

WAL

The VL50 represents the *creative talent* raising the bar and shaping — or shaking up — the Australian design industry. This year, the occasion will be *celebrated* with an awards CEREMONY presented by Mobilia.

Selected for their impact on the current design landscape and the unwavering pursuit of their *vision*, they are the LEADERS in their field, the stars on the ascent and the names ingrained in our *imagination*.

ESQ

INTERIOR DESIGN

FLACK STUDIO

Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Authenticity is the still point of David Flack's ever-spinning creative world, but designing a space that feels true to the client and studio doesn't just "happen by accident". At Flack Studio, he says, "We are focused on every detail... We consider the materiality, curation of all elements, the marriage between landscape and interior." **2023 IN FOCUS** Flack lists three highlights: Flack Studio HQ, Tamarama House, and the East Melbourne project, which appears in this issue. **UP NEXT** Flack Studio Architecture will launch with co-principal and architect Richard Blight. "We've been working together for years and being able to officially launch our architecture practice is a dream come true," says Flack, who will also complete the Los Angeles home of singer-songwriter Troye Sivan this year.



ACME

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The Australian hospitality scene owes a lot to interior designer Caroline Choker and architect Vince Alafaci, founders of multidisciplinary design firm Acme. Also partners in life, their narrative-driven perspective, comprehensive exploration of material and desire to push creative boundaries culminate “in a complete immersive and sensory experience” that invites indulgence. **2023 IN FOCUS** Melbourne’s Apollo Inn, TotalFusion Platinum luxury wellness club in Newstead, Queensland, and The Grounds of South Eveleigh in Sydney. **UP NEXT** Some highly anticipated venue openings including a new Supernormal restaurant in Brisbane, and Song Bird and Bobbie’s in Double Bay.



ALEXANDER & CO

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Principal Jeremy Bull and his team design with the intention of creating connectivity, experience through materiality and a rich sense of place. “Our work is born from stories... it becomes textural, patinaed, full of shade and shadow, surprising shape and form,” says Bull. “We like to find the mythical and magical.” **2023 IN FOCUS** Alexander & Co became B Corp and Carbon Neutral Certified, all while expanding the team’s ‘home’, Alexander House, and taking on residential and hospitality projects in Sydney and Queenstown’s historic Ayrburn Precinct. **UP NEXT** The Isle of Wight Hotel on Phillip Island marks “a huge architectural milestone for the practice”, and there’ll be more hospitality ventures in Auckland and the Gold Coast.



FIONA LYNCH
Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY “Our work is soulful and nuanced, exploring new narratives and artisanal techniques to craft unique interiors for cultural, residential and hospitality spaces,” says designer Fiona Lynch, who combines her fine arts expertise with an assured way with texture and colour, inventive uses of space and a harmonious melding of the raw and the refined. **2023 IN FOCUS** Fiona Lynch Office has been working on a major Australian cultural institution — the new Powerhouse Museum in Parramatta. Her new Melbourne residential project also features in this issue. **UP NEXT** Lynch says she is looking forward to a luxury hotel project in Queensland.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: ANSON SMART (FLACK STUDIO AND ALEXANDER & CO), GIERAN MURPHY (ACME), SEAN FENNESSY (FIONA LYNCH)

HANDELSMANN + KHAW

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Though Tania Handelsmann and Gillian Khaw say their style is guided by a considered approach rather than a certain look, their work is distinctly elegant, achieving the sort of beauty that's free of formality and trends, balancing quiet luxury with a dose of playfulness. **2023 IN FOCUS** It was a year enriched with variety, from Edwardian-era houses and "a Miesian box" to Khaw's 1980s *American Psycho*-inspired apartment. **UP NEXT** The team will move into a new Paddington studio, which they describe as "an opportunity for us to 'H+K' an entire building". Plus, a collaboration lighting range with Dunlin is in the works.



STYLE PHILOSOPHY The design practice founded by Paul Hecker and Hamish Guthrie creates resolved spaces that talk to a quality rather than an aesthetic, anchored by materiality, depth, beauty and a calming familiarity. But with time, Hecker says their style has become harder to define. "I take influences and ideas from a broad church... as we mature we're more open to new ideas." **2023 IN FOCUS** It's the smaller projects that resonated most with the directors, who recall two intimate Sydney residences filled with "magical moments that make you take a deep breath". **UP NEXT** Hecker predicts an exciting year ahead, starting with the opening of The StandardX hotel in Melbourne. The practice is also working on cruise ships for APT — a first for the team.

RICHARDS STANISICH

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The intention of this interior design and architecture practice is to elicit feeling and possibility, and when it comes to style directors Kirsten Stanisich and Jonathan Richards agree it is ever-evolving. Says Richards: "Our work reflects a passion towards unique details, exploring materials and creating a very natural design response." **2023 IN FOCUS** The new Jacksons on George hospitality venue, historic Sydney houses and a flagship real estate office. The team are also in London for the design of a multi-residential project. **UP NEXT** The practice's community of long-term clients and builders have become friends, and Richards says it's these relationships that they most look forward to. "Projects run for years and the daily human connections are incredibly important to a great outcome."





YSG STUDIO

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Stepping into a YSG interior is like slipping on a mood ring. “My projects hopefully stir the soul and spark an emotive drive to feel your best self within them,” says director Yasmine Ghoniem, whose bold concepts, confident use of colour and sensitivity to touch reveal a nomadic curiosity and global perspective. **2023 IN FOCUS** Ghoniem co-hosted the television series *Grand Designs Transformations*, which premiered this year. YSG launched Real Majik, a rug collection with Tappeti, and projects took the team around the world, while back in Australia they worked on residences in Noosa, Byron Shire and Fitzroy, the latter revealed in this issue. **UP NEXT** A resort for creatives in Bali, a countryside hospitality venue in Uruguay, homes in the Middle East and Byron Hinterland, restaurants on Sydney Harbour and a retail space for fashion label Alémais.

