

Room update

Clever design has transformed this living room into a refined space that does justice to the view beyond.

THE BRIEF

The owners of this Sydney home wanted to create a 'jewel box' of an apartment that would display sophisticated detailing and maximise its incredible outlook. It was a challenge to open out what had previously been a rather tunnel-like space, says interior designer Thomas Hamel. "Nothing was symmetrical; the ceiling was low with a multitude of support beams."

THE MAKEOVER

Working with architect Patricia Sims, Hamel introduced larger picture windows and walnut-stained tallowwood parquetry. "The parquetry visually expands the space and helps to hide all the odd angles that are part of the existing structure," says Hamel. A double-sided gas fireplace, designed to link the dining and living rooms, adds a valuable transparency to the central structure. Seating upholstered in neutral-coloured fabrics was custom-designed by Hamel and arranged to free up the space, allowing for continuous views of Sydney Harbour.

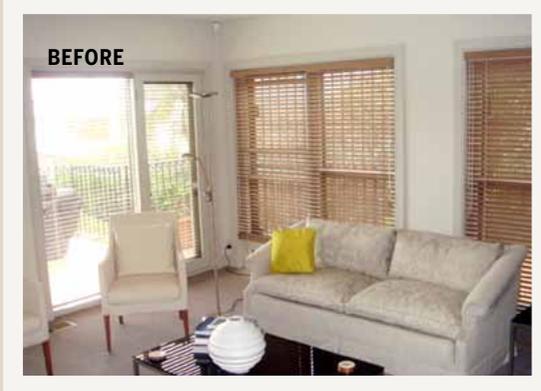


The lowdown

FLOORING Walnut-stained tallowwood parquetry flooring in Versailles pattern, hand-finished. Between \$500 and \$700/m², sourced by builder from Nash Timbers; (02) 9337 6800 or www.nashtimbers.com.au.

RUG Essakow silk/hemp rug from the Tibetan Collection made by Behruz Studio, Melbourne, \$20,619 and supplied by Residence Australia; (02) 9319 5400 or www.residence-australia.com.

FIREPLACE Custom-designed by Thomas Hamel & Associates. Surround in honed Pietra Beige marble, from \$495/m², supplied by Granite & Marble Works;



(02) 9519 9900 or www.granitemarbleworks.com.au. Lopi double-sided gas fire from Abbey Fireplaces.

FURNITURE Custom-designed by Thomas Hamel & Associates. Sofa fabric: Great Plains 'Wall to Wall' and 'Colour Stone', Holly Hunt, New York. Chair fabric: Jasper Michael Smith in Palma Caramel from Thomas Lavin, Los Angeles.

SHUTTERS Sourced by the builder, SL Wilson Construction; (02) 9879 7225 or www.slwilson.com.au.

ROUND TABLE Henri side table by Ironies in Los Angeles.

Thomas Hamel & Associates, Redfern, NSW; (02) 9363 3738 or www.thomashamel.com.