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Michael Bechara

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ECLECTIC POWER

THE BRIEF: In this redesign of their Sydney apartment, the owners sought a tantalising mix of rich shades, textures, eclectic furniture and art. "They wanted a dramatic, almost club-like interior, sexy and chic," says interior designer Michael Bechara.

WHY IT WORKS: "The attention to detail and the sense of discovery from the collectable lamps, furniture and artwork give lots to explore," says Bechara, who mixed new items with vintage pieces. Grey walls add drama and serve as a backdrop to artworks, which include a Jonathan Kimberley painting and painted rods by Karl Wiebke. The floor was stained dark to add a club feel; its reflectivity teams well with the chrome and mirror table.

Michael Bechara Design; 0407 004 988 or www.michaelbechara.com.



Stephen Guthrie, Lindy Atkin

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STUDY IN SCARLET

THE BRIEF: This plywood-lined studio in Queensland's Glass House Mountains is distinct from the rest of the living areas. "The owner requested a separate, intimate space for reflection, relaxation and music," says architect Stephen Guthrie of Bark Design Architects, who designed the room with colleague Lindy Atkin.

WHY IT WORKS: Intimate in scale, the room combines craft and economy, juxtaposing unadorned surfaces with crafted timber ceiling panels and built-in joinery. Hinged windows and louvres regulate airflow and let in natural light. A vivid splash of red continues from the wall along the floor, "to create a warm glow and a special place for the owner to immerse himself in his cello".

Bark Design Architects; (07) 5471 0340 or www.barkdesign.com.au.



Matt Gibson

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REFLECTED GLORY

THE BRIEF: The owners of this inner-city Melbourne home wanted the kitchen to be a piece of 'haute couture' on display plus a flexible entertaining space, says architect Matt Gibson. As well as a food preparation area, it had to be an elegant statement that would feed into the adjacent courtyard.

WHY IT WORKS: Clever use of mirrors opens up the narrow room and a 4m-long bench flows between this and adjoining spaces, so that meals can be enjoyed inside or out. A refined range of sophisticated materials keeps the kitchen decor simple and elegant, while luxurious marble surfaces, smoked mirror and mirror-finish pendants add glamour, plus a touch of theatricality.

Matt Gibson Architecture+Design; (03) 9419 6677 or www.mattgibson.com.au.



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rooms