DYLAN FARRELL DESIGN

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY For Dylan and Nicolette Farrell, the rejection of a prescribed style is a style in itself. Eschewing trends in favour of conversation-starting furnishings, purposeful art and intricate details, the design studio marries its classical ideals with a contemporary attitude and international fingerprint. **2023 IN FOCUS** The Sydney residential project in this issue was a major feat, with decorative pieces imported from all over the world. **UP NEXT** Dylan Farrell Design is launching a furniture collection, After Editions, in the United States and Europe with pieces crafted by makers in Sydney and Los Angeles. Projects across Australia are also in the works.



PHOTOGRAPHERS: KEITH HUGHES (DYLAN FARRELL DESIGN), OLIVIA REPACI (TAMSIN JOHNSON), ANSON SMART (GREG NATALE), SHARYN CAIRNS (GOLDEN)



TAMSIN JOHNSON

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The fresh, epoch-hopping eclecticism that underpins Tamsin Johnson's oeuvre is an extraction of "unique pieces of furniture, retired crafts, techniques and 'real' art" that Johnson places in conversation with one another. Says Johnson: "I want just enough tension in a space to create actual harmony."

2023 IN FOCUS A strong mix of residential and commercial endeavours, from a jewellery showroom, parfumerie and restaurant to private homes including the project in this issue. **UP NEXT** Johnson's second book with Rizzoli will be published this year. Plus, new sites for P Johnson and a large-scale heritage-site hospitality project.

GREG NATALE

Sydney



STYLE PHILOSOPHY According to directors Kylie Buhagiar and Alicia McKimm, the name Golden references the golden ratio in mathematics, "the balance of everything, the feeling that something is just right". The duo's desire to establish harmony translates to interior spaces that are at once reductionist yet expressive, refined yet emotive. **2023 IN FOCUS** The Golden team marked 10 years in business with the completion of their Fawcner Park studio in Melbourne. **UP NEXT** Golden has several residential projects nearing completion, including McKimm's own home. Residences in Sydney and Perth will also receive the Golden touch.

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Greg Natale is a self-described modernist who loves maximalism. The interior designer starts with a clean interior and functional approach before applying "curated layers of pattern, colour and texture to build immersive spaces with strong personalities". Through this layering process, Natale's style reveals itself to be bold, eclectic and tailored. **2023 IN FOCUS** Two stand-outs for Natale were the completion of a Bellevue Hill home and a postmodern-style villa on the Central Coast. **UP NEXT** A "hectic but exhilarating" year awaits, with residential projects in London and New York, an exhibition in Milan with Serafini, the introduction of a Kaolin Tiles collaboration and a new bedding line with David Jones.



BLAINEY NORTH

Sydney



STYLE PHILOSOPHY A Blainey North project is synonymous with grand gestures and glamour, yet the renowned designer asserts her style “is a celebration of life”. Her calling, she says, “is to interpret how people want to feel [and] create spaces that make them feel happy and motivated”. **2023 IN FOCUS** North identifies two New York projects: a Central Park apartment and an estate involving international artists and artisans. North also announced her global studio’s collaboration with Armani Casa. **UP NEXT** A new accessories and furniture collection, homes in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, apartments in New York, a luxury wellness clinic in Mosman and “a secret project in Mayfair”.

THOMAS HAMEL & ASSOCIATES

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Thomas Hamel designs rooms that embrace a “cross pollination” of inspirations and worlds, and every project is defined by the esteemed design firm’s sophistication, creative confidence and international scope. **2023 IN FOCUS** Particularly meaningful projects include the English countryside estate of longstanding clients and the completion of a grand Victorian home in Melbourne, three years in the making. **UP NEXT** Expect projects from “Sydney to Melbourne, Mayfair to St. Moritz”. The Thomas Hamel Graduate Mentorship Program will welcome a new mentee, says Hamel. “I look forward to sharing what I have learned over my 30-plus years in the industry, doing my part to take Australian design to the next level for future generations.”



PATTERN STUDIO

Sydney



STYLE PHILOSOPHY Well-balanced spaces that give a wink to those who enter them — this is what founders Lily Goodwin and Josh Cain hope to achieve. “Our spaces reward those who look closely with little architectural surprises. If we can make you relax and smile, we’ve done our jobs. If we can take your breath away, we’ve done our best work.” **2023 IN FOCUS** The interior design practice worked with fashion label Song for the Mute on its Sydney flagship. The pair also completed their first residential project, a Paddington terrace. **UP NEXT** Goodwin says there’ll be more work with Song for the Mute, plus a furniture brand’s retail space, a Sydney home and a Byron retreat.

ARENT&PYKE

Sydney



STYLE PHILOSOPHY After 16 years at the helm of their design practice, Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke say their style has matured but the desire to “deliver uplifting, enduring and beautiful” spaces remains key. What is felt is as vital as what is seen, and they champion sustainability, mental health and inclusivity in design. **2023 IN FOCUS** Alongside the home in this issue, Arent and Pyke are especially proud of two projects: KODA Cutters hair salon in Sydney’s Queen Victoria Building and Speargrass House in Queenstown, New Zealand. **UP NEXT** An historic hotel on Sydney Harbour, residences in regional New South Wales, Melbourne, Margaret River and Queenstown, and a QVB hospitality project.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: FELIX FOREST (BLAINEY NORTH), SHAUN CRAWFORD (THOMAS HAMEL), ANSON SMART (ARENT&PYKE), TOM ROSS (PATTERN STUDIO), TIM SALISBURY (AKIN ATELIER)

AKIN ATELIER *Sydney*

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Director Kelvin Ho and his team of interior designers and architects put positive, purposeful experiences at the centre of their work. Every project possesses a unique energy and no two are alike. Says Ho: “The underlying constant is a narrative... expressed through materiality and form.” **2023 IN FOCUS** Totti’s Lorne in Victoria was particularly thought-provoking. The restaurant challenged Akin to “evolve a concept into a regional, seaside location”. **UP NEXT** Good Luck, a restaurant in a Sydney heritage space. “It’s a riff on the Hong Kong diners we grew up frequenting in the suburbs.”

