

HOME / SYDNEY

Layered Minimalism



Surrounded on three sides by the Parramatta River and offering some of Sydney's best waterfront views, the suburb of Drummoyne is where a young family decided to create their dream home. The homeowners already had years of experience developing high-end properties for others, but this marked the first time they had built something for themselves.

After discovering the work of sjs Interior Design on Instagram, the couple — who have three young daughters — reached out to the studio's founder Sarah Jayne Marriott. 'Our style and design aesthetic resonated with them,' Marriott says. 'From the beginning, they were open and responsive to our conceptual ideas, trusting us to take on their vision to create something bespoke and beautiful.'

The four-bedroom home is organised over three levels: on the basement level are a laundry, powder room, garage and wine storage unit, the ground floor is dedicated to the living and entertaining areas, and the upper level is reserved for private spaces. 'Architecturally, the house is artfully restrained to celebrate form and texture, and tonal materials like concrete, terrazzo and white marble enhance the richness of the dark timber and bronze elements,' Marriott explains. 'Within this calm and composed structure, we layered soft elements like wool rugs, linen upholstery and sheers, and solid timber furniture.'

Many pieces were custom designed by sjs to suit the owners' lifestyle and the space itself. 'Our clients have a network of artisans we were able to connect with, so we came up with a design that incorporated limestone left over from the stair plinth and solid American walnut to create the oversized central coffee table,' says Marriott. Other custom pieces include the refined yet comfortable sofa in the living room and the sculptural kitchen island. 'The clients were adventurous,' Marriott says. 'They wanted showpieces that no one else has.'

Bursts of colour come via artworks and cushions, Marriott's 'final styling layer' for every project. 'This layer is like the heart and soul of the rooms,' she says. 'It's where the clients' personalities can shine through and where feelings are evoked.' Not only do the art pieces introduce colour, they also break up the expansive walls and provide an 'opportunity to be bold in such a minimal space', as Marriott points out.

Inspired by the Australian landscape, the textures and tones of the home reveal layers of understated luxury. 'The clients' building knowledge and expertise meant we were able to achieve a high level of detailing in the design,' Marriott says. This attention to detail pervades every nook.

