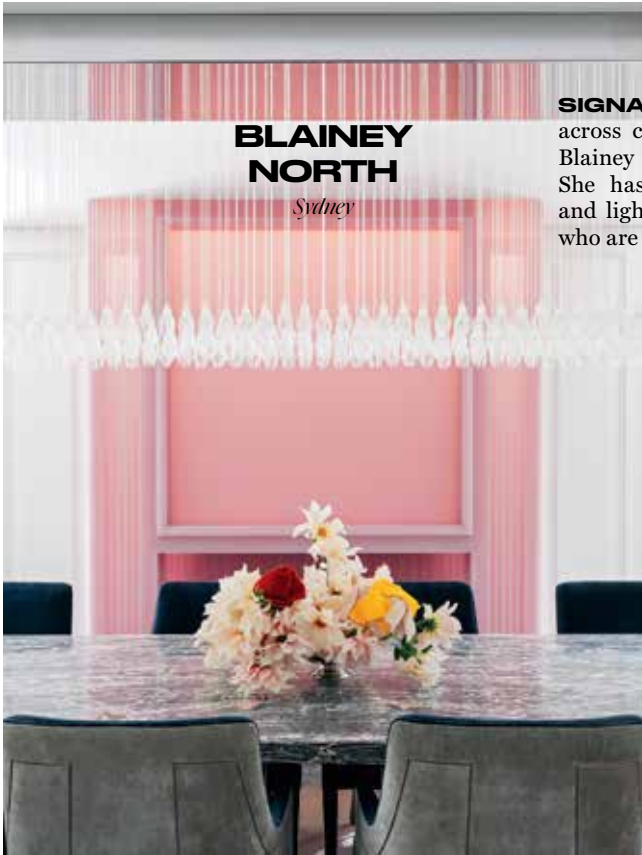
**2022 IN FOCUS** A steady stream of residential and commercial projects continue alongside the launch of the studio's first capsule collection at Villa Alba Museum for Melbourne Design Week earlier in the year to the crescendo close to year's end of Ace Hotel Sydney's striking rooftop restaurant Kiln.

## TAMSIN JOHNSON

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Instinctively melding a fine eye for heritage European pieces and a tailored understanding of home and personal expression, Tamsin Johnson has captivated the world with her work. **2022 IN FOCUS** Private homes and retail projects including the streamlined Sir flagship store in Bondi and Lucy Folk's sunny Paddington shop that echoes the Medina of Marrakesh.





**BLAINEY  
NORTH**

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Old-world glamour and timeless elegance cast across curved archways, generous staircases and plush textiles are what Blainey North has built her world-renowned take on refined luxury upon. She has since extended her brand of luxury into her own furniture and lighting collections. **2022 IN FOCUS** Private residences of those who are after an architecturally rigorous and meticulously refined home.

**ACME**  
*Sydney*



**SIGNATURE STYLE** A quiet but formidable creative powerhouse, Acme has revolutionised the hospitality scene for close to a decade. Partners in life and work, interior designer Caroline Choker and architect Vince Alafaci have brought an overarching sense of welcome and awe with considerable taste to dining out. **2022 IN FOCUS** Continuing the duo's winning form are Andrew McConnell's latest eatery Gimlet in the heart of Melbourne and Neil Perry's neighbourhood Double Bay diner Margaret in collaboration with Caon.



**THOMAS HAMEL  
& ASSOCIATES**

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Sophistication, elegance and an international perspective is built into every Thomas Hamel project, a testament to the firm's three decades in the industry. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects with longstanding client relationships now extending to new generations. The studio has also just completed La Cornue's first-ever Australian flagship showroom in Sydney.

**ALEXANDER  
& CO** *Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** An elemental understanding of materiality and spatial awareness combined with refined nuances and an artful aesthetic is confidently realised by architect Jeremy Bull and his talented team in every project — residential, hospitality, commercial and otherwise. The considered, tangible comfort and easy ebb and flow in their polished work has only made further strides this year. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects including the serene NoMad apartment as seen in this issue, as well as welcoming hospitality venues Genovese Coffee House and Manly Wharf Bar.



