

THE HOT ISSUE

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Picture perfect

Inspired by the art of Tim Storrier, a hotel in Sydney's Potts Point is a masterpiece of design and comfort.

JUST AS SYDNEY-BORN TIM STORRIER glorifies the Australian landscape in his stunning artworks, the transformation of a dilapidated Art Deco building in inner-city Sydney into a stylish new boutique hotel, The Storrier, has glamorised the local surrounds.

In its latest incarnation, the former backpackers' hotel, boasting a location nearby the fabulous stores and eateries of Macleay Street, has lifted the tone of Potts Point's Springfield Avenue from shabby to chic. Even better, it's a great addition to an area lacking in boutique hotels.

The Storrier, the first in a series of art hotels planned for Sydney and Melbourne, is the brainchild of Will Deague, the dynamic managing director of the Melbourne-based A Hotels Group.

The Deague family is passionate about Australian art. In 2001, David Deague, Will's property-developer father took his family and 10 prominent Australian artists, including Tim Storrier and John Olsen, to Lake Eyre. There he commissioned 110 works, which became the basis of the collection *William Creek and Beyond*. One of Tim's works from the trip, *Point to Point (Evening Blaze)*, is the focal point of The Storrier's foyer and its image of burning rope has formed the basis for the extravagant colour palette used by interior designer David Hicks for the hotel's exterior and lobby.

David wanted to link the exterior colour scheme to both the artist's work and the surrounding streetscape, which includes a row of quaint



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT One of The Storrier's bedrooms; bathroom with taps and swan spout from Astra Walker; Moooi's 'Paper Chandelier' is a feature of the hotel; dining room featuring Philippe Starck Ghost chairs. OPPOSITE PAGE The foyer.

terraces and a few charming but rundown places that are in the throes of revival.

The exterior of the old Art Deco beauty was brought back to life with sandblasting and clever paintwork. The window frames and trims were painted Dulux Vivid White, providing a fresh contrast against the brick facade. Dulux Silk Stockings was used for dramatic effect on the facade above the entry. The striking Hollywood Regency entrance doors leading to the elegant foyer are painted Dulux Orange Bowl and echo the burnished oranges of his painting *Point to Point (Evening Blaze)*.

Hotel guests are greeted with a fusion of influences. Bevelled-mirror wall panels, elaborate cornices, crystal wall lights and chandeliers give a nod to the building's Art Deco heritage. A pink terrazzo floor, timber wall panels, Kelly Wearstler trellis-patterned wallpaper (lining the ceiling) and Victoriana table bases give the dining area a retro Hollywood feel. Downstairs, bathrooms are lavish, featuring Cole & Son 'Flamingos' wallpaper and an amazing wall-mounted swan spout and taps from Astra Walker.

The Storrier has 70 rooms, which were designed and furnished by The Taro Group, A Hotels Group's in-house design department. The rooms are simple, stylish and sophisticated, with luxurious beds covered in crisp white cotton linen, flat-screen televisions, high-speed broadband connections, marble bathrooms and Molton Brown products.

With its combination of unique attributes – the burning brilliance of Tim Storrier's artwork, an imposing street presence, elegant and whimsical interiors created by David Hicks and a central location – The Storrier is a little masterpiece in the heart of Potts Point.

The Storrier is located at 15 Spring Street, Potts Point; www.thestorrier.com

