



This page Outdoor gets customised by Dylan Forrell Design and planted by Paul Bangay. Tekna Nautic wall lights from Ylager Hall Design. New steel doors designed by Dylan Forrell and fabricated by Fido Projects and Steel Window Design. Opposite page Justine Varga artwork from Stills Gallery. Stone top from G-Lux on antique console. Menu 'Echasse' vase from The Cool Hunter. Guaxs vase from Conley & Co.

In harmony

A muted palette of alternating black and white rooms lends a pleasing rhythm to this stylishly understated house.

Photographs PRUE RUSCOE Words CHRIS PEARSON



He added timber headers to the internal doors to give them a more human, intimate scale. The doors, some pivoting, some hinged, are in steel, ensuring slim elegant profiles befitting the European aesthetic. Their glass panels “mentally close off spaces, but not physically. They block them off, but you keep the air. As a result, the relationship of the doorways along the hallway, once like a colonnade, now feels rhythmic,” says Dylan.

Throughout, he inserted architraves around the doorways to give them more impact, as well as cornices, panels and mouldings, “where the rooms needed a lift”.

French and Belgian influences provide tonal, tailored subtlety, with brushed woods for warmth, rich blacks and greys, and white walls and stone for contrast. Texture adds detail and interest. The finishes palette includes sandstone, marble, waxed black stucco and French oak floors in a herringbone pattern brushed to look old.

Like semitones on a keyboard, the results are highly nuanced. At first glance, the informal living room looks monochromatic, says Dylan, but white, navy, beige, brown, silver, grey and black adorn waxed linen, textured linen and velvet on the sofas and their cushions. Adding to the decorative layers, that room features timber-framed Louis chairs covered in caramel leather, a marble coffee table with legs in ebonised timber and a rabbit-skin rug, all on an aged timber floor, while a smoked mirror and etched glass vases add sophistication, as does a metal side table. The limestone Belgian farmhouse-style fireplace, meanwhile, hints back at the rustic.

While these walls are painted white, black waxed stucco finishes in other rooms, such as the study, kitchen and powder room, create chic counterpoints. “There are no black rooms next to each other to create a rhythm,” says Dylan. “Sarah wanted subtlety in form and colour, with no dramatic moments – it was all about shifting tones, texture and sheen. I usually like to use curve balls of surprise colour, but she took an active role and drew me back when she thought it was over-expressive.

“There’s a sense of reservedness, a serenity and a quietness, with a high level of craftsmanship and a low level of showmanship. It’s all done sensibly, but with a high-end sensibility.” In short, it’s a house that confidently and stylishly moves to its own subtle beat. 15

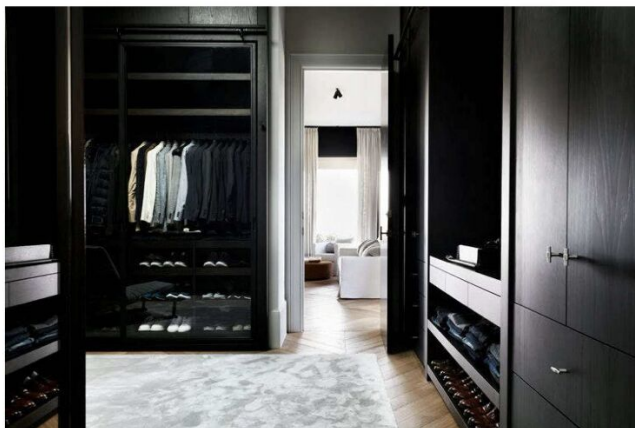
For more go to dylanfarrell.com.



This page Restoration Hardware sofa and chairs in fabrics by Perennials Fabrics. Stools by Mark Tuckey. Royal Botanica lanterns from Parterre. Opposite page, clockwise from top left In the kitchen, table by Dylan Farrell Design. Chairs by Ochre. Stonework on rangehood by Euro Marble. In the tasting room, custom table in solid oak by Dylan Farrell Design. ‘Youma’ chairs from Pure Interiors. *The Horse Body* artwork by Sarah McColgan. Kevin Reilly ‘Hemel’ light from Holly Hunt. In the garden, sun loungers from Restoration Hardware. Garden design by Paul Bangay.



These pages, clockwise from above: In the main bedroom, custom bench by Dylan Farrell Design in hide by Studioart from Milgate. Curtains by Colleve. Davide Balliana artwork from Luce Gallery, Italy. Hermès throw. Silk rug from Whitecliffe Imports. Statuaria and Nero Marquina marbles from Euro Marble in the ensuite. Astra Walker tapware, Agapé 'Spoon' bath from Artedomus. The Wet Kias artwork by Marius Sperlich from The Cool Hunter. Formani 'One' door hardware by Piet Boon. Wardrobe joinery in Evener American oak veneer. Mirrored glass by Antique Mirror Glass.



SPEED READ

» In 2015, Sarah Lew and her partner bought this Italianate-style house in inner Melbourne that had a grand colonnaded facade but haphazard interior styling. » Designer Dylan Farrell stripped the interiors and rejigged the floor plan, enlarging openings in the hallway and installing steel glass-panelled doors to create both a separation and a flow for entertaining. » Instead of a formal dining room, he created a 'cocktail lounge' and installed a sit-down area in the wine cellar. » As the owners wanted calm and serenity, he devised a look inspired by Christian Liaigre and Joseph Dirand with subtle shifts in palette, texture and sheen to create a rhythm throughout the house.