

# oke Artichoke

Artichoke — Australia's interiors and design magazine



A toast to the  
2020 Eat Drink Design  
Awards



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# In Brief

A collection of the latest interiors recently completed by Australian designers, from a Nigerian restaurant in Sydney to a nail salon in Melbourne.



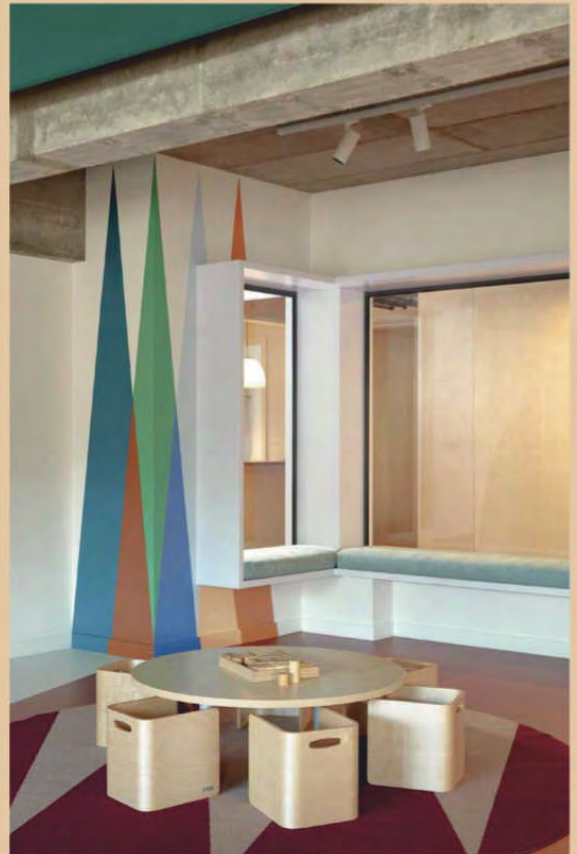
## Brighton Street Early Learning Centre by Danielle Brustman

▼ Melbourne designer Danielle Brustman has transformed a repurposed Brutalist building in inner-city Melbourne into an early education centre. The project brief invited bold use of colour and shapes – in fact, 47 interior paint colours were used. The centre exhibits a handmade and natural feel, with each playroom having its own motif, such as the “river” room, the “meadow” room, the “forest” room and the “cloud” room. These themes helped decide

the narrative, palette and treatment for each space. Graphic wall murals, hand-painted by Ben Maitland, are made up of block shapes. Durable materials, such as Marmoleum flooring and Tretford rugs, were chosen for the high-traffic space. “Children are so imaginative and less inhibited than we adults. It made complete sense to me that these spaces ought be filled with both stimulating and inspiring visuals. I wanted to push the colour palette

to its limits, I wanted it to be complex and colourful whilst still adhering to a level of sophistication, gentleness and balance,” says Brustman. “Colours and materials that are often used in education can be a bit crude and institutional. I wanted to completely break away from that model and present child-friendly spaces that felt more personalized and fun to be in.”

Photography — Sean Fennessy  
Danielle Brustman — [daniellebrustman.com](http://daniellebrustman.com)





## Black Star Pastry by Studio MKZ

◀ Responding to a brief for a “hole in the wall,” Studio MKZ has taken a minimalist approach in its design for Black Star Pastry at The Galeries shopping centre in the heart of Sydney. A stark white base palette allows architectural form to take centre stage, with a sculptural frontispiece – in the same white as the mosaic tiles lining the back-of-house spaces – folding open like the page of a book, creating the hole-in-the-wall effect. This elegant, folded form is echoed in the bench seating and signage in front of the shop, providing a sense of connection and common identity. Black Star Pastry, established in Sydney in 2008, is the creator of the Strawberry Watermelon Cake, which the *New York Times* called “the world’s most Instagrammed cake.” The Galeries hole in the wall is the patisserie’s fifth outlet.

Photography — Seung Rok Lee

Studio MKZ — [studiomkz.com.au](http://studiomkz.com.au)

## Carter Lovett by Megan Hounslow

▽ Converting a grand Victorian corner shopfront in Elsternwick, Megan Hounslow has created “a new local” where cafe chic meets old-school bistro. Carter Lovett operates day and night, offering coffee, food and wine, and the design allows for a change of atmosphere as the crisp light of the morning gives way to the moody hues of the evening. The full-height drapes, for instance, can be moved to filter light and alternate between communal and

intimate seating. Along with the soft drapes, the use of warm timber, natural leather and hemp linen brings a sense of comfort and sophistication to the space, in contrast to the austere concrete of the bar. The introduction of fine-steel frames to the windows and a custom leadlight feature between kitchen and dining space lends a sense of Victorian elegance to the venue.

Photography — Dianna Snape

Megan Hounslow — [meganhounslow.com](http://meganhounslow.com)





## Photography Studies College by Emma Louise Interiors and McIldowie Partners

► Emma Louise Interiors and architecture firm McIldowie Partners have created a dynamic and flexible learning environment for the Photography Studies College in South Melbourne. By introducing glazed sliding doors, bi-folding partitions and lightweight curtains, the design allows for small collaborative class work along with large-scale seminars. The building is divided into two sectors: student learning on the ground level and staff administration on the first floor. A ground-floor hub features a soft, curved wall that opens into a library and intimate meeting room. Bold colours in these areas aim to stimulate a sense of creativity and playfulness, and create a striking contrast to the raw elements of the industrial surrounds.

