

SMART SPACES

for superchic downsizers

AUSTRALIA

belle

plus
COFFEE
TABLE
hot shots

OTTOMANS
RULE
full cloth coverage

Inside
Ellen DeGeneres'
luxe abode

TECHNO
GLAM

good-looking
gadgets for
every room

HOME GOALS

PARIS MELBOURNE PALM BEACH LA



INTERIOR DESIGNER
Cootes & Co

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

[Melbourne]

THE OWNERS of a beautifully appointed one-bedroom apartment decorated by the late Stuart Rattle enlisted interior designer Charlotte Cootes to connect a newly acquired neighbouring flat and convert it into a 'his and hers' study in keeping with their home. cootesandco.com.au

How did you resolve the challenges of the space? To connect the existing apartment to the new study without creating spatial discord or a rabbit warren of turns we moved the original front door to gain more space and create a shared and balanced entrance. An out-of-sight storage solution was another challenge to achieve in such a clean, open, shared space so we developed two concealed 'paper dens'. *How would you describe the*

finished project? From a dark, poky apartment with a corporate feel we created a warm, gracious space for each owner, both tremendously successful with important careers, to work from. Their respective studies reflect each personality while remaining practical and complementary to the original apartment's surrounds. *What is your favourite design element?* The pièce de résistance is the pair of bespoke oak desks in different stains handmade by Robert Brown. *How do the owners use the area?* The annex works for them with its functional inbuilt and freestanding joinery, generous desks that offer a substantial workspace and premium furnishings. They tell me they are thrilled with their expansive study extension.



This page, clockwise from top left An 18th-century French commode with marble top from Graham Geddes Antiques stands in the former entry created by Stuart Rattle with an artwork by Celia Perceval. A John Olsen artwork in 'her' study hangs near a paneled sliding door that can separate the studies. Framed print by John Gould. The bespoke solid oak desk with hand-coloured leather top in 'her' study is one of a pair by cabinetmaker Robert Brown. A mirrored wall marks the new entrance that now joins the studies to the existing apartment. Opposite page The sofa is upholstered in L'Opificio 'Peace Tree' jacquard. The Robert Doble artwork was commissioned for 'her' study. Custom console by Coote&Co made by E&C Joinery with Roman travertine top from The Marble House.



Photographs
CHRISTINE FRANCIS



This page A companion oak desk by Robert Brown in a different stain anchors 'his' study. Charlotte Coote created the 'Crom' desk chair which is upholstered in G.P. & J. Baker 'Athlone' viscose blend in Natural from Elliott Clarke. One of two paper storage dens is concealed behind the library. The Spanish 19th-century lamp bases bought in France feature box-pleated ivory silk shades designed by Coote&Co and made by Cromwell.