



news



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ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS
COMMENDATIONS

In the recent 2009 DIA (Design Institute of Australia) South Australian Design Awards, two of Associate Sophia Leopardi's interior works received commendations, The Rose Park residence interior and the Heart Shape Box furniture piece.

The Rose Park residence needed to first and foremost represent the two distinct personalities that would share it and their collection of art, furniture and objects needed to be thoughtfully housed within each of the spaces. Channelling inspirations of Hollywood glamour and punk rock, Sophia and the client set about drawing together a series of spaces that would speak boldly of those who live within them.

With little but the front facade and a few external walls of the existing 1890's symmetrical cottage remaining, it was an essential that a sense of where the new structure had grown from was not only evident but celebrated.

Beginning by visiting some of the client's favourite spaces including bars and restaurants, Sophia compiled a set of images which captured the mood and vision for the project, which in turn created an index which would be referred to when making material and colour choices.

A monochromatic palette tempered with subtle shifts in texture, whilst not slinking away shyly, would provide a balance to the furnishing of the spaces. White on white detail in the pressed tin ceilings, and decorative cornice in the "original part of the house" are contrasted with panelled gloss black mirrored doors, shots of mustard green inserted into joinery and a glass persimmon coloured blade wall in the bathroom, bringing together a rebellious mix of glamour and hard edge straight lines.

Throughout the duration of the project collaboration with the clients, Architect and Landscape Architect were paramount in achieving a cohesive end product.

"The Design embeds the comforts and contemporary traditions of 'Home', that could have otherwise easily resulted in an art galleriesque' interior". *DIA Awards Jury 2009*



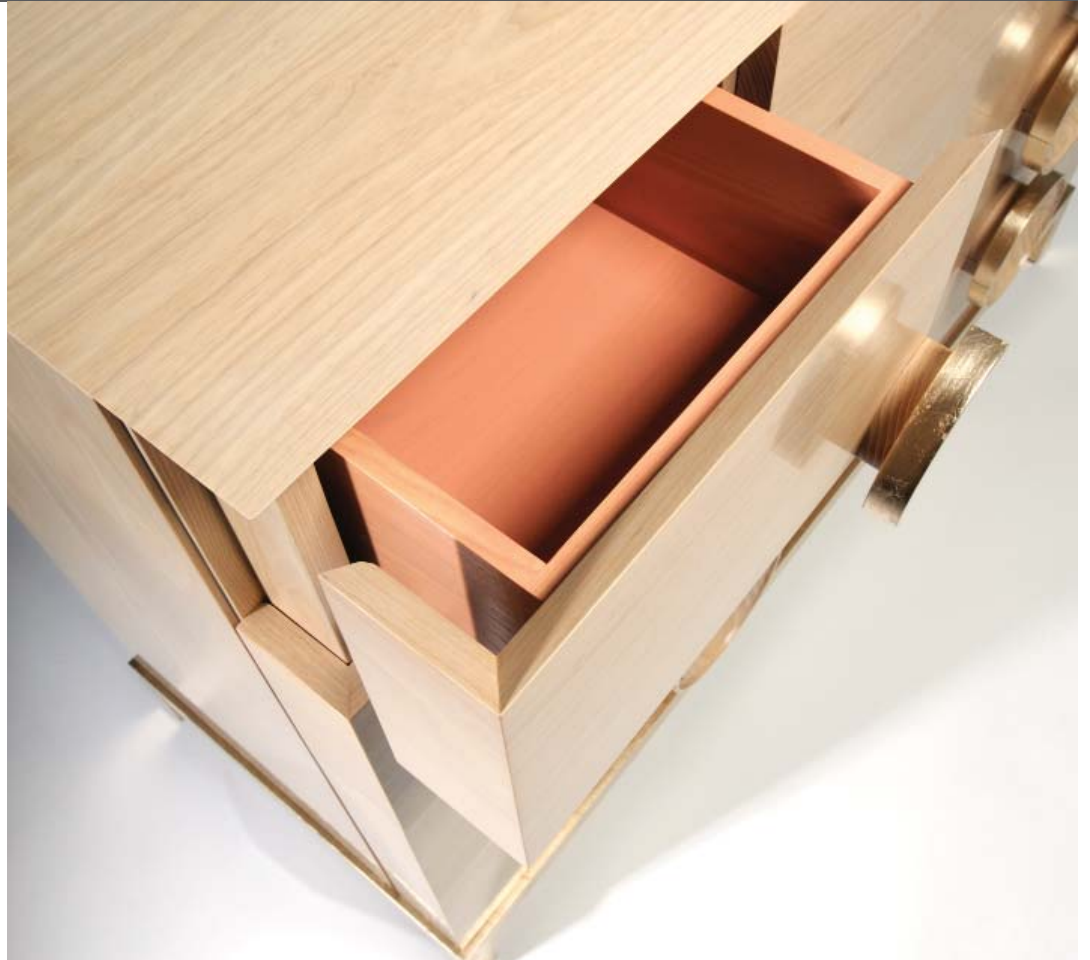
"Where the spirit does not work
with the hand there is no art"

Leonardo Da Vinci





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"The concept for Heart Shape Box was born out of a woman's "need for more storage".So my client being a good husband decided to grant his wife's wish". *Sophia Leopardi 2009*

Memories of a jewellery box, which I think most little girls have owned at some point was the seed. The perfect ivory white box with pink felt interior to hold your most precious belongings, the beautiful ballerina and delicate chime of the musical chime, all secured by a gold clasp. It was these musings that informed the initial sketches.

Both traditional and modern construction methods were utilized to create a piece that is not only beautiful to look at, but a pleasure to use. With millimetre precision the drawers are operated by concealed runners, allowing the wrap around drawer fronts to smoothly glide open. The limed milky tone of the American Ash adds elegance to the piece with the timber interior washed in pink to match the velvet lined jewellery tray, a very grown up version of the felt that inspired its inception. The distinct button like turned handles are a reference to the clasp, gilded edges giving them a luminous quality that float over the face of the drawers.

The finished product sits comfortably within the space, its strong proportions offset by the soft tones of the washed American Ash, and subtle reflections in the waxy hand polish. "It is a thoughtful, emotionally resonating item of furniture which is testimony to the positive client/ designer relationship." *DIA Awards Jury 2009*

A message of affection engraved into the flip-top lid. *top left*

A place to Store everything. *bottom left*

Millimetre precision makes the Heart Shaped box a Pleasure to use. *top right*



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Williams Burton
architecture + interior design
architects@williamsburton.com.au
williamsburton.com.au

L1 101 Flinders Street
Adelaide South Australia 5000
T + 61 8 8223 1177
F + 61 8 8232 3603

20 Market Street
South Melbourne Victoria 3205
T + 61 3 9682 9954
F + 61 8 8232 3603