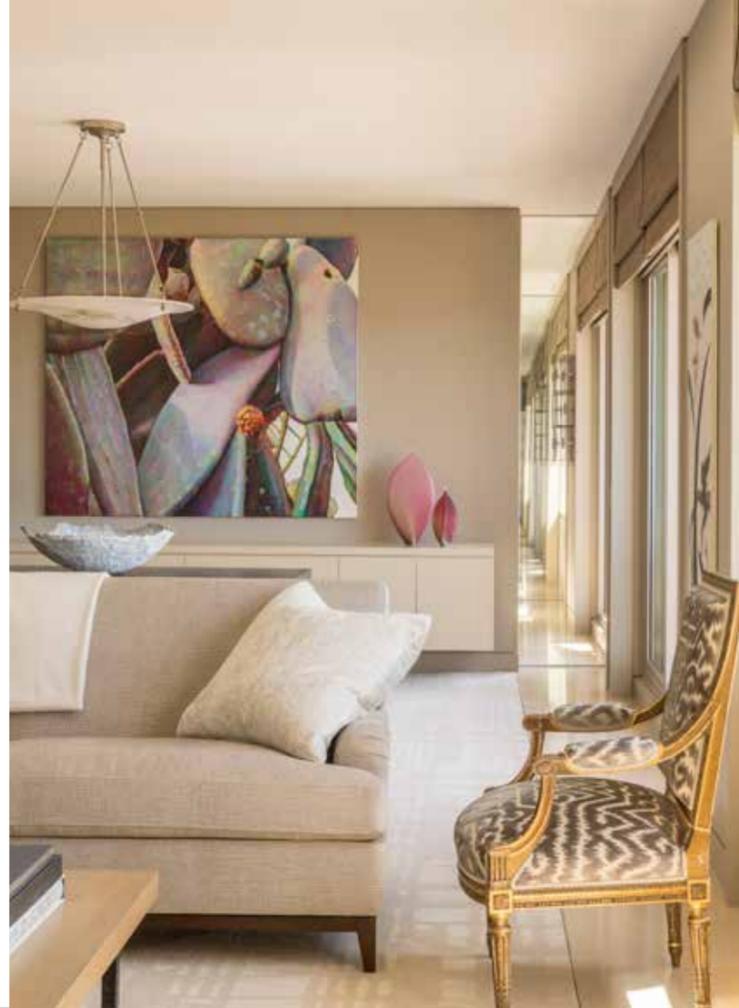




INTERIOR DESIGNER
Thomas Hamel
HARBOUR MASTERS
/ Darling Point /

Photographs
FELIX FOREST
Styling
STEVE CORDONY

This page, clockwise from top left B&B Italia 'luta' desk chair, Flos 'Snoopy' lamp and screen by John Bechini. In the hallway, artworks by Justine Varga (left), Ninni Donato and Naomi Charles. Joshua Yeldham owl artwork. Florence Knoll dining table and Knoll 'Spoleto' chairs with Viabizzuno 'Candela di Vals' light and artworks by unknown artist (centre), and Justine Varga (right). **Opposite page** Minotti 'Kline' sofa, B&B Italia 'Mart' armchair and Knoll 'Saarinen' side table. Aaron Kinnane artwork. Ceramic box from Studio Miyabi.



"THE DINING NOOK MAKES THE PERFECT SPOT FOR MORNING COFFEES AND CASUAL CATCH-UPS WITH FRIENDS."

WHEN DESIGN LOVER JOHN Bechini of lighting specialist Viabizzuno Australia wanted to turn his dark apartment into a light-filled, gallery-like space, he asked Christo Design to convert his ideas and inspirations into plan drawings and set the renovation in motion. *viabizzuno.com*
How did you come to live in this apartment? I purchased it two years before the renovation intending to produce the perfect space to fit my lifestyle. I aimed to create the feeling of an art gallery using a basic palette to let my art and objects be the stars. I also wanted a dressing room and a work space, so the idea was to carve up one of the three bedrooms.
How did you resolve the challenges of the space? The apartment runs the length of the building so there was abundant light at either end, but less so in the middle, so the question was how to bring in the light and views. I resolved this by moving doorways and creating openings for natural light. An unforeseen benefit was that on entering the apartment you get a glimpse of water, which then leads you through the space, whereas

before you had to walk to the end of the corridor to realise there was a view! *How would you describe the completed interior?* The finishes palette is uncomplicated, masculine and restrained. It feels relaxing and is a very inviting space to come home to. *What are your favourite design elements? How did you maximise the space?* I love the new openings that let in natural light and views, and the recessed rail that allows me to move my art easily and creates a beautiful shadow line detail. The concealed kitchen is a favourite and I made it look more like a bar to extend the entertaining and living space. *What informed your selection of fittings and finishes?* I work in the industry and see some amazing projects my clients have designed, so I took inspiration from favourite design elements and finishes and combined them all into one space. *Are you happy with the results?* Very happy. It is a sanctuary where I can entertain friends, relax and be at peace. I use the spaces exactly as intended and now enjoy the whole apartment rather than just certain rooms. It is a bright, airy space with great energy!



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