



A gold chair by Toni Maticovski x Fiona Lynch at Melbourne Design Week, part of an exhibit exploring beauty and illumination with repurposed fabric remnants.



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s we lean into the second half of the year, the design calendar continues to pulse with energy. In this issue of *Belle*, we embrace the full sweep of creativity at home and abroad. Melbourne Design Week is one of the most exciting dates in our cultural calendar, and this year's didn't disappoint. Creative director Lauren Camilleri visited and reports back on the work of emerging talents and established voices, such as Fiona Lynch, the *Belle*/Fanuli Interior Designer of the Year 2024. Once again, Melbourne demonstrates why it leads the national conversation around innovation, sustainability and aesthetics.

Steve Cordony, our ever-stylish man about town, shares his latest travelogue – an edit of his US Chic Agenda. With his unerring eye and timeless style sensibility, Steve captures the essence of American glamour. Kirstie Clements returns with not one but three inspired features. In her Luxe Files, she turns the lens on oversized, sculptural pieces that bring a sense of drama and grandeur to interiors. Then, we follow her to the lush landscapes of Sri Lanka for two transportive travel pieces. Benjamin Judd takes us on a journey to Oman for the festival of the rose harvest – a crucial ingredient of the unique Amouage fragrances.

We also mark a special milestone for one of Australia's most respected design figures – David Hicks – who celebrates 25 years in business. His impact on the local design scene can't be overstated, and we honour this with a look at his signature style and enduring influence.

This month's Smart Spaces feature is particularly compelling, profiling ingenious and beautiful designs from a mix of established names and rising stars, including Studio Prineas, Mim Design, Greg Natale and newcomer Madeleine Wood. Their interiors are proof that great design is not just about scale, but about vision, innovation and colour mastery.

The homes featured in this issue are as inspiring as they are diverse. From the soulful sanctuary of Naomi Tosic's home – lovingly designed by her late husband, Boris – to Carole Whiting's poetic reimagining of a Spanish Mission-style house in Melbourne. On Sydney's Northern Beaches, Madeleine Blanchfield delivers a masterclass in modernist elegance, while a former shop in Woollahra is given new life, thanks to the collaboration between architect Tanya Hancock and owner Ann-Maree Kerry. We also step inside the serene HQ of designer Kate Nixon, where beauty and function are in perfect harmony.

Finally, architects and interior designers, it's time to curate your shoots and prepare your entries for the *Belle*/Fanuli Interior Design Awards 2025 as entries close on August 22. And artists, we are calling for your masterpieces, too. Entries are also open for NEAP – go to nationalemmergingartprize.com. Whether you're drawn to the bold, the beautiful or the quietly luxurious, we hope this issue of *Belle* inspires you to see your world – and your spaces – anew.

Tanya Buchanan

Tanya Buchanan, *Editor-in-chief*



ADORN

SIP

FAB FIVE



SPRITZ



DRIVE



WEAR

- 1 Bankston x YSG 'Sensible Streaker' pull handle in Light Band, POA, Bankston.
- 2 2022 Nest Egg syrah, \$99, Bird In Hand.
- 3 Amouage 'Existence' eau de parfum, \$599 for 100ml, Myer.
- 4 Roma Spider high-performance car, POA, Ferrari.
- 5 LO Collections x Alex and Trahanas 'Olive Leaf' drop earrings, \$430, Dinosaur Designs.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KRISTINA SOLO (PORTRAIT), TESS KELLY (MELBOURNE DESIGN WEEK), HAIR & MAKE UP: SAMANTHA POWELL



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