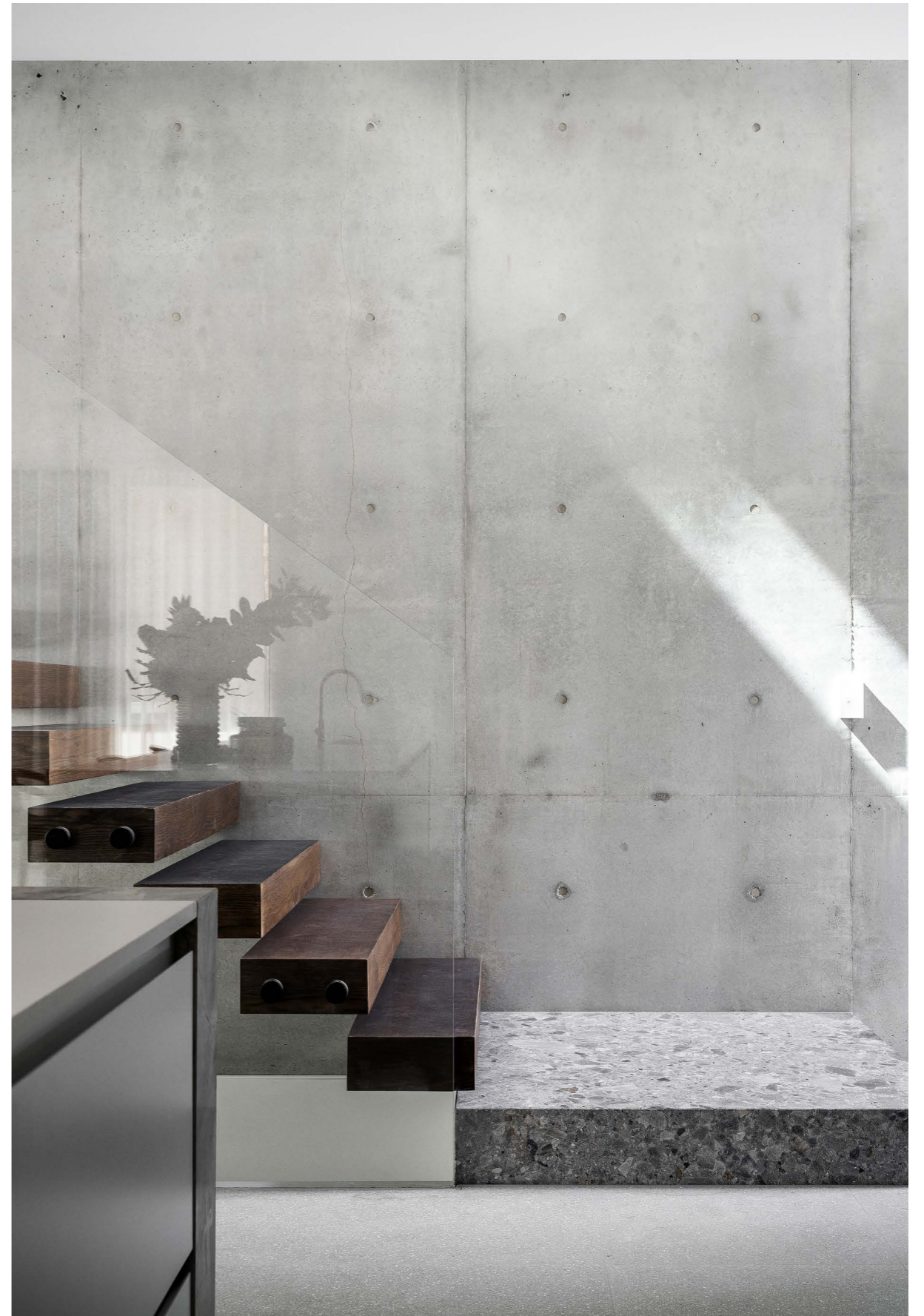
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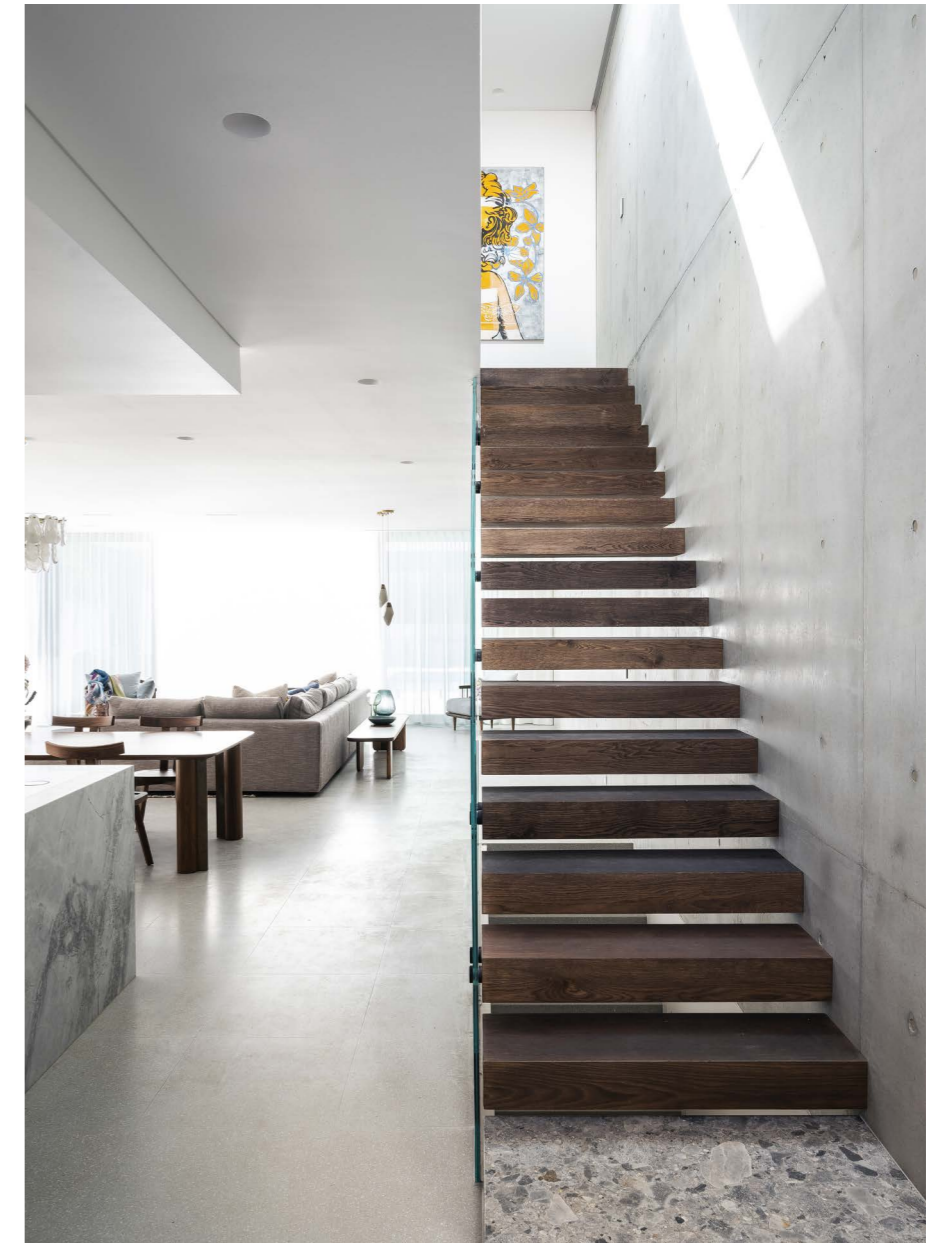
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In this Sydney home, SJS Interior Design employed a tonal, natural materials palette and custom designed or collaborated on many of the furniture pieces, including the living room sofa and the French oak and stone staircase. Bursts of colour in the form of art and soft furnishings include a pink and peach-hued piece by Galina Munroe





