



OWNER
Seymour Cohen
CALM AND COLLECTING
[*Toorak*]

Photography RHIANNON TAYLOR Production CARLI PHILIPS



These pages The high ceiling easily accommodates one of the owner's larger artworks, *Coastal Kit (Turbulence)* by Simon Taylor from Martin Browne Contemporary, above the sofa from James Said with French velvet cushions from Gaudion Furniture. Vintage Italian brass coffee table from Apologue Antiques as are the cushions on the 19th-century Louis XVI fauteuils from Conley & Co. 1840s Louis Philippe walnut commode from Ben Stoner Antiques. Alex Seton bust from Sullivan+Strumpf. Armadillo 'Agra' rug. Flowers throughout by Steven Gabriel of Maccora Flowers.



This page Studded linen bedhead from Lavender Hill Interiors with bed linen and Lanerossi throw from Polite Society, pillows by Creswick Woollen Mills, gold cushion from James Said and Ralph Lauren navy cushion from Palmer & Penn. Tulip vase from Amsterdam. 19th-century Louis XVI-style mirror from Brownlow Interior Design. Riviere bedside tray table from Becker Minty. Dog sculpture by Troy Emery from Martin Browne Contemporary.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left *Picture This*, *Watermelon* by Jonny Niesche from STATION gallery rests on a marble benchtop in the kitchen beside a leopard sculpture by Hamish Mackie. Alessi kettle and Miele stovetop. 18th-century Delft bowl holds pomegranates. 1840s Louis Philippe walnut commode from Ben Stoner Antiques. *Untitled (Queen at her coronation)* by Daniel Boyd from Roslyn Oxley9 and Sam Leach artwork from Nellie Castan Projects. Dining chairs from James Said and table from Arranmore Furniture with 1920s Lalique vase and Georg Jensen vessel. *Kenny* by Ben Quilty from Tolarno Galleries and *Untitled (Matisse self-portrait)* by Daniel Boyd from STATION gallery.



AVID ART and antiques collector Seymour Cohen bought this apartment in Melbourne's leafy Toorak off the plan. He moved in at the peak of the pandemic so while he couldn't have any visitors, he got to "really enjoy and appreciate the space" to the fullest. Seymour, who has lived for extended periods of time in flats in Singapore and later in Sydney, says he prefers apartment living. "I'm much more of an indoor person than outdoor."

When did you buy the apartment? I bought it off the plan in 2018 and it took two years to build. It was really nerve-racking as I'd never bought a place without seeing it first. I moved in July 2020 – right in the middle of lockdown. *Because you bought it off the plan was there any opportunity for customisation?* There were two bedrooms but no study so I added some built-in joinery to use as a desk. This was really useful when working from home. *What appealed to you about the apartment?* It was designed by architect Christopher Doyle who has worked on a lot of luxury developments in the area. I like the simple 1920s New York deco style with the premium finishes. There's also a hotel-like sensibility to the complex, with a gym and even a concierge. I also loved the location with its tree-lined streets and easy access to the CBD. *How much of a factor was having space to display your art?* Most new apartments have extensive feature walls but this was fairly compact so I had to make sure there was enough space to hang my collection. On the plus side, the ceilings are really high so there's room for bigger works such as the Simon Taylor above the sofa. I ensured there was counter space that could be used for sculptures and I've got a few consoles to rest pieces on. *What were some of the challenges of the space*

and how were they resolved? The apartment is west facing which is not good for certain artworks so I placed the finer pieces away from direct sunlight and moved the television and mirrors closer to the windows. I installed metallicised blinds to let in light but not damaging UV rays. *How would you describe the interior?* The dark parquet flooring and high ceilings contribute to the Parisian feel I wanted. There's a European sensibility with a mix of mid-century furniture, French antiques and contemporary art. I wanted elegant, pared-back pieces to complement the art, most of which is Australian. *What's the connection to the outdoors like?* There's a wonderful balcony with a westerly outlook so I get to enjoy the light of the beautiful Melbourne sunsets. I've put a couple of olive trees in green Anduze pots from Vintage Gardens. After living in Asia, I've come to hate air-conditioning so it's seldom on. I like to keep the balcony doors open so I can enjoy the breeze. *Did you employ any special devices or tricks to maximise the sense of space?* I changed the light fittings to white to help create the appearance of larger rooms and added long linen drapes with a puddle that draws the eye, creating a dramatic effect.

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