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CITY Living

Chic, stylish and innovative, this high-rise apartment is as stunning as its superb view over Sydney Harbour!

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Quay West, an iconic Sydney high-rise boasting one of the city's best views, deserves to be a showpiece! Yet, when Doris and Len Wallis purchased this apartment it was an uninspiring home that definitely needed some sprucing up, so they enlisted the help of Karen from KW Interiors. With 17 years as an interior designer and having already decorated another apartment in the building, she was the very person to give their home the 'wow' factor in a big way.

LIFESTYLE CHANGE

Relocating from north-western Sydney to an inner-city apartment was not only a much-anticipated move for the couple, it was also a long-awaited lifestyle change. "We'd actually looked at the Quay West building years ago but weren't ready to buy at that time," Doris says. "But Len has always wanted to live in the city and this apartment turned out to be the one."

The couple wanted their new home to have a contemporary, luxurious feel, and that meant a complete renovation, which is where Karen comes in.

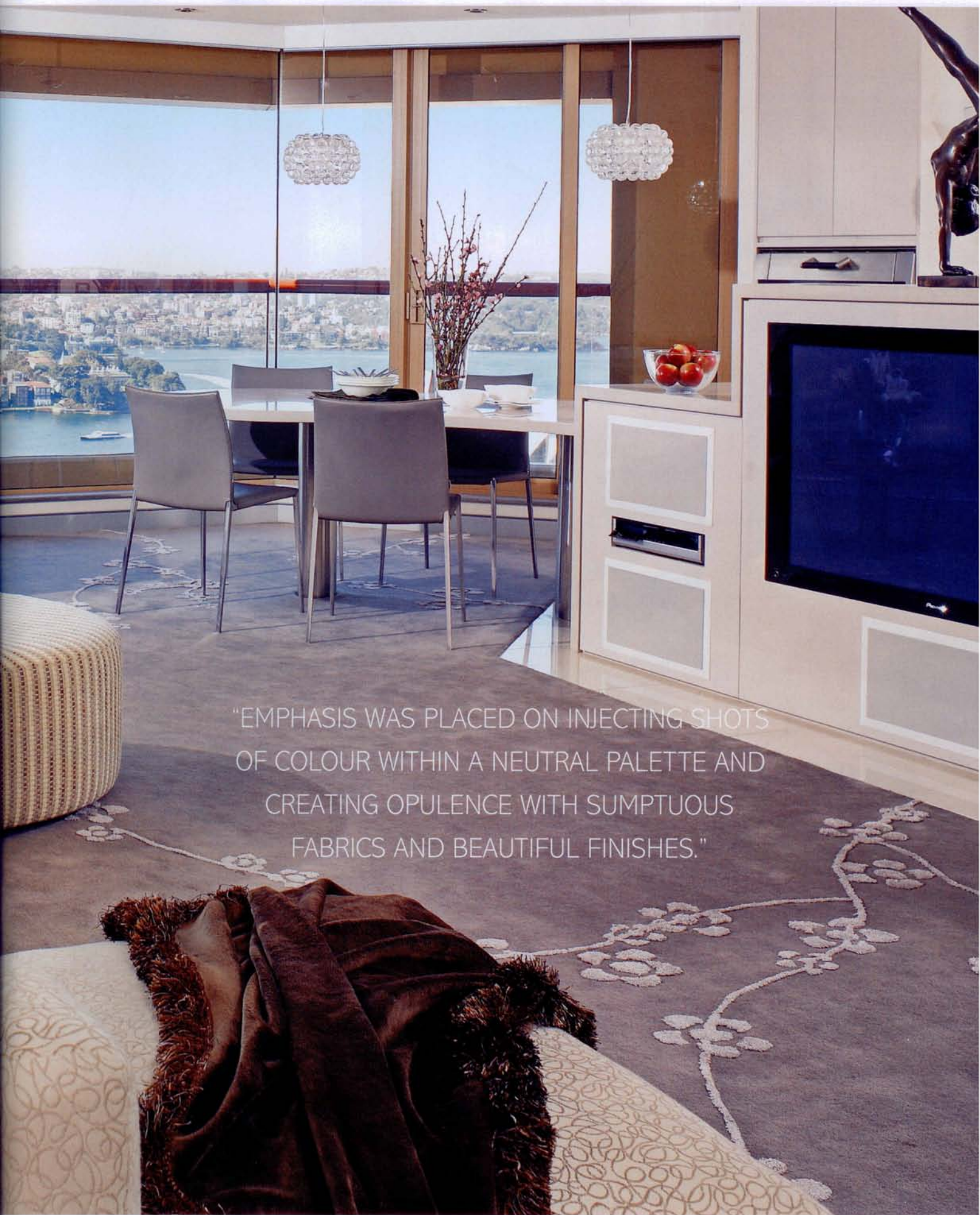
"Emphasis was placed on injecting shots of colour within a neutral palette and creating opulence with sumptuous fabrics and beautiful finishes," she explains.

Working closely with Doris and Len, she harmonised some amazing fabrics with modern finishes and neutral colours to produce a design that suited their lifestyle

RIGHT: Len and Doris employed the services of KW Interiors to completely refurbish the interior of this stunning high-rise apartment overlooking Sydney Harbour.