**AP DESIGN HOUSE**

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** A decade after establishing her interior architecture studio, Alexandra Ponting has drawn in clients with her instinctual blend of classic elements, artisan craftsmanship and modern thinking. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential work filled with restored heritage detail, as well as beautifully realised flagship boutiques for Fella and Maggie Marilyn in Sydney.



**DANIELLE  
BRUSTMAN** *Melbourne*



**SIGNATURE STYLE** A theatrical expression of delight is evident in all of Danielle Brustman's joyful work across interior, furniture, lighting and object design. **2022 IN FOCUS** The first Bank of Melbourne Collingwood Yards residency recipient, Brustman crafted the Meteorite light with Edward Linacre for the Australian Furniture Design Award and Will I ever? vanity for Melbourne Design Week with Sophie Gannon Gallery.

**KENNEDY NOLAN***Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Twenty-three years into their practice, founding directors Rachel Nolan and Patrick Kennedy's peerless work remains just that. Governed, but not limited, by the handcrafted principles of modernism with architectural integrity, the firm's respectful and innovative take on design resonates as strongly as ever. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential work including the award-winning Always house in this issue, and a piece with Amanda Oliver Gardens for Volker Haug Studio's show at Melbourne Design Week.





## RICHARDS STANISICH

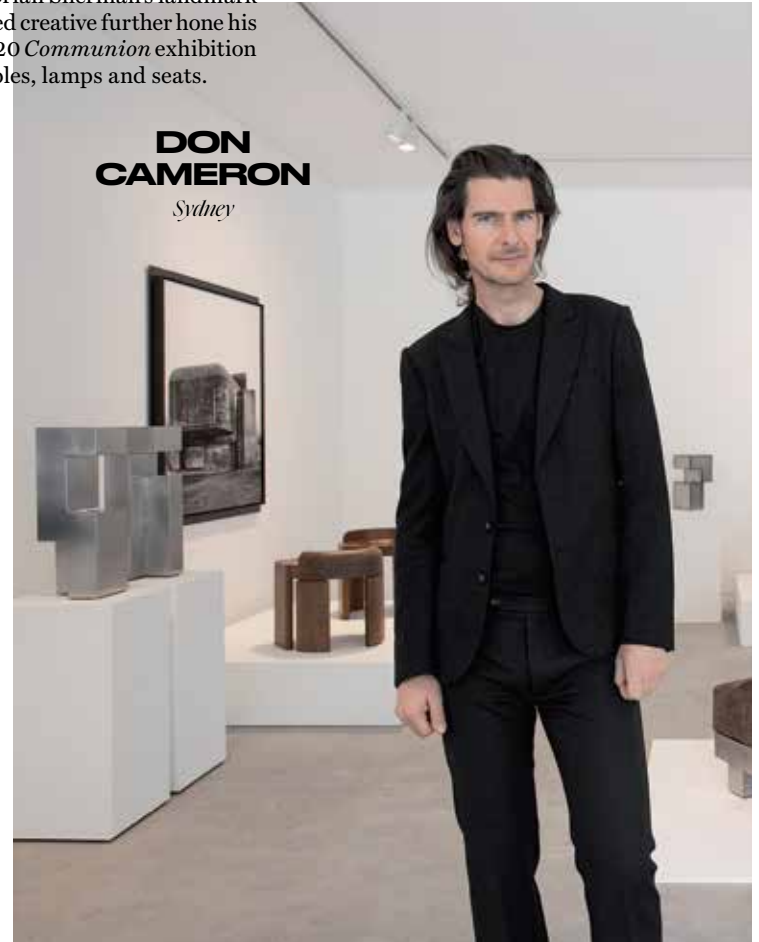
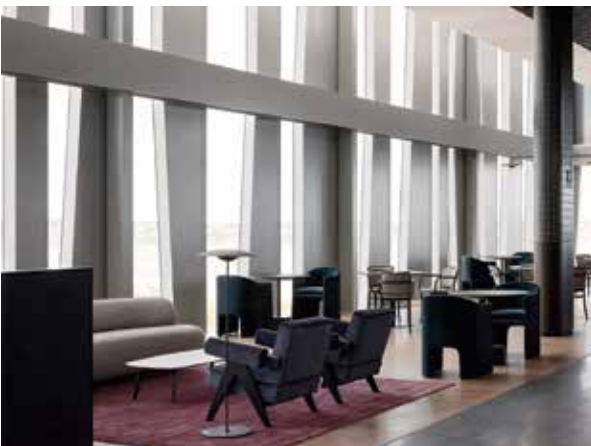
*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Directors Kirsten Stanisich and Jonathan Richards have looked to design that is generous in scope and intent, conjuring urban spaces that embody a textural simplicity that belies the immersive comfort found in them. **2022 IN FOCUS** The firm still works on residences, but has also been recognised with the NSW Architecture award-winning addressing of Art Deco heritage at the Woollahra Hotel as well as 9-15 Young Street apartment at AMP Capital's Quay Quarter Lanes precinct.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** A Renaissance man of visual language, the designer's director past has now informed his practice with his interiors contribution to Canberra's Hotel Hotel, as well as private residences of note including Gene and Brian Sherman's landmark Sydney home. **2022 IN FOCUS** This year saw the multifaceted creative further hone his talents on physical entities, taking his images that formed his 2020 *Communion* exhibition at Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert into his *Translations* show of tables, lamps and seats.

