

Cutting shapes Curves in the Moooi pendant from Space and Dita stools from Grazia&Co help soften the kitchen's look.

Monochrome mix Handle-free jet-black cabinetry looks sleek, and contrasts with the white marble island.





BUILT TO LAST

NEW LUXURY

With its considered details and designer touches, this new residential development in East Melbourne sets the standards for modern apartment living

photography **sharyn cairns** styling **edwina glenn**

meet the architects

Allan Powell and Ed Glenn of Powell & Glenn were engaged by ICON Developments to transform a rundown 1960s motel into 12 contemporary residential apartments.

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Master stroke
A painterly artwork by Penny Coss adds a bold jolt of colour.

Dine in Cassina 'Cab' chairs from Space work well with an Arte stained oak table from Jordan.

DINING



On display Open shelving in the office nook provides great storage and a place to show off decor.

OFFICE

SITTING ON THE CORNER of George and Powlett streets in picturesque East Melbourne is a beautiful new building. Aptly named George + Powlett, the block of 12 apartments is a far cry from the outdated yellow-brick motel that used to reside at the same address. Designed by Powell & Glenn architects for ICON Developments (icondevelopments.com.au), the concept was for stylish and timeless residences, and to create a space akin to living in a full-sized house while providing the comfort and convenience of apartment living. It was also imperative that the new building “responded to and looked out onto the heritage surrounds,” explains architect Ed Glenn.

From the outside you’ll see an urban oasis – an impressive concrete-rendered facade is softened with climbing plants and palm trees. “Most of the apartments are built around courtyards or verandahs, which allows the interiors to be a study in space and light,” Ed says. And it’s true. Inside you’ll find functional spaces that are brimming with natural light and clever design ideas. “The interiors are quiet and use a palette of natural materials,” he adds.

Timeless washed-timber flooring is complemented with in-built shelving in the same tone, while veiny marble and jet-black cabinetry in the kitchen offer a more contemporary edge. “The walls and ceilings are largely white plaster to create a sense that the building is carved out of one material,” Ed says. The apartments’ three-metre-high ceilings and full-height doors and windows also contribute to their sense of openness. →

style tip For bedrooms, stick to colours that encourage calm – blue, grey or neutral tones will work best

Night sky Textural inky blue linen from Bed Threads sets a moody and relaxed vibe in the bedroom.

Bold bulb A Bud lamp from Space sits atop a stylish Leo bedside table from Grazia&Co.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES

The building's penthouse apartment (pictured) is a study in texture and shape – a look carefully curated by interior designer Edwina Glenn (Ed's wife). "I felt it was important to respond to the architecture with a layered contemporary design aesthetic that also drew on historical references," she says. "I used a pared-back palette of earthy charcoal linen, ink blue bedding, caramel saddle leather and warm oak timbers." The overall style is restrained and invigorating, and communicates effortlessly with the building's architecture. ●

Layers of luxury
Textural cushions and a Leila charcoal sofa from Jordan create a luxe yet inviting look.



get the look

Lift a white base with inky blue accents and plenty of touchy-feely textures



- 1** Eggshell Acrylic paint in Bombe Alaska, \$114.50 for 4L, Porter's Paints. **2** Oscar bedside table in Navy, \$299, Life Interiors.
- 3** 100% flax linen sheet set in Ink, \$280 for queen, Bed Threads. **4** Vitra cork stool, \$775, Space. **5** Moooi 'Hang' pendant light in White, \$665, Space.