ABOVE: Karen took a simple design approach with this apartment, choosing neutral tones for the main items while injecting colour through the use of soft furnishings and fabrics.





"EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON INJECTING SHOTS OF COLOUR WITHIN A NEUTRAL PALETTE AND CREATING OPULENCE WITH SUMPTUOUS FABRICS AND BEAUTIFUL FINISHES."



TOP: A simple idea, yet such a clever one! Incorporating the plasma TV in the kitchen bench, but facing the living area, not only saves space but also gives the area a clean, clutter-free look.

both aesthetically and practically. The very most was made of the living and dining area which features a breathtaking view over Sydney Harbour. "This area also serves many other purposes," Karen adds. "The expansive space was opened up, so it could incorporate the kitchen, a bar and a study area."

Some truly innovative and space-saving ideas are at work here with, for instance, the plasma television and audio equipment incorporated into the design of the kitchen island bench. Karen says this creates a streamlined effect and minimises the impact on floor and wall space, which is already taken up by another entertainment unit. "The location of the plasma TV makes sense as, this way, it doesn't impede or take the focus away from the view," she explains. It also provides the perfect place to display a striking original sculpture that Doris bought from the Schubert Gallery on the Gold Coast.





SPACE-SAVING SOLUTIONS ARE
A MUST FOR ANY APARTMENT
DWELLER AND THIS INGENUOUS
DESIGN CLEVERLY INCORPORATES
THE KITCHEN, ENTERTAINMENT
AND DINING AREA.



Rather than traditional feature walls, fabric-covered panels are used throughout the apartment to enhance the acoustics and add interest.

EVERY GIRL'S DREAM

Apart from the view, one of Karen's favourite items in this apartment – and loved by Doris and Len too – is the amazing custom-made carpet. “The blossom design is absolutely gorgeous and the silk in the pile creates a lovely luxurious feel,” Karen describes. It’s used in the bedrooms and living area, and while it’s feminine and pretty, it also adds a modern touch that works well with both the decorative fabric-covered wall panels and the solid walls.

To maintain a classic and comfortable feel, Karen worked on a neutral palette for the whole apartment with whites and taupes for most of the walls and flooring. “To add some interesting and individual splashes of colour, and to aid in the apartment’s acoustics, we installed full-height wall panels covered in fabric,” she says. The master bedroom features panels in Jim Thompson’s Fan Club from Milgate’s in Sydney, the guest bedroom has Warwick’s Macrosuede Aqua and the study features a wall of Boyac Segur Seg 6 in Pink.



COLOUR CODE

Doris and Len wanted their new home to have a luxurious feeling but they didn't want it to be flamboyant. There's no mistaking the luxury in the finishes – such as the carpet with its delicate pattern of raised silk blossoms – but it's completely understated. Karen chose a natural palette with walls in Dulux Hog Bristle, then added accents in opulent fabrics.

Dulux Hog Bristle



This fabric is Fan Club by Jim Thompson available from Milgate Fabrics in Melbourne and Sydney.

The master bedroom provides a wonderfully relaxing haven and the perfect place to enjoy a Sunday morning reading the paper, but perhaps the highlight of the suite is a unique department-store-inspired wardrobe that's sure to have any woman jealous and motivated to draw up her own plans! The inspiration? "Doris loves shoes and required adequate storage for her prized collection," Karen smiles.

To make a feature of this colourful footwear, KW Interiors created a shop-like

display of rows and rows of angled shelves on which to exhibit them. Picking a pair to match the day's outfit is easy as there's no need to go through boxes, and the opaque sliding doors, which are also lit from behind, keep the collection dust free.

STONE WALLED

"The neutral palette was extended into the kitchen with Imperial Cream Stone floors, CaesarStone benchtops and polyurethane cabinetry," says Karen. The bench extends

KAREN'S TOP TIP

From a designer's perspective, it's important to get a full brief from the client as this is the starting point. The home should be about what the owners like, not what the designer wants, but both parties must be happy with the choices.



Eat your heart out Sarah Jessica Parker! With a collection of shoes like this, Doris needed a way to display and protect them, and this department-store-inspired cabinet with slanted shelves, lighting and sliding doors was the perfect answer.

into the living area and doubles as a four-seat dining table, breakfast bar and handy food preparation space. Most of the appliances in the kitchen are Miele, including the stunning and distinctive rangehood.

The main bathroom is in a similar neutral palette of stone and CaesarStone, but a splash of colour is introduced with the mosaic feature wall in cobalt blues and greens. "For the ensuite, the neutral tones, walls and cabinetry are offset by the darker tones of Golden Imperador," adds Karen.

The Quay West apartment building is a long-standing fixture of the Sydney CBD skyline and Doris and Len love its central location. Karen says, "It looks over The Rocks, which is a busy historical and cultural

hub of Sydney, full of markets and places to eat, and close to the harbour. To own an apartment in the Quay West building is to own one of the most sought-after views in the world with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Opera House and glittering Circular Quay right outside." And inside of course, its world-class facilities include a swimming pool, gym and room service!

Karen really nailed the look that Doris and Len were after and they're more than impressed with her work. "She did a spectacular job and we're very, very happy with the home," Doris smiles.

Karen Wallace of KW Interiors can be contacted on (02) 9792 3700 or visit www.kwinteriors.com.au