

estTM

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LIVING WITH LANDSCAPE

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Best of





est '25

Our annual Best of est series wraps up a year in design with the hospitality venues and retail spaces that left a lasting impression in 2025. Explore the entire series, including the year's best-loved homes, on estliving.com.

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WORDS Aleesha Callahan

GLOBAL RETAIL SPACES

CAN RETAIL INTERIORS SPARK CURIOSITY AND EMOTIONAL CONNECTION? THESE FIVE PROJECTS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD USE MATERIALITY, LIGHT AND NARRATIVE TO INVITE YOU TO LINGER.

SPACES WITHIN DANIEL KUTLESOVSKI

‘Patina of Use’ transforms the banality of door hardware into the main event, using scale, texture and theatricality to draw the eye exactly where it needs to go. For his second collaboration with Spaces Within, Daniel Kutlesovski constructs a materially rich world where waxed canvas wraps the interior in a soft, mutable surface. The brown material echoes the living patina of the uncoated hardware.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

Photography: Erik Lefvander



ALAÏA HALLEROED

Sculptural precision defines Alaïa's new flagship by Halleroed, where futurism and craftsmanship converge in the most sensuous way. A gridded marble façade, punctuated with porthole openings, sets the tone for the otherworldliness inside. Curving, Saarinen-like marble 'legs' rise from the floor to form table bases, while a sweeping circular shelving system wraps an egg-shaped room, reinforcing the store's circular motif.

Location: Beijing, China

Photography: Jonathan Leijonhufvud



ANTONIA

VINCENZO DE COTIIS ARCHITECTS

Antonia's new boutique in Shanghai subverts the usual retail formula, creating immersive, sensory landscapes. Designed by Vincenzo de Cotiis, the space relies on colour, light and materiality to shape movement through chromatic thresholds such as a sculptural blue stair. Custom furnishings and joinery in oxidised metal and lacquered wood ripple across surfaces, crafted insertions that blur the line between object and architecture.

Location: Guangzhou, China

Photography: Courtesy of Antonia



PALOMA WOOL

P0 STUDIO

Paloma Wool's first Barcelona flagship, designed by p0 studio, uses opacity as an unexpected design device. Nothing is entirely fixed or fully revealed. Semi-translucent white partitions produce a soft, hazy atmosphere. This carving of natural and artificial light subtly guides visitors through the space—the veiled quality becomes the store's defining language. The whole project is a playful study in perception, where every surface shifts between seen and unseen.

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Photography: Adrià Cañameras

SAINT LAURENT

ANTHONY VACCARELLO

Saint Laurent's Milan flagship reopens inside a storied palazzo on Via Montenapoleone, a site first built in the 1500s and long woven into the city's architectural fabric. Anthony Vaccarello's new concept amplifies this sense of heritage, preserving exposed, limewashed brickwork and reinstating traditional materials such as Ceppo di Gré stone and Candoglia marble—the same pink-white stone used as a stone's throw away on the iconic Duomo.

Location: Milan, Italy

Photography: Courtesy of Saint Laurent



SCANLAN THEODORE FLACK STUDIO

Modernism meets gallery-space slash domestic retreat. And while all of these monikers are true, the one thing missing is what it actually is—an Australian fashion brand's flagship store. Flack Studio's new Scanlan Theodore fitout in Canberra is a space of unexpected warmth. It brings all of the residential tropes into the retail world, case in point, the fireplace! The material palette balances polish and tactility, from the stitched pale-blue suede curtains in the change rooms to metals and stainless-steel fixtures.

