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fabulous abodes from
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Charlotte Coote
Pattern & patina

Imagination takes flight
 in this design studio.

Photograph CAITLIN MILLS

CHARLOTTE COOTE
 WAS PHOTOGRAPHED
 EXCLUSIVELY FOR
 BEILLE IN HER
 PRAHRAN STUDIO.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STUDIO? A whimsical, classic oasis with a contemporary edge. I wallpapered the space in Brunschwig & Fils 'Bird and Thistle' – it provides a peaceful garden to work from. I used the same textile to design a banquette and framed it with European sconces. A floor-to-ceiling mirrored wall creates an interesting play on space and pattern. At this point it looked very pretty, peaceful and downright predictable – I felt I needed to set the cat among the pigeons! I asked my friend, artist Robert Doble to create a large artwork to breathe life

and energy into the space. Robert and I chose four colours from Resene and he produced an artwork which catapulted the space to the next level. It's called *Daphne*, after my third daughter (and Robert's goddaughter), and it clashes wonderfully with the gloss pink console – a one-off piece with lions' legs, Georgian egg and dart detailing and unusual hairy paw feet. It epitomises the Coote&Co. ethos of a one-off bespoke design experience. **WHAT INITIALLY APPEALED TO YOU ABOUT THE SPACE?** That it could become an exclusive oasis off one of Melbourne's high-end shopping and lifestyle strips. **HOW DOES YOUR WORKPLACE REFLECT YOUR WORK?** When clients arrive here they are inspired, their creative juices start flowing... one eye-catching creation inspires another. **DESCRIBE THE VIEW FROM YOUR OFFICE?** It's the most

terrific people watching! We look onto the hustle and bustle of Hawksburn Village. It's a madness of prams, trams and automobiles. We can tap into that energy, or shut ourselves away. **DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY?** No two days are the same. Typically we start with a pot of 'Alan' tea. No day would be complete without a story told or knowledge shared about design. This workspace is very happy, sophisticated and efficient. We laugh a lot and always listen to music. **DO YOU USE YOUR OFFICE TO ENTERTAIN CLIENTS?** Absolutely. We've hosted a cocktail party, a dinner party and a design talk – this year alone. **WHAT DREAM DESK PIECE WOULD YOU BUY RIGHT NOW?** Salvador Dalí's 'Lobster' telephone in white. **IF YOUR STUDIO WERE LOCATED ANYWHERE ELSE, WHERE WOULD THAT BE?** Pimlico Road, London. cooteandco.com.au