MILIEU  
CREATIVE  
*Perth*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Established in 2010, this collaborative practice is a stalwart of the Perth design scene, creating environments that enhance home and work life without losing sight of a resolved whole. **2022 IN FOCUS** Polished modern residential projects as well as considered commercial work, including the striking Mineral Resources headquarters in Perth's Osborne Park.



## DON CAMERON

*Sydney*

**ARENT&PYKE**

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Directors Sarah-Jane Pyke and Juliette Arent Squadrito continue to delight with their sophisticated, inviting style that embraces colour, texture, architectural collaboration and marrying past with present that enhances the everyday lives of their satisfied clients. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects and a years-in-the-making endeavour, the creative duo's first book *Interiors Beyond the Primary Palette* that celebrates the best Arent&Pyke projects across 15 years.



**GOLDEN**  
*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Directors Kylie Buhagiar, Alicia McKimm and Daniel Stellini have continued to evolve the Golden brand that favours a reductionist philosophy to considered interiors that harness material expression. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects but the big wins have been in the commercial retail space with Mobilia's new Melbourne home in Richmond showcasing the studio's ability to craft a refined and versatile space.



## DYLAN FARRELL DESIGN *Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Whether it's expressed in furniture, material choices or artwork commissions, there is an international, cosmopolitan spirit to every Dylan Farrell Design project. Alongside his partner in work and life, Nicolette Farrell, the pair excel in meeting personal briefs with polished, characterful interiors. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential work including a Sydney Harbour apartment that intrinsically links how its owner utilises and unwinds in the space.



**SIGNATURE STYLE** Founding directors Paul Hecker and Hamish Guthrie have established a studio that crafts tranquil spaces where atmosphere, connection and feeling are given the spotlight, anchored by the considered pieces and palette chosen with clarity and timelessness. **2022 IN FOCUS** Running the gamut of residential, hospitality, retail and commercial realms, the studio's track record continues to impress with latest additions including Hyatt Centric, Piccolina Swan Street and Hector's Deli.