Photography — Dave Kulesza

Emma Louise Interiors —  
emmalouiseinteriors.com

McIldowie Partners —  
mcildowiepartners.com.au

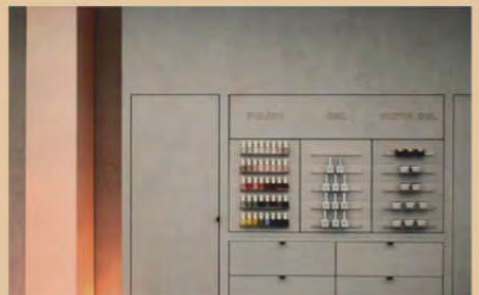


## Buff Nail Salon by Golden

▽ The design of Buff Nail Salon responds to a gap in the market for a boutique offering in an environment designed to enhance the client's visit. Beyond the pale blue door on busy Church Street in Brighton, Melbourne, a discreet hallway leads to a subterranean sanctuary with a sculpted, vaulted ceiling. Turning away from the usual nail salon experience, Golden has put sterilization and the ceremony of wash on show. The treatment zone is anchored centrally by a leathered granite wash station. The display wall, in polished plaster fascia, integrates organic colour paints and gel types with embossed signage above. Plum-coloured manicure chairs are paired with hard-wearing micro-suede pedicure chairs in blue, touching on the colour tones of the front door and hygiene window. A vertical garden presents a borrowed view to the interior space and contributes to natural insulation while also providing a zone for additional seating when weather permits.

Photography — Sharyn Cairns

Golden — designbygolden.com.au





### Little Lagos by Sandra Githinji

△ Sandra Githinji's design for Newtown restaurant Little Lagos is informed by restaurateur Ade's childhood tales of food markets in Nigeria. The interior colour palette reflects the tones of Nigerian cuisine – rich in tomatoes, capsicums and chillies – with loud colours juxtaposed against restrained, pale blond timbers. Tying the scheme together is the ochre-toned fabric draped above the 10-metre-long banquette seat and hanging in the brick archway that leads to back-of-

house. Known as Adire, this dyed cotton fabric is traditionally made by women throughout Yorubaland in south-western Nigeria. A gallery wall highlights the work of local artists on a rotating basis and, on weekends, the restaurant holds gig nights. Githinji's design has delivered on the brief for "a bistro and bar filled with good energy, authentic Nigerian cuisine and great music." Photography — Simon Whitbread  
Sandra Githinji — sandragithinji.com



### Gimlet by Acme & Co

◁ Designed by Sydney studio Acme & Co, Gimlet is the latest venture from chef-restaurateur Andrew McConnell. Set at street level in Cavendish House, a 1920s tower of neo-Georgian and Art Deco detailing on Melbourne's Russell Street, Gimlet captures a nostalgic glamour to comfort and delight. Acme & Co conceived the interiors, which combine elements of clubby bistro, French brasserie, showpiece bar and elegant restaurant. The central kitchen and bar open onto a polished room of denatured mirrors, geometric tiles and rich textures of leather, patterned velvet, and a bar-top of black marble veined with gold. In a private dining area for 12 tucked away at the top of a rear staircase, Carlo Scarpa-inspired honeycomb chandeliers lend a sense of occasion. Custom Art Deco-style lighting sets the mood at night. Photography — Sharyn Cairns  
Acme & Co. — acme-co.com.au





### Sculptform showroom by Woods Bagot

△ In designing a collaboration-focused showroom for feature wall, ceiling and facade system producer Sculptform, Woods Bagot has created something that can't be found online: a physically immersive, experiential space that provides a real connection to the products on display. Located in central Melbourne, the showroom takes visitors on a physical loop around a central workshop – a tactile environment where customers can pick up and interact with the entire product range, from profiles and coatings to air gaps and track types. Woods Bagot's design prioritizes continuity and flow, with specially developed steam-bent timber battens (developed by Sculptform) achieving the crafted spatial forms seen in the curved walls, undulating ceilings and bespoke meeting area partitions.

Photography — Peter Bennetts

Woods Bagot — woodsbagot.com

### Crown Resorts Training Facility by Hot Black Design

▷ Melbourne studio Hot Black Design has redefined the arrival experience at Crown Resorts' new training facility and executed a seamless transition between the external frontage and the internal use of space. While the architecture team resolved the challenges of an existing facade, the interiors team ensured the space was "on brand," with a level of sophistication and elegance displayed throughout. As a way of celebrating Crown Resorts' commitment to the employment of Indigenous Australians, Indigenous design language was also weaved into the blueprint of the space. This acknowledgement was subtly made through the use of finishes and the feature curved wall, which pays homage to the themes of The Dreaming.

Photographer — Tom Ferguson

Hot Black Design — hotblack.com.au