STYLE PHILOSOPHY A Phoebe Nicol interior speaks in refined gestures, subtly weaving the interior architect's appreciation for history into modern spaces. "I find myself drawn to the interplay of two distinct worlds: the elegance of classic styles and the dynamic energy of contemporary design," says Nicol, who co-owns The Vault Sydney, an antique and 20th-century furniture showroom. **2023 IN FOCUS** Her Kings Road, Clairvaux and Jersey Road residences were the highlights of the year. **UP NEXT** Nicol and her team have projects across Australia, including a Spanish Mission-style house in Perth, a Mornington Peninsula home and several Sydney properties.

PHOEBE NICOL

Sydney



STYLE PHILOSOPHY For interior designer Alexandra Ponting, beauty and comfort can, and should, co-exist effortlessly. Whether designing a private home or flagship boutique, her style is spatially minimal and tactile in materiality with a romantic undertone, and Ponting says she balances “strength in foundations and detail... and charm through art and decor”. **2023 IN FOCUS** Three Sydney residential projects shine through: Federation House, Terresford House and Arts & Crafts House. **UP NEXT** The studio has several new builds in the pipeline in collaboration with architecture firms.



AP DESIGN HOUSE
Sydney



STUDIO DOHERTY
Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY What defines Decus founder Alexandra Donohoe Church’s style? “Intuition,” she says. “It’s more interesting for designers to have parameters that breathe, flex and stretch from project to project, and we may evolve away from this approach... who knows?” Her own desire is for spaces imbued with the quirks, qualities and possessions that make it feel at home. **2023 IN FOCUS** A penthouse overlooking Bondi Beach, the reinvention of a modernist house amid Sydney parklands and a new beachfront abode in Cottesloe, Western Australia. **UP NEXT** Donohoe Church remains tight-lipped about the studio’s upcoming projects but hints at “overseas adventures”.

DECUS
Sydney



STYLE PHILOSOPHY Alive with colour and character, the bold homes and contemporary commercial spaces designed by Mardi Doherty and her team are highly functional, resolved, innovative and unafraid of making an impact. “Our style is informed by our values — we are an inclusive studio that fosters collective creativity and champions the power of imagination,” says Doherty. **2023 IN FOCUS** Leonard Joel auction house’s new offices and gallery spaces in Melbourne were a highlight. **UP NEXT** Residential projects are in development, including a collaboration with Rob Kennon Architects and Myles Baldwin Design. On a smaller scale, the studio is designing an airstream caravan interior.

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Tom Fereday's commitment to honest design makes for truly enduring furniture and lighting. He sees a tension between the celebration of natural materials and finishes “contrasted by contemporary design with a desire for innovation”, and this style has led to collaborations with global brands and exhibitions with major galleries. **2023 IN FOCUS** New edition works including marble lighting sculptures for Milan Design Week, furniture for the Art Gallery of New South Wales library and members' lounge, and works for the Powerhouse Museum. **UP NEXT** Fereday's studio is designing new collections for Milan and Melbourne Design Week events, as well as commissioned pieces for the Renzo Piano-designed Aurora Place in Sydney.



TOM FEREDAY
Sydney

PRODUCT DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHERS: MATTIA PANUNZIO (TOM FEREDAY), PIER GARTHÉW (VOLKER HAUG STUDIO), JOHN TSIAVIS (CHRISTOPHER BOOTS)



VOLKER HAUG STUDIO
Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY What Volker Haug started 20 years ago as a solo project making one-off lighting pieces has grown into a renowned studio with a pared-back, elegantly detailed aesthetic, though every design has an eye-wink of irony that recalls the studio's early days of play and discovery. **2023 IN FOCUS** Volker Haug Studio presented a selection of lights as part of Mohd Sofina, a symphony of music and design hosted at Officina Milano and curated by Nichetto Studio. **UP NEXT** The studio will celebrate its 20th anniversary and set its sights on international ventures with new gallery partners in the United States and Europe. Plus, a new series of lighting will launch at Milan Design Week.

STYLE PHILOSOPHY For industrial designer Christopher Boots, lighting is made to transform architecture. Guided by the maxim 'Let there be light', his practice illuminates the richness of handmade techniques and studies the transformative possibilities of nature, geology, symbology and geometry. **2023 IN FOCUS** The studio celebrated 12 years of practice with the launch of its Wings Of Pegasus lighting series. Originally conceived for Hermès, the pendant and sconce bring the mythical horse's wings to life with natural quartz crystal and brass. **UP NEXT** A new collection will debut at Milan Design Week, followed by Melbourne Design Week.



CHRISTOPHER BOOTS
Melbourne

OKO OLO

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The creative partnership of Juliet Ramsey and Genevieve Hromas is bound by a shared fascination with form. Ramsey and Hromas describe their aesthetic as “austere, utilitarian and streamlined, almost Bauhaus-ian... it carries an air of the absurd”, and their works of “disparate elements brought together” explore materiality: timber, stone, metal, ceramic, fabric.

2023 IN FOCUS The duo launched a collection of functional sculptures at the Villa Alba Museum for Melbourne Design Week. Another highlight was Oko Olo’s first solo show at C.Gallery. **UP NEXT** Their next collection will be presented at C.Gallery. “We will also be exploring our hardware castings and looking for a new studio — a place to get our hands dirtier and explore ideas.”