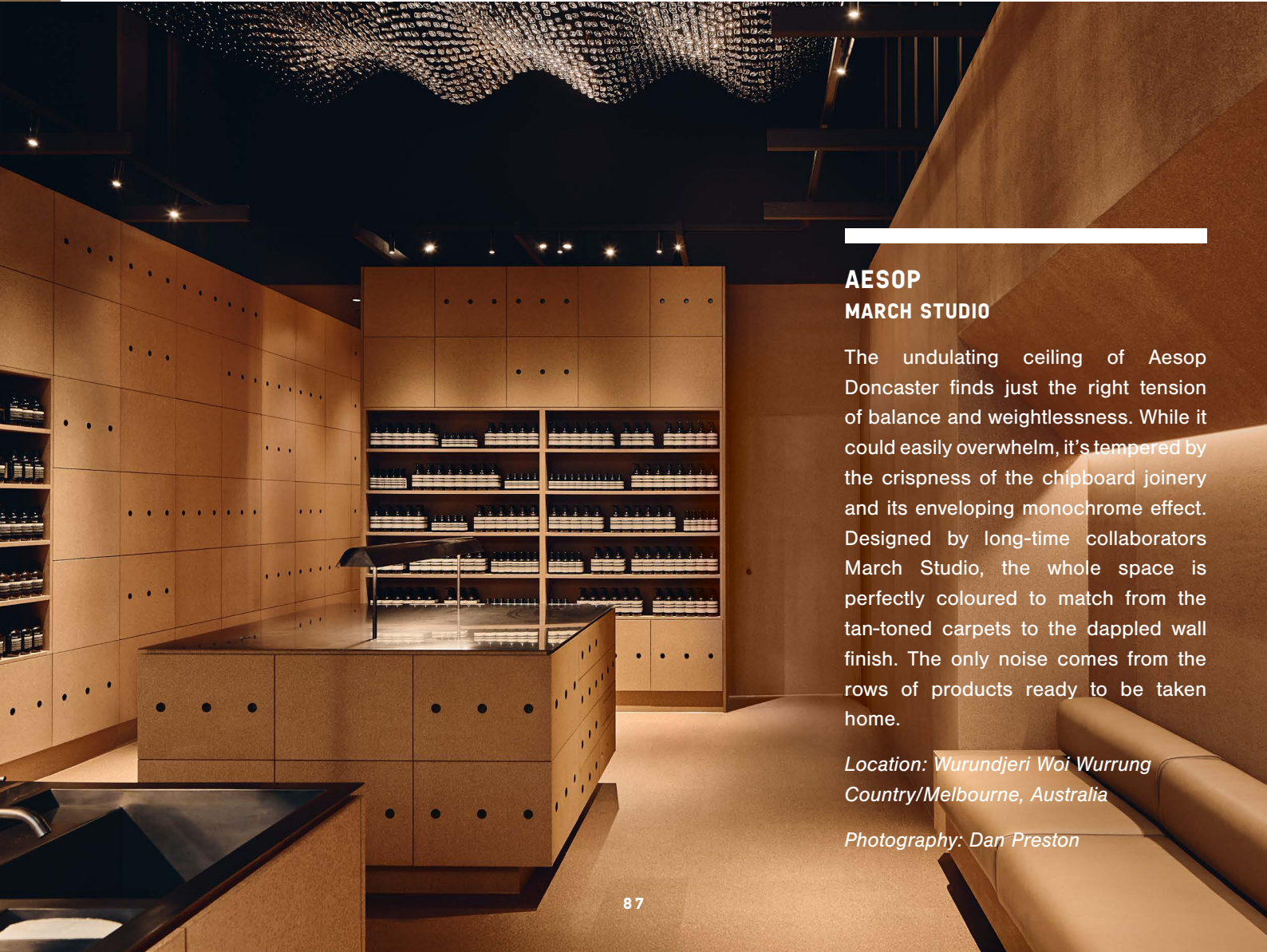
*Location: Ngambri and Ngunnawal
Country/Canberra, Australia*

Photography: Anson Smart



AUSTRALIAN RETAIL SPACES

A SHARED SENSIBILITY EMERGES ACROSS THESE FIVE RETAIL DESIGNS. FROM THE NODS TO MID-CENTURY AESTHETICS TO THE EMBEDDING OF ART, THE ACT OF SHOPPING IS SOFTENED BY A DISTINCTLY RESIDENTIAL WARMTH.



AESOP MARCH STUDIO

The undulating ceiling of Aesop Doncaster finds just the right tension of balance and weightlessness. While it could easily overwhelm, it's tempered by the crispness of the chipboard joinery and its enveloping monochrome effect. Designed by long-time collaborators March Studio, the whole space is perfectly coloured to match from the tan-toned carpets to the dappled wall finish. The only noise comes from the rows of products ready to be taken home.

*Location: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Country/Melbourne, Australia*

Photography: Dan Preston



The image shows a modern interior space, likely a lounge or waiting area. On the left, a large, textured concrete pillar stands next to a wall with a small, oval mirror. A large, vibrant abstract painting with bold colors like pink, orange, yellow, and blue is mounted on the wall. In the foreground, there are several plush red armchairs arranged around a small, round, dark wooden table. The floor is covered with a leopard print rug. The ceiling features modern, cylindrical pendant lights. The overall atmosphere is contemporary and artistic.