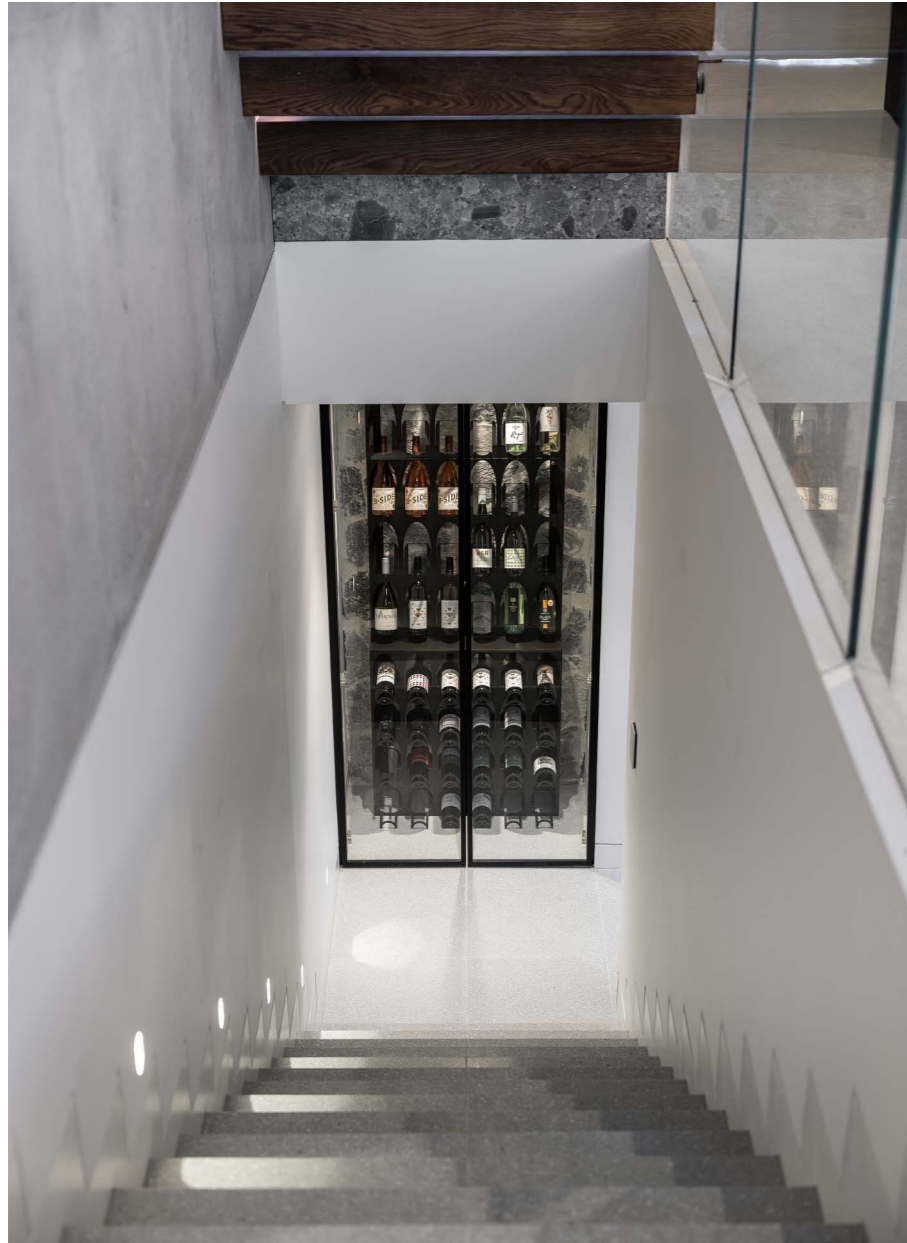
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Opening up to the garden and swimming pool outside, the ground-floor living room is a hub for socialising. The custom-designed coffee table is made from the limestone used for the stairs topped with American walnut. Space Copenhagen's Fly armchair for &Tradition is mirrored by the Rodolfo Dordoni-designed Bitta swing sofa from Kettal just outside