## HANDELSMANN + KHAW *Sydney*

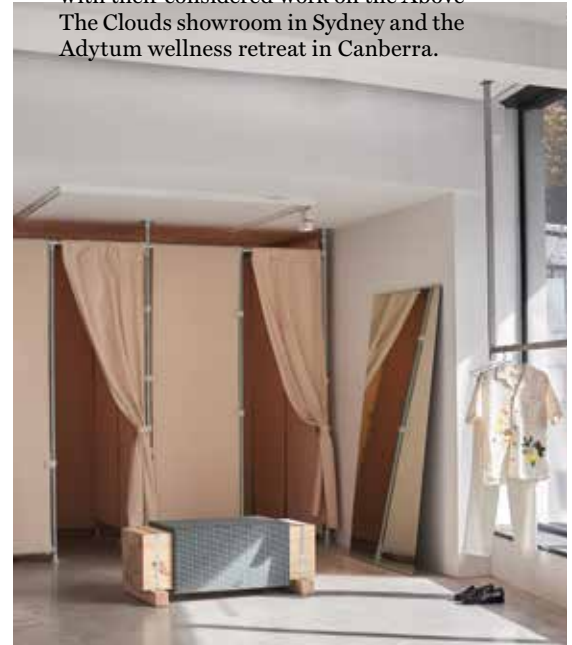
**SIGNATURE STYLE** A polished yet accessible brand of heritage-informed elegance defines the work of Tania Handelsmann and Gillian Khaw, with a curated eye for furnishings, surfaces and details adding further depth, charm and classic romanticism. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential projects, a spate of family homes including a heritage dwelling designed by Leslie Wilkinson.



**PHOEBE NICOL**  
*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Refined spaces, time-honoured pieces and an eye for pairing the two in contemporary homes with just the right amount of ornamentation has been a hallmark of Phoebe Nicol's work. This philosophy also guides her commercial work as demonstrated with the tranquil Cultiver showroom. **2022 IN FOCUS** A steady bill of residential and retail spaces keeps Nicol busy, as does her and her husband Jeremy Bowker's thriving business The Vault Sydney, which specialises in found European treasures.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** How one experiences and connects to a tonal brand of sensual minimalism is at the core of what Lily Goodwin and Josh Cain examine in their beautifully resolved projects. **2022 IN FOCUS** The award-winning firm was recognised this year as one to continue to watch, as seen with their considered work on the Above The Clouds showroom in Sydney and the Adytum wellness retreat in Canberra.



**PATTERN STUDIO**  
*Sydney*



## AKIN ATELIER

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Clean lines, an understated cool and a superior understanding of materials and tone define Akin Atelier work with founder Kelvin Ho leading the multidisciplinary practice to worldwide acclaim. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential sanctuaries sit alongside considered next-level retail spaces such as Poho Flowers' Double Bay boutique that embraces creativity and joy.

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## DENHOLM

*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** An exploration of fun with function guides Steven John Clark and Lars Stoten's work, as well as unfiltered imagination and a playful beauty. **2022 IN FOCUS** This year saw the DenHolm output continue to evolve, delving into boundary-pushing forms, materials and finishes with the gregarious pieces on show at Sydney Design Week a striking highlight.