MECCA FLAGSHIP STUDIO MCQUALTER

When your brand name alludes to the holiest of places, a place of pilgrimage, it's only fitting to have a flagship that defies the convention of traditional beauty retail. And the new MECCA Melbourne Flagship is the epitome of a place for beauty lovers to make the pilgrimage to. The multi-level space has been transformed by Studio McQualter (MECCA's long-running design partner), and its original heritage details have been revealed and reinstated where possible.

*Location: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Country/Melbourne, Australia*

Photography: Sean Fennessy



HENNE AP DESIGN HOUSE

Henne Armadale introduces an assured presence to Melbourne's suburbs. The interior reflects the brand's preference for precision over excess, unfolding with a restraint that still allows moments of expression. Light, surface and repetition create a calm cadence, while subtle nods to 80s-90s rag-trade warehouses are softened by a mid-century sensibility. Vintage lighting, aged leather sofas and collected objects lend warmth, counterbalancing refined insertions of steel, glass and trapeze lighting.

*Location: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Country/Melbourne, Australia*

Photography: Tom Ferguson

ABOVE THE CLOUDS PATTERN

If Above the Clouds could be summarised in a few adjectives, it would be industrial minimalism with a side of effervescent colour. The hand of Pattern is visible for the fitout of this fashion and lifestyle store in Melbourne's city centre. Coming to a site that had fairly recently been renovated, Pattern embraced an attitude of reuse, finding ways to work with the existing shell and only introducing elements that can be adapted in the future.

*Location: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Country/Melbourne, Australia*

Photography: Tom Ross



GLOBAL HOSPITALITY

ACROSS CONTINENTS AND CLIMATES, THESE FIVE
HOSPITALITY SPACES REVEAL A FAMILIAR, YET FRESH
DESIGN LANGUAGE CENTRED ON SENSORY NUANCE.
TACTILITY, ARTWORK AND MUSIC CONVERGE TO CREATE
SPACES THAT GO FAR BEYOND THE FUNCTIONAL.



THE JANE

NICOLAS SCHUYBROEK

The new iteration of The Jane in Antwerp sees Michelin-starred chef Nick Bril partner with Brussels architect Nicolas Schuybroek to craft a restaurant defined by minimalist intensity and immaculate restraint—but you wouldn't expect anything less from the Belgian designer. Moving from a historic chapel to a corner site, the new space trades grandeur for focus with just 28 seats arranged around an open kitchen. Tasked with the desire to have guests lose their sense of time and space, the interior features an orchestrated sequence that plays with contrast, compression and release.

Location: Antwerp, Belgium

Photography: Benoit Florencon



SANT AMBROEUS

GIAMPIERO TAGLIAFERRI

A distinctly Milanese aesthetic makes its way to the American mountains with Sant Ambroeus Aspen, an alpine outpost that deliberately sidesteps the classic chalet cliché. Instead, the interior, designed by Giampiero Tagliaferri, leans into a refined brutalism: a recessed gridded concrete ceiling, built-in benches and crazy-paved flagstone flooring set the monumental tone. Warmth and eccentricity are then layered against it—a statement glossy green twist of a fireplace and vintage pieces that nod to Italian elegance help to soften the harder edges.

Location: Aspen, North America

Photography: Billal Taright

10AM APOTHEKE

STUDIO ANDREW TROTTER

On the island of Antiparos in Greece, a former folklore museum is reimagined to offer a quintessentially Mediterranean blend of retail, dining and gathering. 10AM Apotheke, designed by Studio Andrew Trotter, brings a characteristically pared-back flavour. Leaning into the welcomed parochialness of the Cyclades, the space features lime-plastered walls, handcrafted ceramics and solid chunks of marble fashioned into one-off furniture pieces. The project is a collaboration with founder Eva Papadaki and expands on the original concept store, offering a food-and-beverage experience shaped by slow-food seasonality.

