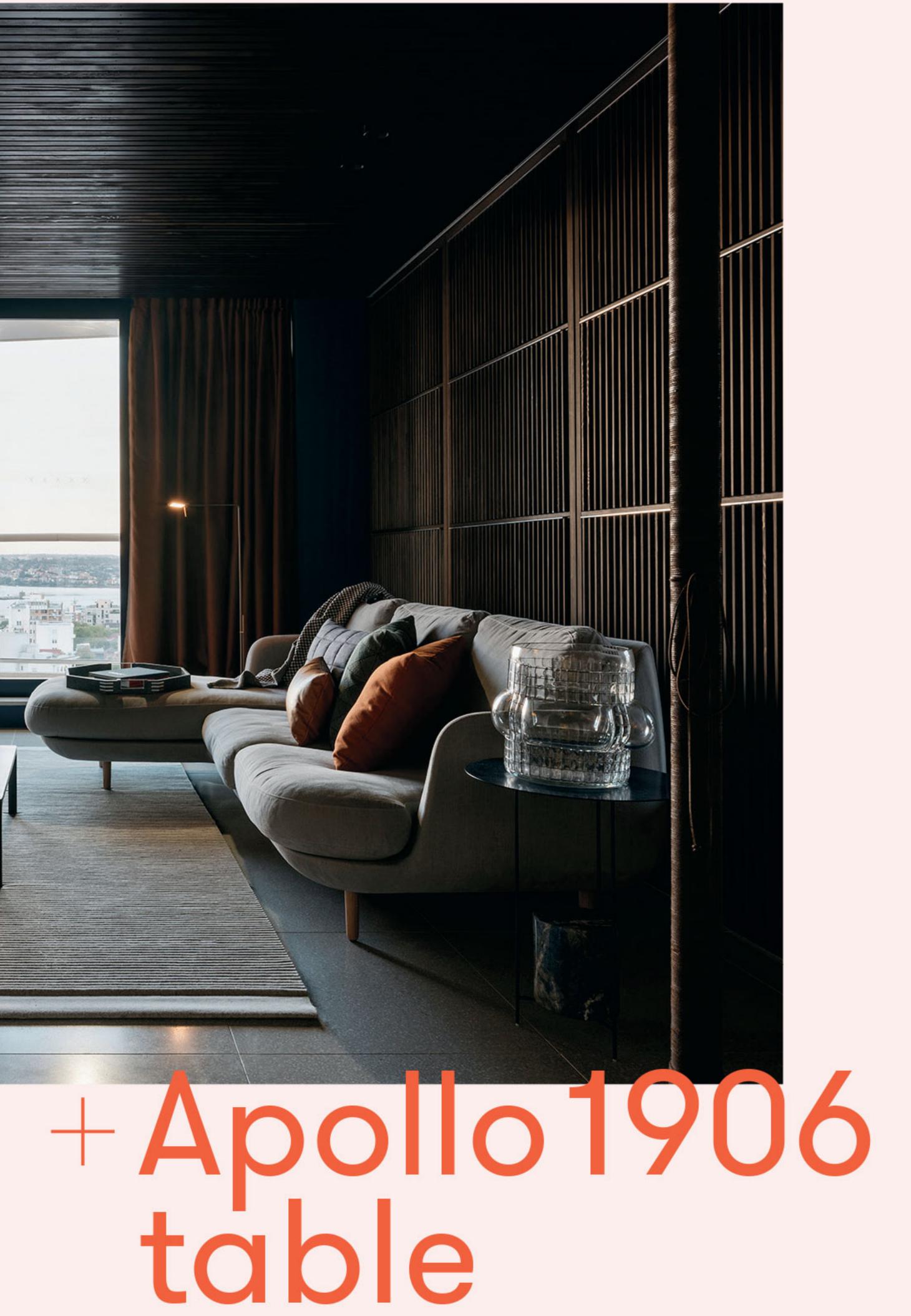
Apartment and the second date

ARCHITECT Amber Road

DESIGNER Yasmine Ghoniem, made by Jonathan West











Fortune favours the brave

When interior designer Yasmine Ghoniem from Amber Road first met the owner of this apartment, he was wearing hot pink glasses, a band t-shirt and a pair of thongs (flip-flops). He had just come out of a divorce and was looking for a completely fresh start. The apartment in a high-rise in Sydney's Potts Point featured stunning views but had been stripped down to a concrete shell. The owner wanted a space that was good for entertaining and could allow him to have guests and house his art collection but that could also be easily shut up while he was away. Apart from this basic information, and his distinctive wardrobe, the owner was elusive about what he wanted. 'He didn't really give us a brief,' says Ghoniem. 'But he was up for anything.'

The final design is masterful in its functionality and unexpected in its aesthetic sensibility. The layout fans out from the entry, with a living room that flows around the corner into a dining room and then a kitchen space, and a master suite tucked behind the kitchen. The main living space can be transformed into a second bedroom through the use of a fold-out bed that is concealed behind a grey-stained panel. In the evening, a projector screen can be pulled down for screening movies, while by night, the bed folds down and a slatted timber partition screen creates privacy between this room and the dining space. A large laundry space was converted into a second bathroom, with a new European-style laundry tucked neatly into the hall. Built-in joinery was custom-designed throughout,

- A bank of black joinery divides the kitchen and the master bedroom behind.
- Brave choices of material include the kitchen marble, called 'broccatello di spagna'.
- Key Strategy Frequencies of the kitchen features a raw concrete ceiling, black joinery and a rich red-and-gold marble splashback.
- The living space has chocolatecoloured timber ceilings and caramel curtains.