





Encore

Downsizing means different things to different people – for this couple, it meant moving from their classic style suburban home to a riverside apartment where maintenance and yard duties are a thing of the past.

WORDS Margaret McGuire **PHOTOGRAPHY** John Downs





They are long term clients of John Croft of John Croft Design – a quick tally-up of past projects came up with six previous collaborations, and this one is as successful from the clients’ point of view as all the others. “Although,” said Margaret, “I did decide to forego the gorgeous pale blue upholstery that John originally selected for the sofas – I really wanted it, until I thought that it may be a little problematic in terms of everyday living – and we did want something with a bit more impact.”

With dark grey stone floors and feature timber cabinetry, John says this was a great shell to layer with colour and texture. Following Margaret’s concerns about the pale blue sofas, she and John settled on a hard wearing velour in two complementary colours, and two modern armchairs for additional seating.

This little sitting area at the entrance to the bedroom and ensuite is a favourite spot for Margaret to survey her new home – both indoors and out.



Oh, what a view

John and Lloyd have made the most of the generously proportioned outdoor area, equipping it with a large dining table, a couple of armchairs with ottomans and a very efficient looking barbeque unit.

"I enlisted the help of one of my interior designers, Lloyd Hodgkinson, and we selected all the furniture and fabrics first, and then designed the rug to work with them" said John. "The colours warm and soften the hard surfaces, and the slight sheen on the velour fabrics and in the rug add a luxurious touch."

The couple have had no problem adjusting to their new home. "We just lock it up and walk away" said Margaret. "No garden to worry about, no lawns to mow – I love it!" Designed for easy living, the apartment flows from kitchen to very generous living and dining spaces with the master suite off to one side so that it shares the riverside balcony. "I think the bedroom is my favourite place – pulling back the curtains in the morning to see what the day will bring is a real pleasure and there is always activity on the river and birdlife in the gum tree to check out!"

Dark timber on the wall behind the bed provides a wonderful counterpoint to the chartreuse which is the dominant colour in the bedcover and on the chair in the entrance to the bedroom. Generous proportions in this suite are complemented by the simplicity of John's design – to the obvious delight of his clients. 