OLIVIA BOSSY

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The intention and heart that designer Olivia Bossy applies to her work is tangible and yet she distils her style down to “simple things to live with, made with a lot of care and thought”. The ‘simple things’ Bossy refers to include sculpted pieces of furniture, such as a daybed of folded stainless-steel sheets, ebonised Tasmanian blackwood and cotton, and interior spaces that employ materials in rich, honest ways. **2023 IN FOCUS** Bossy found joy in the process of researching and collecting for “a large heritage site”. Her work was also shown at GSL Gallery in Paris. **UP NEXT** Commercial and residential projects are brewing, and Bossy is looking forward to developing new commissions.

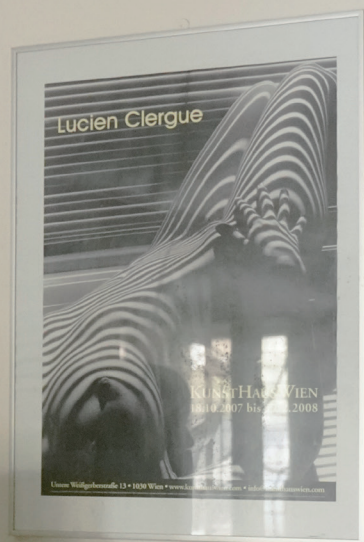
STYLE PHILOSOPHY Michael Gittings’ approach to product and furniture design is driven by a sincere interest in architecture, metalwork treatments and technologies employed throughout history. He balances rigorously studied techniques with an unplanned dialogue between himself and his materials, resulting in functional forms that stem from nature and the peculiar. **2023 IN FOCUS** Designing steel pieces that interact with the human body for his show *Venus Whispered* with Oigall Projects was particularly thrilling. **UP NEXT** Gittings says he is looking forward to “moving completely away from function and playing with new forms and techniques to express a different side of my practice”.



MICHAEL GITTINGS STUDIO

Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The term polymath may get bandied about, but Annie Paxton is rising to embody such a label. Paxton works as an architect alongside her own multidisciplinary practice, studying the reciprocal nature of objects and spaces. Her functional, sculptural pieces are made from silk, steel, chainmail and recycled fabrics and metals, and she says her style is sensorial and defined by “a raw, textural palette”. **2023 IN FOCUS** Paxton showed new pieces at Melbourne Design Fair, as well as at Trade Between for Melbourne Design Week and At The Above Presents. **UP NEXT** New work and more group shows, including an exhibition for Craft Victoria in line with Melbourne Design Week.



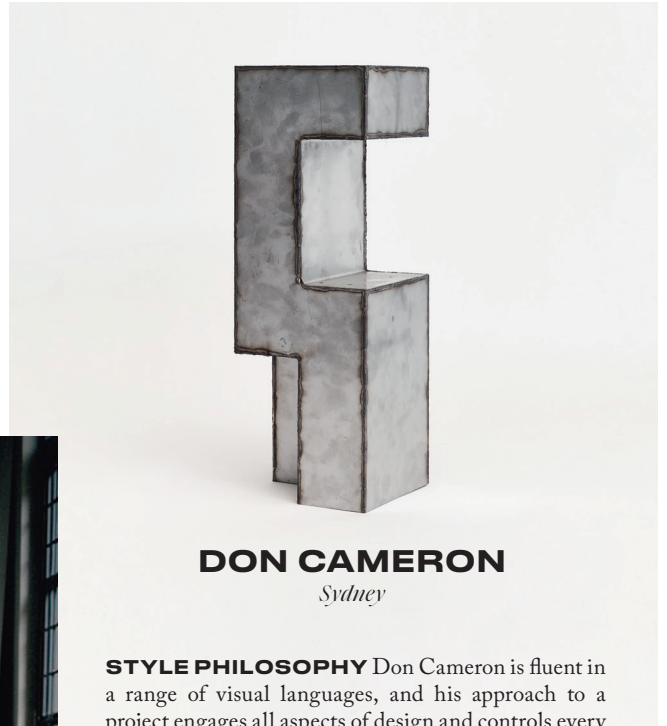
ANNIE PAXTON
Melbourne





TRENT JANSEN
Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Trent Jansen applies his ‘Design Anthropology’ method to the making of furniture and products including chairs, cabinets and tables that serve as artefacts shaped by history, cultural identity and his collaborators’ own approaches. **2023 IN FOCUS** His Magistrato al Sal Nero Cabinet was developed as part of the Venice Design Biennial Residency 2022, and exhibited at the Biennial in 2023. *Kurunpa Kunpu | Strong Spirit* was also a highlight — the collection was a collaboration with Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara artists and designer Tanya Singer, and Djabugay and Western Yalanji artist and designer Errol Evans. **UP NEXT** The Magistrato al Sal Nero Cabinet will be shown at Salone del Mobile in Milan, and *Kurunpa Kunpu | Strong Spirit* will be exhibited at London Design Festival and PAD London.



DON CAMERON
Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Don Cameron is fluent in a range of visual languages, and his approach to a project engages all aspects of design and controls every phase of the process. Still, he balances this with an awareness of the emotion that every space, object and image has. **2023 IN FOCUS** Cameron showed works at Melbourne Design Fair with Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert. He also completed a total redesign of, and furnishings for, Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban’s Sydney penthouse. **UP NEXT** His *Translations* body of work will appear at Alcova in Milan. Plus, the renovation of his apartment gallery, and a curation of historic designs will arrive in time for future projects.



LAKER STUDIO
Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY A conversation between friends David Caon and Henry Wilson evolved into Laker Studio, a shared project with the goal of creating beautiful, functional objects. The industrial designers say their style “is defined by the diversity of our individual approach to design and manufacture. Each product is a conversation about the details and decisions on how far to take the creative process.” **2023 IN FOCUS** An aluminium version of the Alpine Chair showed at Melbourne Design Fair with Oigáll Projects, and prototypes of the TLP Table were made for Landmark by Lexus. The table will go into production this year, albeit in a different form. **UP NEXT** Laker Studio will release more products — first up, the Louvre Wall Light.

