



Inspiration

TAKING SHAPE

A CURIOSITY ABOUT SPACE, FORM AND LIGHT HAS GIVEN MICHAEL KILKEARY THE GIFT OF GOOD DESIGN

Words LAURA BARRY

Michael Kilkeary has been intrigued by space, form and light for as long as he can remember. Naturally, this led him to study architecture and interior design, a career that's seen him work across residential design and boutique offices. Now, he brings his wealth of knowledge to Cadence & Co as one of the principal designers. "My contribution to the development of the Cadence & Co design practice and the team that we have built is my proudest professional achievement," says Michael. "We've developed a practice with a very diverse project range and a design approach that focuses on spaces to be lived in by our clients. I'm very proud of what our team has achieved in a short time." Shown here is lifestyle property Charlotte Park, just one of many inspiring Cadence & Co projects that showcases Michael's design work.

GET THE LOOK



From left: 6-light candle chandelier in Black, \$319, overstock.com. The Tartan Blanket Co 'Bannockbane Silver' recycled wool tartan blanket, \$156*, Wolf & Badger. Mirage Haven 'Agery' velvet cushion cover in Dark Blue, \$61.70/55cm x 55cm, Hardtofind. Natural river stone loose wall cladding, \$98/sqm, Melbourne Pavers. 'Josie' concrete and steel coffee table in Black, \$1159, Living Styles. >

"I like a plan to be strongly grounded, before layering the finer details"

MICHAEL KILKEARY

ROCK STAR
AT CHARLOTTE PARK, IN SYDNEY, THE WOOD-BURNING FIRE DRAWS EVERYONE INTO THE STUNNING LIVING SPACE. THE FURNITURE, IN A PALETTE OF BLUES AND TOFFEE, PICKS UP ON THE COLOURS OF THE 'WAMBERAL' STONE FROM ECO OUTDOOR USED TO CREATE THE CUSTOM-MADE CHIMNEY.



WARM WELCOME
THE MCM HOUSE SOFA, ARMCHAIRS FROM COCO REPUBLIC AND A LUSH DAYBED FROM BOYD BLUE ALL INVITE RELAXATION - JUST ADD CUSHIONS AND A COSY THROW ('FIESOLE' FROM CASA BY KATE NIXON).

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HOME ON THE RANCH
THE CLIENTS OF THIS PROPERTY WERE DRAWN TO RANCH-STYLE HOMES, WHICH LED TO THE USE OF CLASSIC MATERIALS, SUCH AS TIMBER AND STONE, BEING USED. THE OUTDOOR SOFAS ARE FROM ECO OUTDOOR.

PLANT POWER
THE HOME HAS A STUNNING TERRACE BY THE POOL THAT'S JUST MADE FOR ENTERTAINING. POTS AND URNS FROM MYLES BALDWIN DESIGN ARE FILLED WITH A VARIETY OF GREENERY TO SOFTEN THE SPACE AND ADD INTEREST.

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) BY TALL CO. (IMAGE COURTESY OF CADENCE & CO); (TOP) COURTESY OF CADENCE & CO.; (MIDDLE) COURTESY OF CADENCE & CO.; (BOTTOM) COURTESY OF CADENCE & CO.; (LEFT) COURTESY OF CADENCE & CO.; (RIGHT) COURTESY OF CADENCE & CO.

1
Fritz Hansen
'Series 7'
swivel chair in
essential leather,
\$1188, Cult.



'Ritratto di un santo',
2019, artwork by
Sergio Fiorentino,
sergiofiorentino.it.



Designer's notebook

MICHAEL'S FAVOURITE PLACES, SPACES, PEOPLE AND IDEAS TO INSPIRE, MOTIVATE AND CELEBRATE

Who has influenced your work and design ethos? "This is an ever-evolving answer. I think we have to be continually open to influence and discovery. There have been many influences for me over the years. The Majorca houses designed by Jørn Utzon are a continuing inspiration, and the work of American architect Jim Olson."

What are your favourite restaurants? "Milk Haus near Milton on the NSW South Coast is a converted cheese factory. Its philosophy, as simply stated on its website, is back to basics, good food that makes you feel energised and alive - the food is amazing! Rollers Bakehouse (7) in Sydney's Manly, they specialise in croissants. I love their sculptural interpretation of the classic croissant and their abundant flaky almond spines remind me of a Stegosaurus."

Where are your favourite places to shop for homewares? "Angelucci (3) in Melbourne - I'm drawn more to aged and vintage pieces, something that comes with a story. Lunaticques in Mascot, Sydney. Most of the time we come away with nothing, but it's fun to wander and see what random collection is on offer. Planet (5), in Sydney's Surry Hills. I love their range of hand-thrown Australian ceramic tableware."

Where do you go to find inspiration? "I like to turn to books. Instagram is a constant source of reference and awareness, but I like the immersion that a good library can provide. It's a bit like slow cooking, and just as satisfying! Travel is always the most vivid source of inspiration and rejuvenation in a design sense."

Do you have a favourite building that - to you - is the perfect example of architectural work? "On my bucket list is a visit to Can Lis (6) in Majorca [by Jørn Utzon]. I love its fortress-like pavilions arranged along the clifftop ... I think it is such a poetic house."

What is on your wish list right now? "An ultimate wish list item is a Sergio Fiorentino painting (8). I love sketching and life drawing or drawing from casts/sculptures (4) - it's kind of a meditation for me - I'd love a collection of plaster casts to spend time drawing, and a Fritz Hansen 'Series 7' swivel chair (1)."

See more of Michael's work at cadenceandco.com.au.



Croissants
and more
are on offer
at Rollers
Bakehouse
in Manly.



2

This Bower Street project by Cadence & Co in Sydney's Manly saw a tired room transformed into a second living space.



3

Angelucci in Melbourne.



An array of ceramic tableware on display at Planet in Sydney.

6



"It's a story of limestone and terracotta glowing in the Mediterranean sun," says Michael of Can Lis.



5