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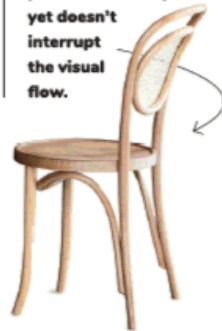
FEBRUARY 2020

Design

NINE
YARDS



The classic bistro chairs from Thonet (thonet.com.au), with their rattan backrests, have an echo in the custom banquettes crowned by a low-profile rattan "screen" that provides intimacy yet doesn't interrupt the visual flow.



Native content

Thoughtful accents foster an inherent sense of place at this true blue cafe.

Words KAREN MCCARTNEY

THE BRIEF for the interior of Nine Yards eatery in South Melbourne wasn't easy, and the task of echoing the menu's focus on Australian culinary and cultural references could have gone awry in less capable hands. Just how do you translate "wattle seed and thyme damper with bush honey and butter" into a room design?

Golden co-directors Alicia McKimm and Kylie Dorotic wanted to create a strong Australiana theme while respecting the heritage of the space as a stable. "Our interpretation of the Australian landscape and climate is seen in the marriage of raw and natural materials, while the 'Australiana' upholstery adds an

The materials were selected on the basis of longevity: robust tiling, timber and dry-cleanable upholstery ensure the space can stand up to the most demanding weekend brunch crowds.



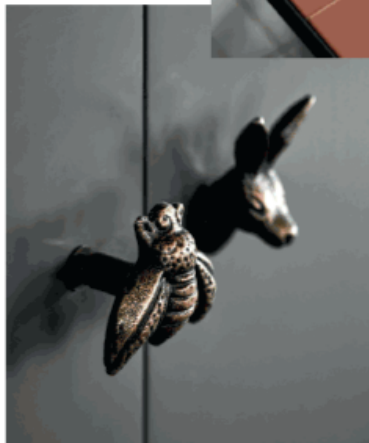
uplifting sense of nostalgia," says McKimm.

The colour palette, drawn from native flora and terrain, adds warmth through the tiled table surfaces in an earthy shade mimicking the red dust of the outback and new and recycled Australian timbers of Tasmanian oak and blackbutt.

The tour de force, however, is the fabric. "We regularly draw on local artists and makers to contribute to our designs, and have known textile artist Louise Jones for a number of years," says McKimm. "We just waited for the right project to come along."

Running counter to the Australiana theme is a nod to French bistro style. Traditional bentwood chairs by Thonet with rattan inlay in the backrest add a delicacy of touch and are echoed in the slim banquette privacy screens.

Ever mindful that a hospitality space gets a fair amount of rough treatment, pragmatic material choices are key. "While the immediate function is different from a residential space, the way materials are experienced and the impact they have on liveability applies to both," says McKimm. "Homes need to withstand young children, family gatherings, celebrations, and daily wear and tear." 🍷



The tiled tabletop is as practical as it is stylish. Here tiles from Tiento Tiles (tiento.com.au) have a dense, deep colour that recalls the red centre. The animal and insect handles riff off nearby Australiana-themed upholstery.