



◀ **STUDY** Gimming table by Pierre & Charlotte; Thonet Vienna chairs. The winged paper headdress on the upper shelf is one of three recently commissioned pieces by Harney for Hermès Germany.
▶ **COLLECTIBLES** Floating shelves house rare and unusual items including a piece of the Berlin wall cast in resin (top left), an Australian watercolour from the 1880s and an alabaster Taj Mahal from the 1950s.



VISUAL FEAST

WITH LUCY FEAGINS OF THE DESIGN FILES

Inspiration abounds everywhere you look in this Art Deco home

WHO Paper engineer Benja Harney (paperform.com.au) and interior architect Andrew Waller (mrwaller.com)

WHERE Double Bay, NSW **WHAT** An Art Deco apartment

Benja Harney and Andrew Waller moved into their Double Bay apartment around five years ago. They fell in love with the grand proportions of the home and its beautiful original features – period detailing such as original cornicing and door joinery, and a functional brick fireplace in the main lounge.

“We wanted a home that already had a relaxed warmth within the space, that could form a backdrop to all our amassed collectibles,” says Harney. Though Waller’s style tends toward the pared-back, Harney’s knick-knack obsession is “verging on the positively Victorian”, he confesses. “We are always trying to strike a harmonious balance between visual interest but keeping clutter minimal,” he explains.

The space is dominated by Harney’s work and various paper prototypes. Another obsession over the years has been collecting transparent objects. Chemistry glasses, crystals, bell jars and large chunks of Perspex are amassed on various surfaces.

The pair has also amassed a collection of antique chairs. Some of the oldest examples are family pieces from the late 19th century, with turned spindles and caned seats. Harney’s grandfather was an antiques dealer for 30 years, with a vast hoard of furniture collected during his lifetime, much of which Harney has inherited.

There is a lot Harney and Waller love about their apartment. Its circular layout was a drawcard from the outset. “You can walk through the space from room to room via a central hallway,” explains Harney. “It’s a flexible design with a sense of fluidity.” A favourite escape is the ‘man den’ – a separate lounge room at the front of the apartment, which looks onto an exposed internal rock face. This moody room is a retreat; Harney and Waller like to chill here, watching movies in the colder months.

As is the case with so many creative people, for Harney and Waller, home is more than a place to rest and recharge. Being surrounded by books, artwork and art objects is central to their respective careers. “Our home is constantly evolving with the latest pieces sourced, and project samples we are working on,” explains Harney. “Home is where we live with our work and test out all our creative ideas.”

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