**KERSTIN THOMPSON
ARCHITECTS***Melbourne*

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Director Kerstin Thompson's practice is "a joyful counter to our highly digital lives". Governed by rigour and clarity, her team approach design as a way to speak to people and their situations. "Architecture as a way to celebrate why 'here' is not the same as 'there'," says Thompson. **2023 IN FOCUS** The Melbourne Holocaust Museum was Highly Commended for Culture at the World Architecture Festival, and Kerr Street Residences won the Best Overend Award at the Victorian Architecture Awards. Kerstin Thompson Architects also completed Whitehorse performing arts centre in Victoria with BKK Architects. **UP NEXT** The Eva and Marc Besen Centre, a new arts education space for the TarraWarra Museum of Art in the Yarra Valley.

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Since 2016 State of Kin has expanded the scope and vision of architecture in Perth. Led by the ethos ‘parameters create possibilities’, the team of architects, interior designers and construction experts share a dynamic dialogue and respect for innovation, bold expression and craftsmanship. **2023 IN FOCUS** A residential project “with an open brief” and receptive clients resulted in a totally unique home conceived using just four key materials. **UP NEXT** The roll call of residential and commercial projects includes heritage-listed Perth homes and the completed renovation of a new State of Kin studio in Subiaco, Perth.

LUIGI ROSSELLI ARCHITECTS

Sydney



STYLE PHILOSOPHY If a client summed up Luigi Rosselli’s style they might say ‘curves’ — “which would be true!” — says Rosselli, “however the curves are just one expression of a broader humanist philosophy of architecture”. The carbon-neutral practice creates elegant spaces with “a strong focus on the environmental impact of the architecture, from how a design exists within the landscape to the materials used”. **2023 IN FOCUS** The year was defined by “rebuilding and giving new life to existing buildings” — the rejuvenation of a Sydney Harbour penthouse, the conversion of three homes and a return to a previous project, Jardin d’Eden. **UP NEXT** Apartment buildings, including the practice’s largest yet, and several residential projects. Rosselli says one such site “may be our building of the decade”.



STATE OF KIN

Perth

STYLE PHILOSOPHY This year marks Kennedy Nolan’s 25th anniversary, and to this day directors Rachel Nolan and Patrick Kennedy consider “confidence, boldness, freshness and a good-natured spirit” to be fundamental to their style, which is led by the principles of modernism and the power of creating positivity through design. **2023 IN FOCUS** Two major collaborative projects in Melbourne: Nightingale Village in Brunswick and Australia’s first net-zero retrofit of Wilam Ngarrang building in Fitzroy. **UP NEXT** The opening of a new city hotel, Melbourne Place. The practice is responsible for the architecture, interiors and brand identity.



KENNEDY NOLAN

Melbourne

WARDLE

Melbourne & Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY With studios now in Melbourne and Sydney, globally renowned practice Wardle creates buildings and spaces for the future while reconciling these built environments with Country, drawing on the knowledge of collaborators and architect John Wardle's insatiable curiosity. **2023 IN FOCUS** It was a year of firsts: the launch of the 477 Pitt Street building (home of Wardle's Sydney studio), a rural house in New South Wales, and the Victorian Heart Hospital, which was awarded best health project at the World Architecture Festival. **UP NEXT** Wardle says the practice is currently developing "a world-class dining experience in a cherished Melbourne location".



STYLE PHILOSOPHY Mat Hinds and Poppy Taylor dedicate their practice to the environment they work within. "We can say with absolute integrity that our work is for the community... it seeks to delve into the social and historical communal fabric of this place," says Hinds. That focus affords the architects an awareness of what makes certain experiences resonate locally. "Our work seeks empathy with its context, and with the community it serves." **2023 IN FOCUS** James Street, a house that recalls the masonry traditions of Launceston, and The Cottage School, which involved the addition of new classrooms to a Federation cottage. **UP NEXT** Transforming Tasmania's longest running coffin factory into an urban precinct, "a house of hemp" and "a house of earth". Plus, work with the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania.



SJB

Sydney & Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY "We want to amplify the qualities that make a project unique to reveal beauty, delight and joy," say directors Adam Haddow and Andrew Parr who lead teams in Sydney and Melbourne. SJB's scope is expansive yet retains intimacy and empathy, whether planning urban developments, reviving public spaces or designing residences. **2023 IN FOCUS** 19 Waterloo Street won Interior of the Year at the World Architecture Festival and the Robin Boyd Award for housing from the Australian Institute of Architects. **UP NEXT** Surry Hills Village, SJB's combined residential, hotel and commercial project, will be revealed. Plus homes, an office building and social housing in Melbourne.

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Founder and creative director William Smart's work is holistic, rigorous and atmospheric, and he says Smart Design Studio projects are "united by attention to detail and a passion for innovation". Smart favours robust materials that "get better with age and are full of character and warmth".

2023 IN FOCUS The studio celebrated its 25th anniversary, a year that included a Surry Hills restaurant, a Green Square tower and the first US store for Dion Lee in Miami. **UP NEXT** Smart says the studio is pursuing carbon neutrality, which encompasses finding ways to do more with less. "For this 'new chapter' you'll see architecture and interiors that are calm yet bold, simple yet complex, and classic yet contemporary."



SMART DESIGN STUDIO
Sydney



CARTER WILLIAMSON ARCHITECTS
Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The pursuit of happiness in everyday life underpins the way Carter Williamson Architects works. Spaces are dynamic, playful and spatially exciting, materials are vibrant and robust, and builds maximise the health-giving elements of nature in order to enhance life within. **2023 IN FOCUS** Two Sydney projects tapped into the studio's talent for reenergising existing buildings: Wurrungwuri, a waterfront home, and The Village Preschool. Principal Ben Peake was awarded the National Emerging Architect Prize. **UP NEXT** Homes demonstrating Sydney's diverse beauty, including a heritage-listed waterfront estate, a cliff-top home and a site overlooking Middle Harbour.