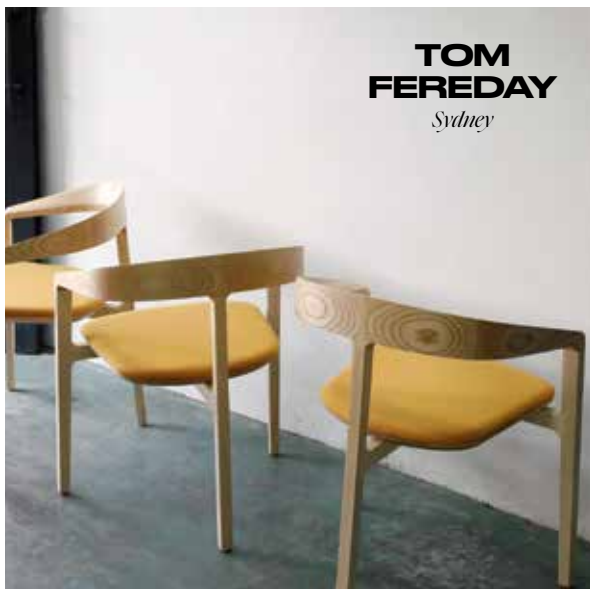


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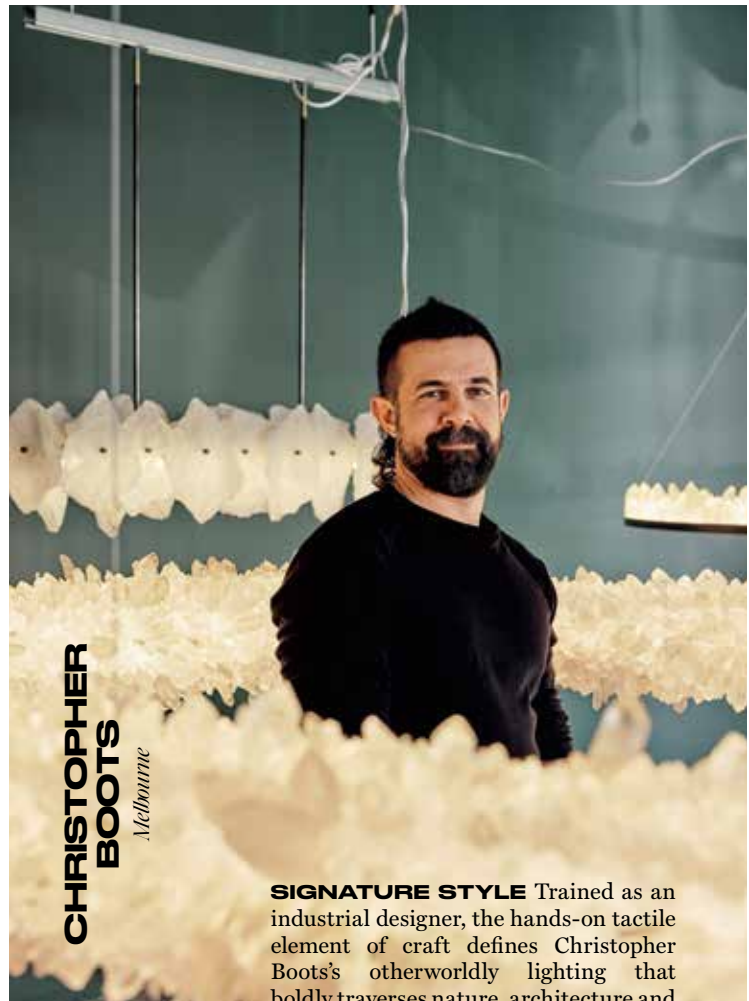
## VOLKER HAUG STUDIO *Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Minimalism, artful appeal and a keen understanding of materiality and form has been the name of the game for the highly regarded lighting studio. **2022 IN FOCUS** Fifteen years in the industry was well worth celebrating and the Volker Haug crew did it in style with a Salone del Mobile showing, their *und Messing* exhibition exploring the possibilities of brass across sculptural lighting hand-crafted by local Melbourne artisans.



## TOM FEREDAY *Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Guided by natural materials and the manufacturing process, expressing the purity of design has driven the furniture and product designer's wide-ranging practice. **2022 IN FOCUS** Fereday is a busy man with new pieces for Nau through Cult, the Port lighting range for Rakumba Lighting, participation in both Melbourne and Sydney Design Weeks, as well as furniture for clients such as Louis Vuitton and the Art Gallery of NSW.



## CHRISTOPHER BOOTS *Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Trained as an industrial designer, the hands-on tactile element of craft defines Christopher Boots's otherworldly lighting that boldly traverses nature, architecture and symbolism via a galaxy of materials including glass, brass and quartz crystal. **2022 IN FOCUS** Global attention has come knocking on the studio's door with the team currently finishing highly anticipated lighting for Cartier's new Sydney flagship store, which hones in on celebrating Australian craft and design.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Irreverent contrasting forms with a fair share of nostalgia and geometric fun thrown in define Ben Mazey's ceramic slab building work as seen in lamps, vessels and installations. **2022 IN FOCUS** Mazey took his work, available through C Gallery, further into the artistic sphere with displays of panel flags exploring the contrasting fluidity of shape and line.

**BEN MAZEY**  
*Melbourne*



**DANIEL BODDAM** *Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** A multidisciplinary creative working across architecture, furniture and lighting design, a pure simplicity and focus on material and form underlines Daniel Boddam's work. **2022 IN FOCUS** A whole spate of new furniture pieces were released including the Granada-inspired Alhambra series of stone- or glass-topped tables, the easy elegance of the Booham bed and the Hinterland stool, which is sure to become a kitchen staple pulled up to an island or bar.