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The materiality of the solid oak stairs is repeated in the American walnut dining table and bench, both designed by SJS and produced by Artifex





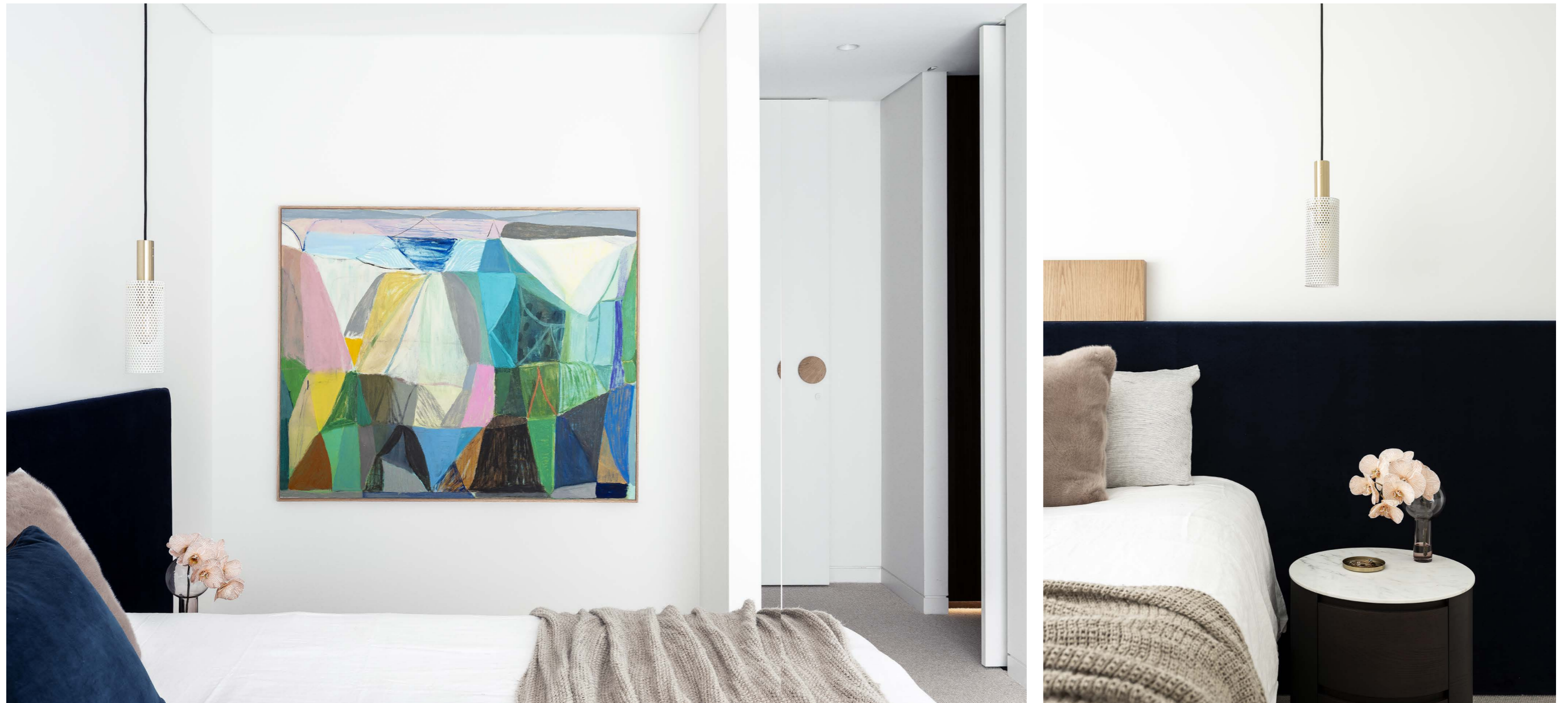
Softer elements come in the form of cushions, an Armadillo & Co rug, natural materials like wicker and solid timber, and an elegantly organic Alabaster pendant and Leon chandelier, by Randy Zieber and Arteriors respectively