STYLE PHILOSOPHY "Our style sits between the deadly serious and the patently absurd," says Neil Durbach of the practice he co-directs with Camilla Block and David Jagers. Their team explore the possibilities of architecture while demonstrating a sensitivity to landscape, innovation and pleasure. **2023 IN FOCUS** A collaborative endeavour, the Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal project aims to set a new standard for what a museum can be — energy net-positive, water neutral and zero waste. **UPNEXT** A regional New South Wales farmhouse, a Byron Bay home, the "improbably thin" Pencil Tower hotel on Sydney's Pitt Street, and a timber vase and coffee table to be exhibited at Cult.

DURBACH BLOCK JAGGERS
Sydney



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KAYLENE WHISKEY
Indulkana, South Australia

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Inspiring delight and celebrating *kungka kunpu* (strong women) is central to Kaylene Whiskey's practice. A Yankunytjatjara artist, Whiskey details her paintings with empowered pop culture icons, bridging cultures and blending the traditional and the contemporary. **2023 IN FOCUS** Whiskey was a finalist in the Archibald and Sir John Sulman Prizes. A show at Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery led to acquisitions by Australian arts institutions, and the National Gallery of Victoria acquired paintings in partnership with Mecca, which featured on Mecca's 2023 holiday packaging. **UP NEXT** Her most ambitious project to date: a large-scale mixed-media installation as part of the 24th Biennale of Sydney, Ten Thousand Suns. Plus, new works at Melbourne Art Fair and an exhibition at Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery.

ART



DANIEL BOYD
Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Acclaimed artist Daniel Boyd critically engages with Australia-Pacific colonial history. Boyd's paintings and installations draw on his Aboriginal and ni-Vanuatu heritage, as well as photographs and references, to expose the subjectivity of memory and recorded history. Works are often obscured by dots, leaving viewers to 'fill in the gaps'. **2023 IN FOCUS** *Rainbow Serpent (Version)* at Gropius Bau in Berlin marked his first comprehensive solo exhibition in Europe. Boyd was curated into *The National 4* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Guggenheim Museum acquired works from his show *Tacit Testudo* at Roslyn Oxley9. **UP NEXT** Boyd began the year with *Dreamland*, a new exhibition at Marian Goodman Gallery in New York.

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOSHUA MORRIS (DANIEL BOYD)

JASON PHU

Melbourne

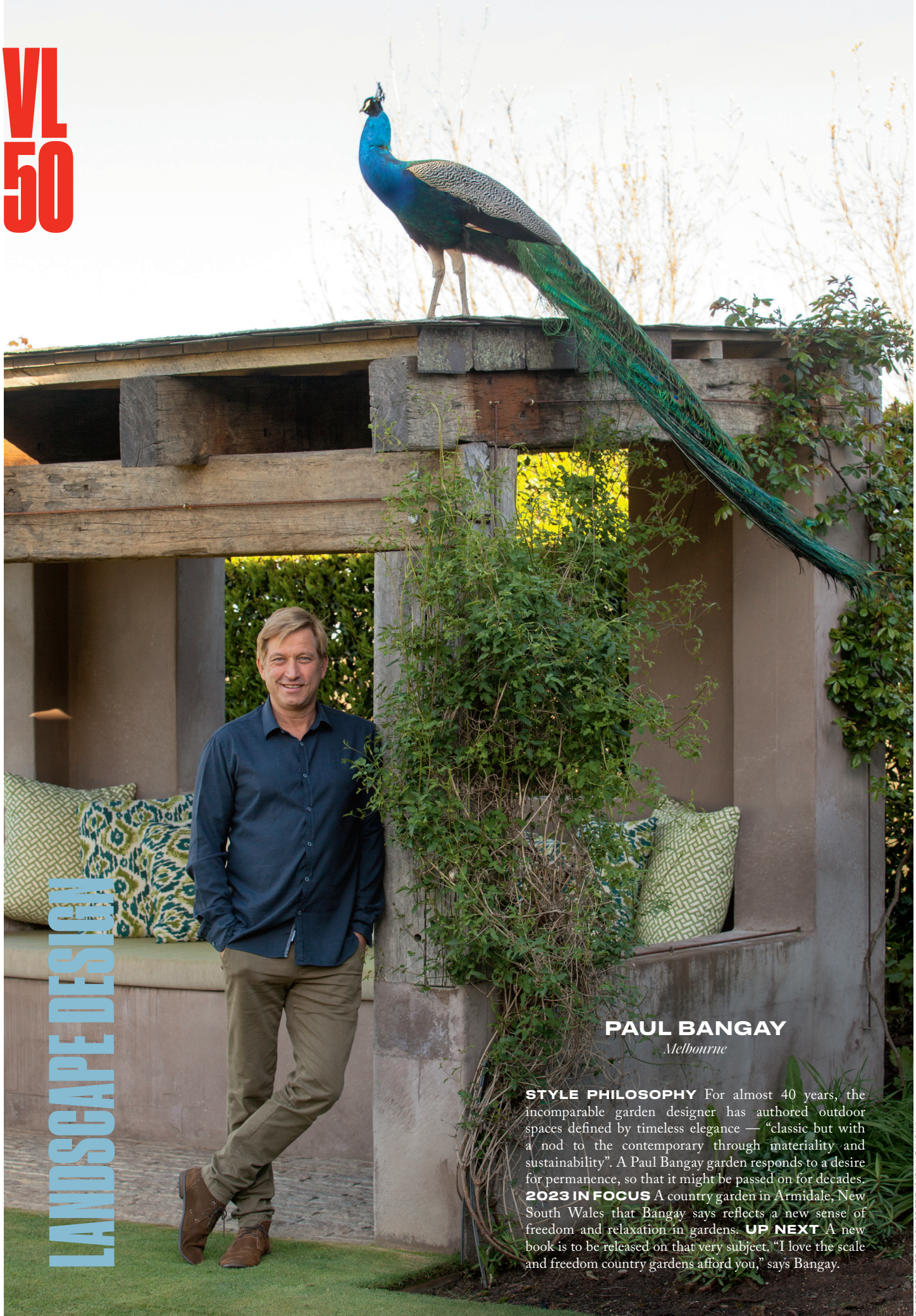
STYLE PHILOSOPHY Jason Phu works across painting, drawing, installation and performance, using humour to explore experiences of cultural dislocation and tell personal stories. His references, including calligraphy, language, toys and pop culture symbols, are employed to create fantastical works and new meanings that will transcend time and culture. **2023 IN FOCUS** The multidisciplinary artist turned heads with his performance installation *Without Us You Would Have Never Learnt About Love* at Dark Mofo. He says another “fun build” was his installation at The National 4 survey of contemporary Australian art. **UP NEXT** Phu is working on upcoming shows as well as personal projects including an animated movie and video game.