**HUGH MCCARTHY**  
*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** A furniture maker and designer who honed his craft both in Melbourne and Japan, Hugh McCarthy's made-to-order tables, chairs and storage units demonstrate the inherent and timeless value, beauty and joy of handcrafted pieces. **2022 IN FOCUS** While his furniture continues to feature in some of the nation's best residential work, McCarthy has turned his artful approach to sculpture with his debut exhibition, *Sequence*, at M Contemporary.





## JORDAN FLEMING

*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Pigment, plaster, metal and steel come together in designer and artist Jordan Fleming's bright 'creatures', lights and vessels that illicit emotional connection on sight.

**2022 IN FOCUS** Fleming has had her vivid work featured at Melbourne Design Week as part of the inaugural NGV Melbourne Design Fair, and Friends & Associates' group show, *Self Portrait*.



**TWO LINES STUDIO**  
*Melbourne*



**SIGNATURE STYLE** Kirby Bourke's brutalist-inspired pieces play with geometric forms and are realised in unvarnished brass and steel for a unique character to be revealed with the passage of time and life. **2022 IN FOCUS** Monolithic tables, plinths, benches and chairs, including the Marcel-Breuer-inspired B<sup>3</sup> chair, cast Two Lines Studio into the spotlight.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Hand-carved timber in sinuous forms with grounding presence is the hallmark of Dimitri Vargas's work. The talented maker also dabbles in a multitude of marbles for tables and lighting applications. **2022 IN FOCUS** Custom stools, upholstered seats and side and dining tables have become a favoured choice among top designers and industry professionals.

**DIMITRI VARGAS**  
*Sydney*



**LAKER STUDIO**  
*Sydney*



**SIGNATURE STYLE** The venture of good friends and industrial designers David Caon and Henry Wilson, Laker is based on practical, sustainable solutions showcasing the true value of design. **2022 IN FOCUS** A tight edit of utilitarian pieces is at the heart of Laker's ethos, with the Lug doorstop lending monolithic detail and the Alpine chair bringing Swiss tradition filtered through a modern Australian lens.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Having established her eponymous furniture brand back in 2017, stylist Sarah Ellison's contemporary aesthetic grounded by a down-to-earth simplicity is filtered through sofas, occasional chairs, tables and accessories. **2022 IN FOCUS** Ellison's confident grasp on highly livable style has seen her enter the American market via Design Within Reach. The '70s-inspired Float lounge is also available in a special Pantone hue, Piccolo.

**SARAH ELLISON** *Sydney*



**CLARE COUSINS  
ARCHITECTS**

*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Since 2005, Clare Cousins Architects has worked across a variety of residential, retail and community projects crafting innovative experiential architecture that fosters community. **2022 IN FOCUS** The firm has been recognised with a variety of industry awards and commendations this year for projects including the Stable & Cart House, Esplanade House and the 17 Union St multi-residential project with BKK and Neometro. The team is also working on Nightingale Evergreen, a not-for-profit social enterprise.

Architects



**KERSTIN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS**

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Kerstin Thompson Architects has shifted the conversation for designing homes and community spaces for close to three decades, having delved into the connection found in civic spaces. **2022 IN FOCUS** This year saw the recognition of two standout projects: the Queen & Collins precinct with BVN in Melbourne, and the Sulman medal for public architecture-winning art retreat Bundanon that makes the most of its idyllic setting: a property gifted to the public by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Acutely aware of the impact urban living has on the environment, a nature-first approach drives the Koichi Takada humanistic brand of architecture. **2022 IN FOCUS** The firm has ushered in a next-level era on local multi-residential complexes with the Norfolk Burleigh Heads project in collaboration with Mim Design. Boundary-pushing projects are always on the go including Solar Trees Marketplace, a solar-powered biophilic mixed-use structure in Shanghai.

**DURBACH BLOCK JAGGERS**

*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Neil Durbach, Camilla Block and David Jagers have demonstrated the expansive nature of architecture to address locale, connection and innovation for more than two decades. **2022 IN FOCUS** The firm has earned industry plaudits for residential projects House Taurus and Newcastle East End, with new build 410 Pitt Street also set to make its mark.



