

**F**amily instilled an appreciation for creativity early on for Alexandra Ponting. “Art was a large part of my childhood,” says the interior designer. “My grandparents were avid collectors and took the time to show me how much joy it can bring to a room and the feelings it can evoke. My mother was in fashion and really understands fabrics, and the timelessness of a tonal, elegant palette.” This foundation held the Sydney-based creative in good stead as she established her interior architecture studio in 2012, after honing her skills in hotel and high-end residential design. The refined polish and craftsmanship of the past shines through in Ponting’s measured interior work, which balances sophistication with comfort, and luxury with traditional technique.

“I’m drawn to old-world beauty on a grand scale,” she says. “I adore the proportion and symmetry of Italian Renaissance architecture. And I like how things used to be constructed; ornate ceiling roses with intricate handcrafted detail, meaning no two in the one dwelling were the same. They are works of art in themselves.” Ponting’s “quite romantic and soft” approach has seen her scope grow during the past couple of years, and the care she takes in articulating her vision and collaborating with clients has led to beautifully realised outcomes. “It is a privilege to be given this task in methodically restoring the old, whilst at the same time introducing contemporary elements of design,” she says. “This is my way of softening the opulence and fussiness, giving a lightness to the older spaces.”

An AP Design House project may feature reclaimed Italian marble on the floor, a stuccoed sage-green mottled finish cast upon walls and details (lanterns, balustrades and side tables that started life as sketches) that show “the art of blacksmithing through hand-forged iron”. There is an intuitive tranquillity that Ponting brings to the spaces she designs. “My approach is minimal, but there is warmth and charm in the finishes. Each time I walk into a completed project, I find myself touching all the surfaces. There is always so much movement, variation and tactility.” [VL @apdesignhouse](#)

**THIS PAGE** Sydney interior designer Alexandra Ponting of AP Design House.



PHOTOGRAPHER: RORY GARDINER