JULIA GUTMAN

Sydney

STYLE PHILOSOPHY Julia Gutman is a collector — “I like to keep records of time with objects,” she says. The artist’s preoccupation with “bits and pieces”, intimacy and community layers her mixed-media artworks with stories and memories about the people she depicts. These patchwork-like pieces are made using found textiles and fabrics belonging to her subjects. **2023 IN FOCUS** Gutman won the 2023 Archibald Prize with *Head in the sky, feet on the ground* and she describes her time spent working in Italy at the Palazzo Monti artist residency in Brescia as “a highlight”. **UP NEXT** Having moved into a new studio at Artspace, Gutman is excited to announce a Melbourne solo show with Sullivan+Strumpf in March.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN

PAUL BANGAY
Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY For almost 40 years, the incomparable garden designer has authored outdoor spaces defined by timeless elegance — “classic but with a nod to the contemporary through materiality and sustainability”. A Paul Bangay garden responds to a desire for permanence, so that it might be passed on for decades. **2023 IN FOCUS** A country garden in Armidale, New South Wales that Bangay says reflects a new sense of freedom and relaxation in gardens. **UP NEXT** A new book is to be released on that very subject. “I love the scale and freedom country gardens afford you,” says Bangay.



SECRET GARDENS

Sydney

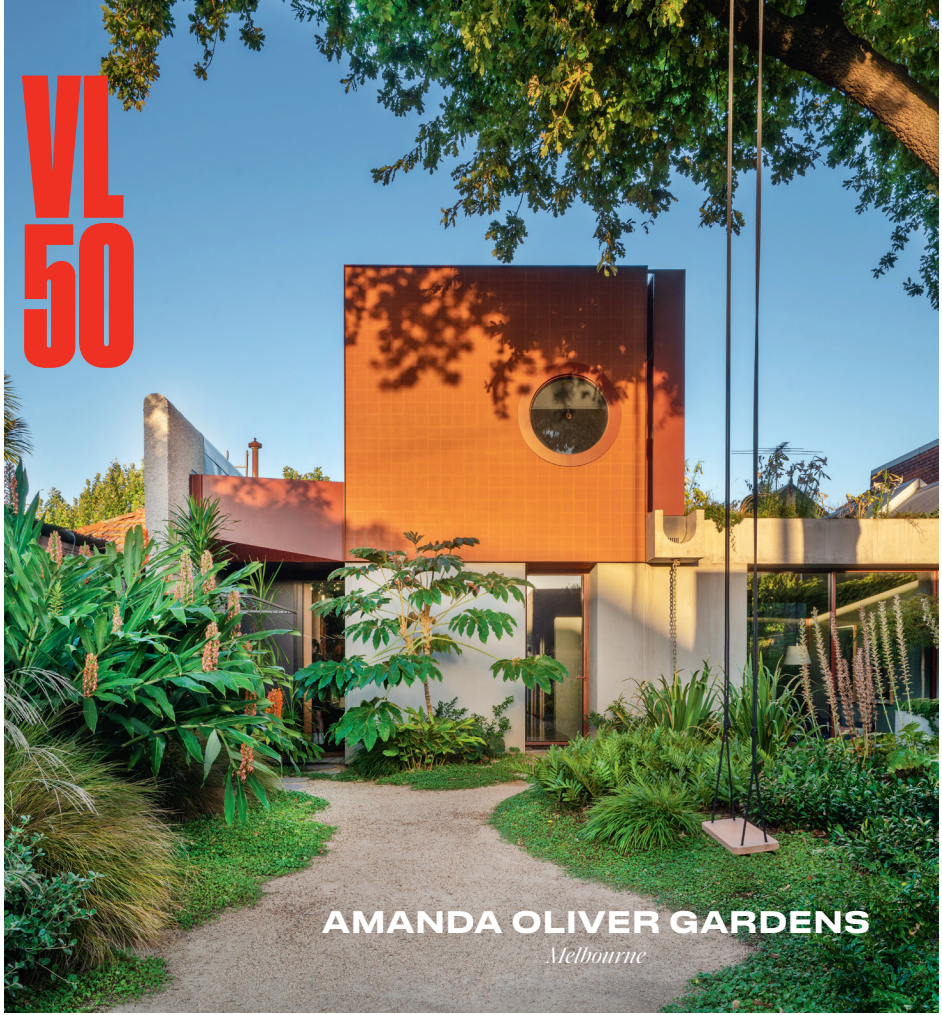
STYLE PHILOSOPHY Under the creative direction of Matthew Cantwell, Secret Gardens specialises in unconventional residential settings, from inner-city rooftops and courtyards to rambling acreage. Though the gardens evoke a feeling of abundance, Cantwell says maintaining simplicity and balancing practicality with beauty is key. **2023 IN FOCUS** The breadth of the studio's work can be summed up in two projects: Park House in Perth, which explored the relationship between the built form and nature in an urban context; and the entire garden of an 1887 residence in Glebe. **UP NEXT** Gardens great and small, from Sydney rooftops to acreage on the Mornington Peninsula.