**KOICHI TAKADA ARCHITECTS**

*Sydney*



PHOTOGRAPHERS: RORY GARDINER (KERSTIN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS), ZHANG YONG (KOICHI TAKADA ARCHITECTS PROJECT), NIC WALKER (KOICHI TAKADA ARCHITECTS), DANIEL BOUD (DURBACH BLOCK JAGGERS)



**SMART DESIGN  
STUDIO** *Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Renowned for pushing the envelope in his projects, architect, founder and creative director William Smart lends a heightened brand of minimalism to his projects with extraordinary attention to detail, form and material expression. **2022 IN FOCUS** Residential and commercial projects keep the firm busy with Smart regularly tapped to speak at design festivals and industry panels. A multi-residential project called Norwest Quarter sees the firm put sustainable design into practice. Another project in the works is an atrium office building as part of the Barangaroo urban renewal project.

**DANIEL MOORE**  
*Melbourne*



**SIGNATURE STYLE** Architect Daniel Moore of Open Creative Studio infuses his work with community spirit and environmentally conscious thinking, speaking to location, lifestyle and innovation. **2022 IN FOCUS** Moore was awarded the Emerging Architect Prize at the 2022 Victorian Architecture Awards, recognition not only for his practice (his parents' Thinking Paddock house a prime example) but his tireless work in making architecture accessible to the wider public through his podcast *Hearing Architecture*.



**LUIGI ROSSELLI  
ARCHITECTS**  
*Sydney*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Refined spaces that embrace natural light, restored and celebrated heritage detail and innovative sustainable design elements have been at the core of the Luigi Rosselli way of thinking for more than 30 years. **2022 IN FOCUS** Collaborating with Handelsmann + Khaw on a family terrace and Alwill Interiors on mixed-use development project Ode Double Bay.



**TONY ALBERT**  
*Sydney*

Artists

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Queensland-born, Sydney-based Girramay/Yidinji/Kuku Yalanji artist Tony Albert has held racial and cultural misrepresentations to task with provoking work across mediums — paintings, stained-glass windows and commemorative plates, for example — that address these injustices. **2022 IN FOCUS** A prolific creative, Albert has work featured at the Ace Hotel Sydney, the Art Gallery of Ballarat, on the *Two Worlds Colliding* — *Water and Land* seating design of the new Sydney Football Stadium and on coasters via Third Drawer Down.



**JORDY  
KERWICK**  
*Albi, France*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Now based in France, the Melbourne-born self-taught artist's fearless, modern fables pitting domesticity against tigers and cobras have a following. **2022 IN FOCUS** Kerwick's *Le Tigre* sold for US\$277,000 earlier in the year and as well as being represented by Piermarq, he is also with Vigo Gallery in London where his sculptural work is set to make inroads.



JENNA LEE  
*Melbourne*

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Jenna Lee's multi-faceted ancestry as a Gulumeridjin (Larrakia), Wardaman and KarraJarri Saltwater woman with mixed Japanese, Chinese, Filipino and Anglo-Australian heritage is key to her exploration and reflections on culture and language through papercraft, sculpture, installation, objects and photography. **2022 IN FOCUS** Lee has had work on display from Brisbane to Melbourne's Mars Gallery to the Darwin Festival, and also undertook an awarded two-month residency at the Kyoto Art Centre.

**SIGNATURE STYLE** Through her stark, vivid-hued paintings that recall Sidney Nolan and Russell Drysdale, Brisbane-raised, Naarm-based artist Mia Boe explores her Indigenous and Burmese heritage with a visceral energy. **2022 IN FOCUS** New work with Blackartprojects as part of the Melbourne Art Fair and Sydney Contemporary where her *The Trial* series was on display.

MIA BOE  
*Melbourne*



**SIGNATURE STYLE** For more than three decades, Chinese-Australian artist Lindy Lee has delved into her ancestry and expressed her reflections through molten bronze, ink-splattered paintings and punctured steel sculptures. **2022 IN FOCUS** With stellar solo shows and award-winning public works, Lee has also been commissioned by the National Gallery of Australia to craft a \$14 million 13-tonne sculpture, *Ouroboros*. **VL**

LINDY LEE  
*Brisbane*