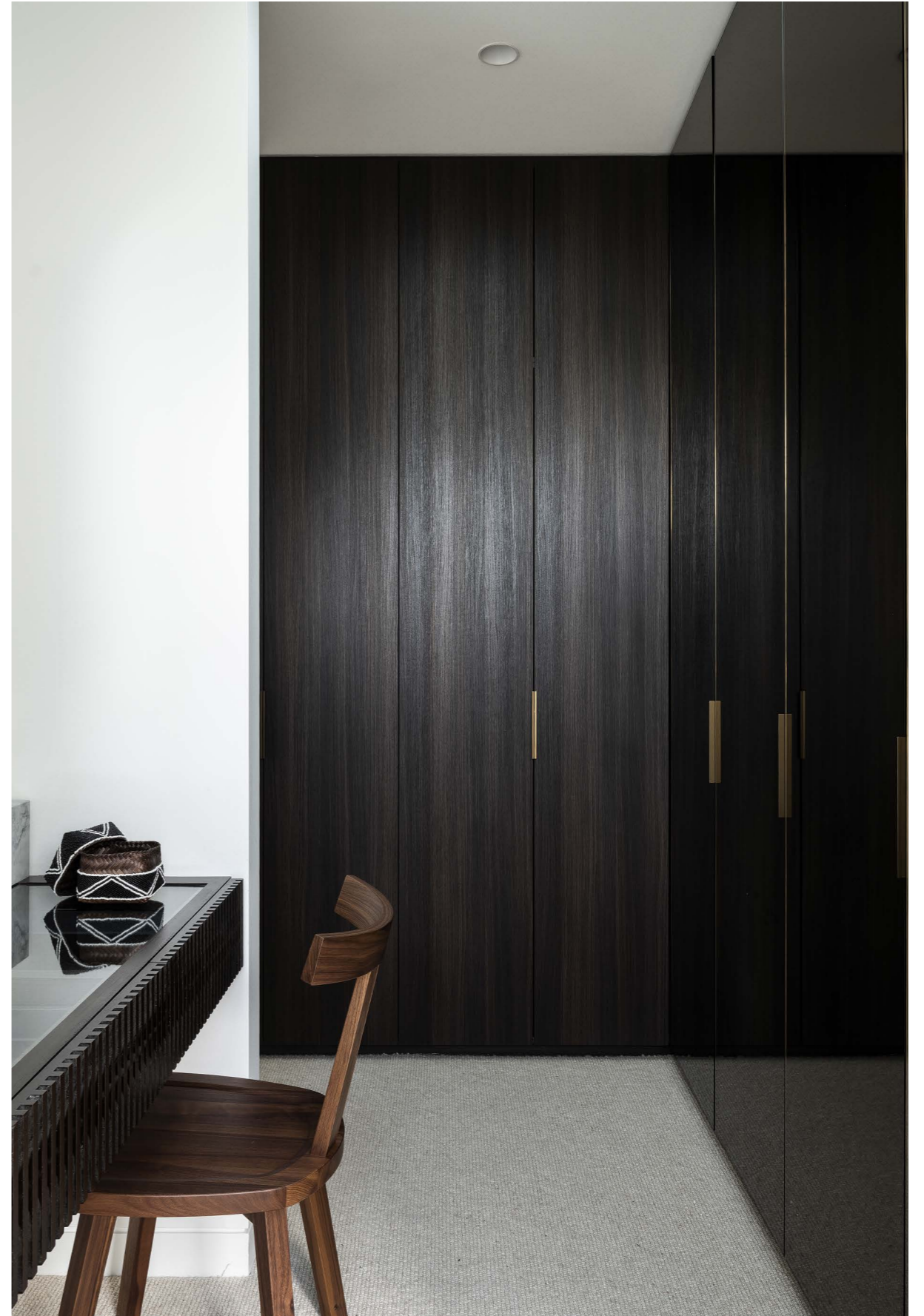


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A stone staircase leads down to the basement, which houses a wine storage unit as well as a laundry, powder room and garage

Facing page
SJS's Archer dining table, surrounded by oak Gray 23 dining chairs by Paola Navone for Gervasoni, sits in front of the custom-designed kitchen island

In the master bedroom, a painting by Terry Ekasala introduces vibrant colour into the otherwise muted space, which is furnished with Niclas Hoflin's Vogue pendant for Rubn, an Orbit bedside table by MD House for Fanuli and a custom bedhead





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The master ensuite features terrazzo flooring and a custom-designed marble vanity, a neutral canvas onto which the clients can apply their own touch through textiles and ornaments

Facing page
The walk-in wardrobe is outfitted with custom-designed joinery and a dressing table in oak veneer