STYLE PHILOSOPHY Dangar Barin Smith is helmed by landscape designer William Dangar alongside Naomi Barin and Tom Smith, who combine vast horticultural knowledge with distinctive creative direction. The multidisciplinary firm and landscape design practice is defined by its naturalistic style and focus on finding the optimum relationship between architectural form and expressive planting. **2023 IN FOCUS** The team worked on an award-winning SJB Sydney architectural project, as well as several regional projects. **UP NEXT** "We're expanding our work mix to include more multi-residential and hospitality projects across the country," the team say. They're also completing their new office and opportunities await in New Zealand.

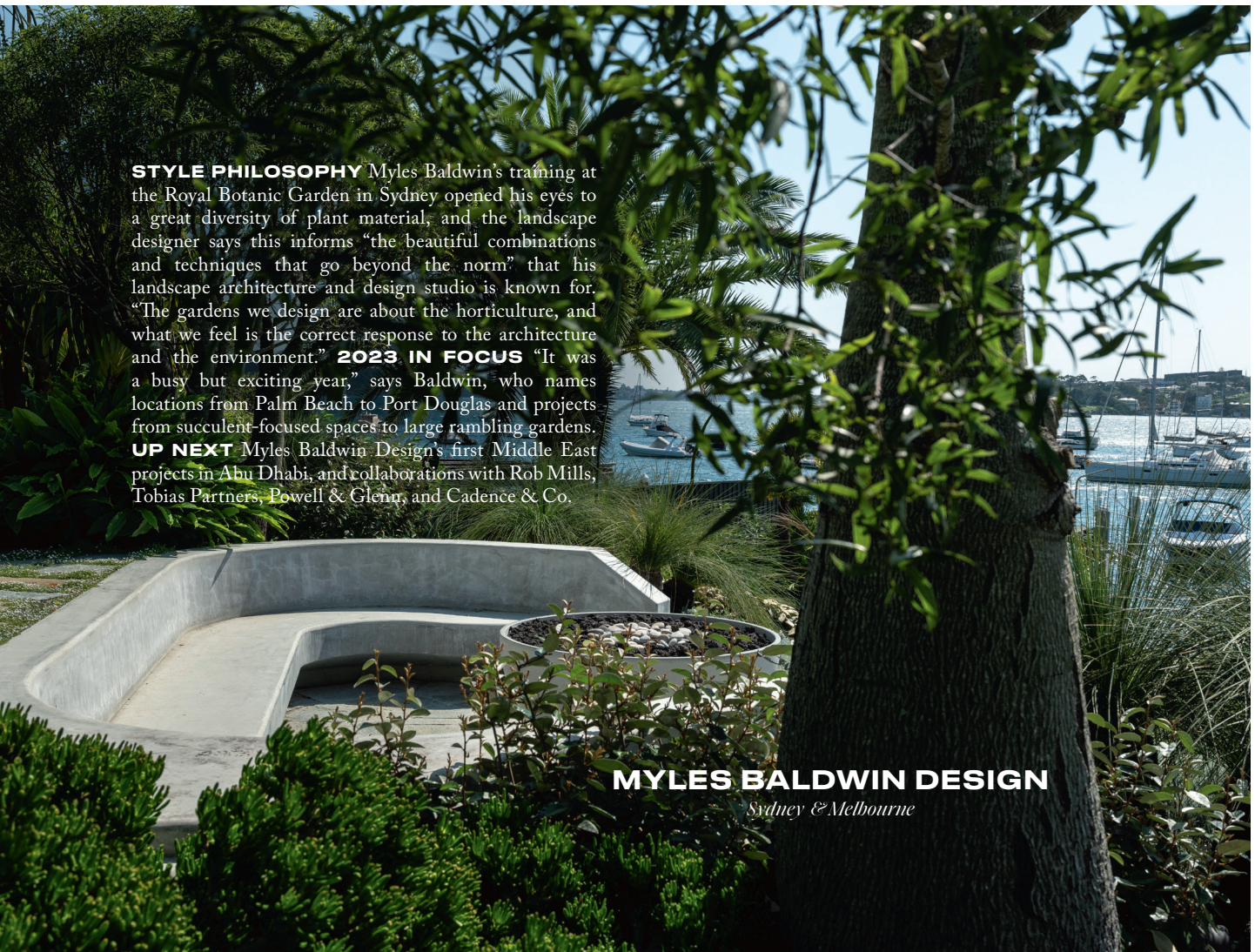
DANGAR BARIN SMITH

Sydney



AMANDA OLIVER GARDENS
Melbourne

STYLE PHILOSOPHY The landscape and garden design office has nurtured a reputation for cultivating timeless spaces that create connections to place and associations through plants. Amanda Oliver says her “plant-focused” spaces emphasise “the soft rather than the harder built aspects of a lot of landscape design”. **2023 IN FOCUS** Gardens were designed for projects by Kennedy Nolan and Architecture architecture, and residential work ranged from “tiny inner-city courtyards to expansive gardens in country and coastal locations”. **UP NEXT** Commercial and residential projects of varying sizes and locations are to come.



STYLE PHILOSOPHY Myles Baldwin’s training at the Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney opened his eyes to a great diversity of plant material, and the landscape designer says this informs “the beautiful combinations and techniques that go beyond the norm” that his landscape architecture and design studio is known for. “The gardens we design are about the horticulture, and what we feel is the correct response to the architecture and the environment.” **2023 IN FOCUS** “It was a busy but exciting year,” says Baldwin, who names locations from Palm Beach to Port Douglas and projects from succulent-focused spaces to large rambling gardens. **UP NEXT** Myles Baldwin Design’s first Middle East projects in Abu Dhabi, and collaborations with Rob Mills, Tobias Partners, Powell & Glenn, and Cadence & Co.

MYLES BALDWIN DESIGN
Sydney & Melbourne