



FROM LEFT **Curves ahead** "Perfecting the curves and symmetry of each marble piece to work within the footprint of the store was a challenge with such large and fragile pieces of stone," says Alexandra of the floors. **Bespoke beauty** The hand-forged iron display racks and rails were designed by AP Design House to reflect the floor's shape. A vintage Murano glass pendant light hangs from the ceiling. **Touch point** A rendered beige finish was used on the walls for added texture. **Centre stage** The fitting area has a custom brass mirror, vintage Paolo Venini Italian glass wall sconces and Nepalese brown carpet inset into the marble floors.



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Sabath full-piece **swimsuit** in Snake Print, \$250; Herman **top** in Fudge, \$145; Franz **bottoms** in Fudge, \$80; Grande **hat** in Snake Print, \$395; all Fella Swim.

FELLA SWIM
PADDINGTON, NSW

space crush

This elegant boutique takes style cues from Italy's most fashionable destinations

WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER ALEXANDRA PONTING first saw the proposed Fella Swim location in Sydney's Paddington, it was bleak. "The site was pretty derelict," says Alexandra, founder of AP Design House. "It was a dirty concrete pit with a very illegal makeshift staircase and a dodgy sliding front entry door. It needed to be gutted – which suited me!" Alexandra removed walls, built a new staircase and constructed a fresh street facade in order to fulfill her clients' wish of achieving an elegant, European-style boutique influenced by Milan and Capri in Italy. "The New Guinea rosewood French doors with walnut stain and sidelight windows with beautiful detail are classic," says Alexandra. "The pairing of the black and white awning, brass hardware, Carrara marble front stoop, black lacework balustrade and the original brickwork of the Victorian terrace have my heart." Inside, white and brown feature prominently, with depth and contrast created through the use of organic textures such as timber, marble, iron and brass. The furniture is a mix of bespoke and vintage pieces, paired with vintage Italian wall sconces and pendants. "The flooring is the hero of the space and really fulfills the brief," says Alexandra. "The Carrara and Pietra Brown marbles are a softer and oversized scale of that seen in [Italian architect] Osvaldo Borsani's villa in Varedo." 📍

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