Location: Antiparos, Greece

Photography: Hana Jelovčan





SOMMA NICE PROJECTS

Henne Armadale introduces an assured presence to Melbourne's suburbs. The interior reflects the brand's preference for precision over excess, unfolding with a restraint that still allows moments of expression. Light, surface and repetition create a calm cadence, while subtle nods to 80s–90s rag-trade warehouses are softened by a mid-century sensibility. Vintage lighting, aged leather sofas and collected objects lend warmth, counterbalancing refined insertions of steel, glass and trapeze lighting.

Location: New Bahru, Singapore

Photography: Lisa Cohen

JAC HI-FI CAFÉ ISERN SERRA STUDIO

Jac HiFi Café brings the spirit of Japan's jazz kissa to the streets of Barcelona. Designed by Isern Serra Studio, the space is shaped by sweeping curves and warm timber, culminating in a sculptural walnut installation that arcs across walls and ceiling to form an intimate listening alcove. Built-in joinery houses the café's audio equipment and extensive vinyl collection, a visual expression of the notion of music as architecture.

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Styling: Aasheen Mittal

Photography: Salva Lopez



YIAGA WARDLE

As a monotone study in earthiness, Yiaga is an immersive fine dining restaurant drenched in textures. Designed by Wardle, the rippling terracotta surface wraps the entrance in a vertical, three-dimensional form, which is echoed by richly hued stone floors that ground the sweeping, organic plan. Floor-to-ceiling glazing opens the interior to Fitzroy Gardens in Melbourne, allowing the lush green outlook to counterbalance the restaurant's dark, moody cocoon. Yiaga foregrounds local craft at every scale—from materials to furniture to the open kitchen at its heart.

*Location: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Country/Melbourne, Australia*

Photography: Anson Smart



AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALITY

ACROSS AUSTRALIA'S DINING SCENE, A TIDAL WAVE OF HOSPITALITY DESIGN IS TRADING SPECTACLE FOR SENSORY IMMERSION—SPACES THAT WRAP YOU IN TONE, TEXTURE AND ATMOSPHERE LONG BEFORE THE MENU ARRIVES.

GOLDEN AVENUE J.AR OFFICE

Golden Avenue by J.AR OFFICE signals a new chapter in tropical modernism, casting a lush, open-air courtyard into the centre of Brisbane. The practice's brutalist palette of green-tinted concrete and swirling pinky-green Juparana granite sweeps across the floors and climbs the walls. It sets a grounded base for the venue's layered hospitality experience. Chunky, sock-footed seating, white canvas banquettes and zellige-tiled tabletops bring a playful lightness, while interior gardens planted with mature palms frame the dining terraces like a contemporary Queensland riff on a Moroccan riad.

*Location: Turrbal and Yuggera Country/
Brisbane, Australia*

Photography: Jessie Prince





HARRIOT STUDIO ESTETA

Harriot by Studio Esteta brings a fresh yet old-world sensibility to the base of 555 Collins Street, pairing the ease of a European bistro with the refinement of contemporary Melbourne dining. The palette is clean and elegant—checkerboard-tiled floors and a softly rendered, almost stucco-like ceiling lay a classic foundation. Elsewhere, warm timbers, natural stone and aged brass introduce tonal depth. Draping-like pendants cast an intimate glow over the tables, their soft forms balanced by contemporary notes of beige, rust red and golden amber glass.

*Location: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Country/Melbourne, Australia*

Photography: Sean Fennessy



SUUPAA IF ARCHITECTURE

Suupaa by IF Architecture is an audacious reimagining of the Japanese konbini, blending fast-casual dining with a curated retail experience—all set inside an inner-city tech precinct. While the primary palette of red, blue, black and white initially recalls a Bauhaus-esque rigour—even brushing against the graphic radicalism of Superstudio—its true anchor is goshiki. This traditional Japanese colour system infuses the space with cultural meaning.

*Location: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Country/Melbourne, Australia*

Photography: Sharyn Cairns





SUPERFREAK YSG STUDIO

There's a cosy, low-slung seventies spirit to Superfreak in Marrickville, wrapping diners in warm textures and quirky details. Brown, woolly banquettes and shag-lined bar fronts soften the room's edges, anchored by cork flooring and toffee-toned timber joinery that together create an enveloping, lounge-like calm. The main dining zone reads almost like a sunken living room, tucked in by high-backed banquettes and enlivened by buttery yellow walls, while the service area flips to a glossy 'veggie green' ceiling for a thematic tonal shift.

Location: Gadigal Country/Sydney, Australia

Photography: Phillip Huynh