

VOGUE LIVING AUSTRALIA

New

Sicily,
Sydney,
St Tropez:
the GOLDEN
age of luxury
interiors

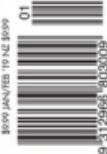
LIVING

EXCLUSIVE
Poolsides
with HUGH
JACKMAN
and
DEBORRA-LEE
FURNESS

year

SUMMER'S
HOTTEST
HOLIDAY
The ultimate
insider's guide
to Tuscany

bold summer style



THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: Playa robe in Golden Rye Stripe, \$465, from Lucy Folk; Kristalla Brown lounge in Sunbrella Heritage fabric, \$3290, from Rumbi; Paola Lenti Cicci side table, PM100, from Rumbi; Paola Lenti Amalfi sofa, large, \$11,160, from Rumbi; Passion Diversity necklace in 18kt yellow gold, \$1345, from Lucy Folk.
OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT: India Mahdavi Candy chairs in Marine Blue, Bleu & Marin and Vichy chair in Yellow & Marin, \$830 each, from Aia.



SHOP

Over the rainbow

Look for the girl with the sun in her eyes.
India Mahdavi (short of being in the sky) creates
FANTASY enough on the ground.

Produced & styled by Josephine Gardner. Photographed by Dave Wheeler

She's credited with bringing pink back into interiors via her heavily Instagrammed Sketch gallery-restaurant in London. But India Mahdavi goes one-pattern pony. She used what an executive called "spit-shock stripes" all over the walls of a Ladurée tearoom, and her Chez Nina nightclub installation at Nefertari Gallery in Milan this year made rainbow velvet a thing to never.

She has said she wants to "bring sunshine into a space" and that is exactly what she does via her Don Giovanni lamps. Like the plant flowers on a Meadow of Oz set, they're a bit '70s, a bit Mod, but with jolly mould-like Murano glass globes and glasto-acrylic-stack colour mixes, they are mostly just Mahdavi.

Luckily for us, the Don Giovanni lamp is now available in Australia via Alte Invest. In a little Mahdavi sunshine for your living space, joyce@camille.com

India Mahdavi
Don Giovanni table lamp
in pink, \$1,200; in olive green
\$1,200; in pink and silver
green, and yellow and pink,
\$1,200; via Alte.

Details, last pages
Shot on location at Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

FROM LEFT: *Horse Lamp* (2010) by Joao Matos; *Revert Diner* (2008) **mirrors** by Jaison Orenzo (2005) artwork by Motos Espinazz; *Pelican* (2008); **sculpture** by Capit; *Scallop* (2005) by Tamar Magenovitz; *Oval* (2010); **mirrors** by Kiko Lopez; *Apeus* (2008); **artwork** (on floor) by Gabriele Crevi; *Horse* (2010); **sculpture** by Regen Liggi-Refetoff.

"It's not about a certain price point, luxury materials or designer names. It just has to be unique"



PEOPLE

Marjolaine Leray

This French interior designer has brought a burst of St Tropez to Sydney's WOOLLAHRA in the form of Alm, a zesty watermelon-hued shopping haven.

By Verity Magdalino Photographed by Dave Wheeler

It's a kind of love story, the way I found Sydney," says Marjolaine Leray, the French-born owner of Alm, Sydney's newest and arguably most colourful destination for inspirational one-off art and homewares. "My daughter wanted to stay here and after visiting, I fell in love with the city."

It wasn't too long after that initial visit that Leray took a lease on a retail space next door to Woollahra, had it painted watermelon pink — a reference to the Wes Anderson film *The Grand Budapest Hotel* — and moved, along with her daughter, from her home in the South of France. She's now on the lookout to buy a house in the neighbourhood surrounding the store, which first opened its doors last August.

An ex-art gallery owner and investment banker-turned-interior designer, Leray says her foray into interiors started almost by chance. "I studied forestry and wildlife, then mechanical engineering," she says. "I looked for a job and couldn't find one so did an MBA. Then I ran out of money, which is why I went into investment banking. At the same time I had art galleries in Paris and New York. I was always interested in art but I definitely didn't think I was creative."

After 18 years working in finance Leray made a sea change and moved with her then seven-year-old daughter from Paris to the South of France, back to the village where she grew up. It was here, in the hilltop town of Ramatuelle, just a few minutes' drive from St Tropez, that Leray realised her dream of making a 17th-century chateau her home, restoring its decaying grandeur and transforming the atmospheric cellar, historically used to press olive oil, into her first gallery-meets-retail space in 2005.

In the years that followed, Leray's business organically evolved into three concept spaces, all within walking distance from each other — the original cellar, or La Pressoir, filled with new and vintage furniture, art and homewares; a pocket-sized boutique in the centre of Ramatuelle offering smaller objets such as paintings and ceramics; with Leray's interior design agency housed just next door; and an expansive three-storey, 600-square-metre space, which integrates quirky furnishings and art with a fabric workshop.

There's a sense of provenance, poetry and high-low charm in Leray's exceptional approach

to retail — from India Mahdavi's Cap Martin manan chairs, made just an hour away from Ramatuelle, to Pieter Henk Ezik's renowned Waste Table in Scrapwood, and Malbec, a line of bespoke, sustainable furniture by Botswana-based designer Peter Mabon. "It's not about a certain price point, luxury materials or designer names," she says. "It just has to be unique."

Since moving to Sydney and opening a fourth space in her newly adopted home, Leray has also become a champion of Australian art and design. Recently, in Ramatuelle, she hosted an exhibition of recent works by Australian artists Alicia Taylor, James King, Kerry Armstrong and Antonia Meljuk. Right now visitors to her Woollahra store can see the surreal photography by Sydney-Melbourne duo Honey Long and True Scott. She's also a fan of designer Trent Jansen, stocking pieces from his limited-edition Brouched Monsters collection now on show at the National Gallery of Victoria. "He's truly wonderful," says Leray. "I mentioned him to [the Milanese gallerist] Bassana Orlandi and I'm hoping for both of them that his work will be shown in Milan in 2019."

Back in her French hometown, Leray has quietly and handily built up an impressive international design business with projects spanning restaurants, stores and private homes in France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Here in Australia she says her focus will be mostly to source unique objects, furnishings and art — including her own creations, such as repurposed mirrors, furniture and textiles — for the local interiors and industry.

"I'm also thinking of introducing fashion to the store, which I've not done before. I'm in love with the work of a designer called Adjana, and also Franck Sorbier," she says, referencing one of the few independent boutiques in Paris whose latest collection was made entirely from plant-derived materials. "His work is original, he goes beyond his comfort zone and is an environmental activist in his own way. He heckles traditional rules and adds a little humour in a universe of poetry." Not unlike the talented Leray herself. **VL**

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