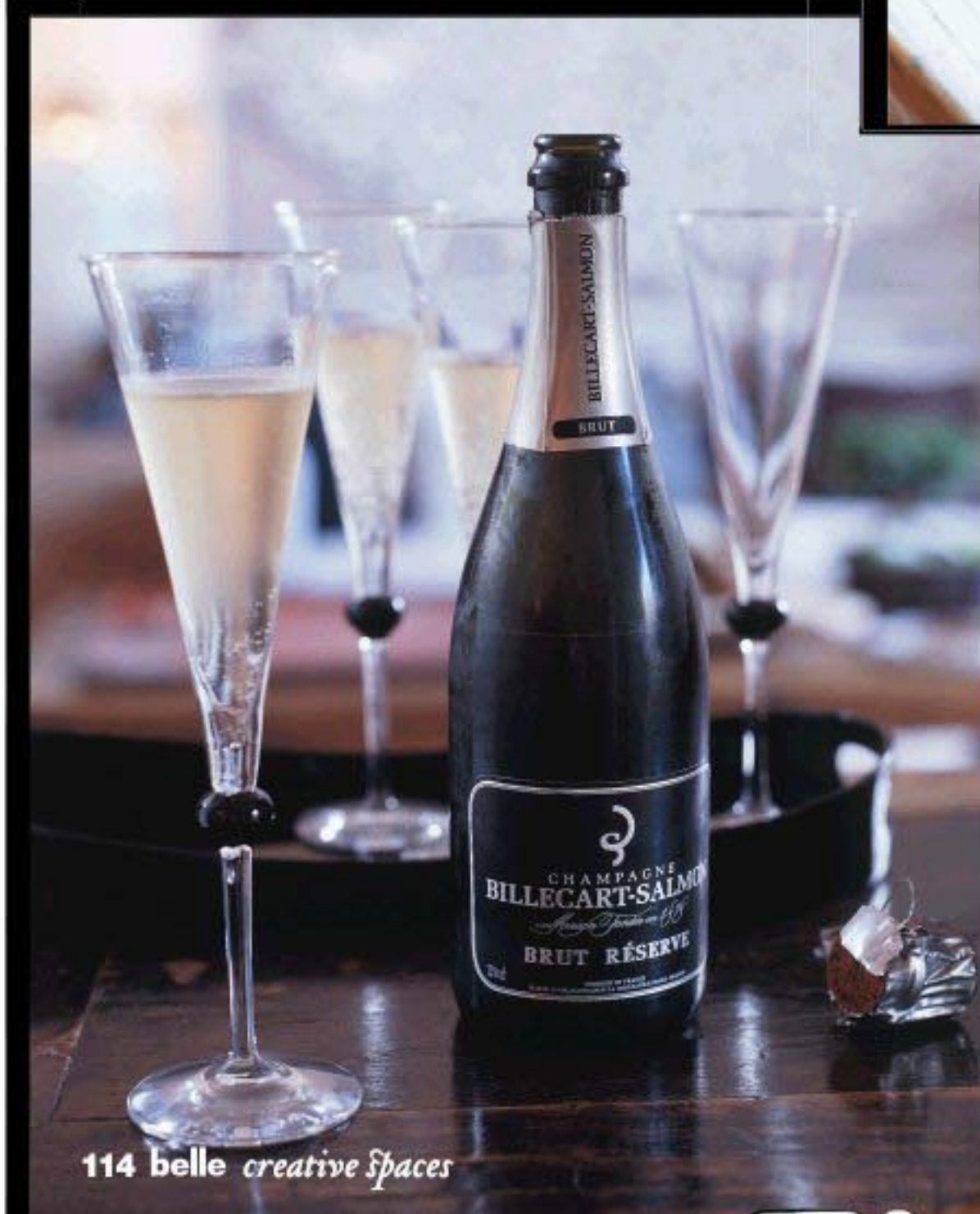


defining australian style

Melbourne design doyenne **Barbara Hermon** applies her signature approach in three rooms. Exploring her myriad influences, she captures the intrinsic Australian interior.
Styling **Barbara Hermon** Photography **Earl Carter**

“Items that have a history are important to any space. Most of our pieces have a story behind them, and these add interest and feeling to a room, giving it character.”



A life well lived
clockwise from top left Barbara Hermon ascribes her love of lacquered reds to the two years she spent as a child living in Japan. On the sideboard is a **vase** by French architect Bertrand Pellissier, a brass **cross** from Ethiopia, and a small **bust** of Bulul, the Filipino rice god. Further testament to her love of the Orient is the ornamental **bonsai** that sits on an old Chinese bed. The silver **necklace** is from Fujian province, China. Gaby the West Highland **terrier** reclines on a **chair** upholstered in Andrew Martin's Pullman fabric. Textile **swatches** from the Ganim range. **Champagne** is always Billecart-Salmon. **Pictures** of Hermon as a child in Japan. A lover of French Mariage Frères teas, Hermon matches **tea sets** to her mood.



Signature style
Barbara Hermon's living room is an exemplar of her signature style – **natural fibres** and **clean lines**, offset by **Asian accents** and emphatic **slashes of red**. A feature of this serene space is a dramatic paper **artwork** by Filipina artist Tes Pasola, who is exhibiting at Hermon & Hermon this month. Ming **vases** have been converted to lamp bases, with linen shades.

“The East, I believe, has had a great influence on Australian style, giving us great inspiration for design, food and fashion.”

Centre of attention

Barbara Hermon underscores a dining room scheme of varying ethnicity and heritage, with an exotic display of foliage in an overscale **fibre vessel** designed by Filipino Milo Naval. Both **tables** are antiques from the Philippines, as is the mounted **cart wheel** and **armoire** from Mindanao. The **trunk** is an old Greek seaman's trunk found while living in Greece. Rustique **linen slip covers** are on the chairs.



On Barbara Hermon...

The doyenne of Melbourne retailing with her shop Hermon & Hermon, Barbara began selling interior homewares back in 1967. As a successful interior designer and importer, she and her husband John keep their pulse on modern tastes. She believes a space must be liveable and easy – not precious – which is why she loves linen so much for sofas and dining chairs, in particular fabrics by Dominique Kieffer or Pierre Frey.

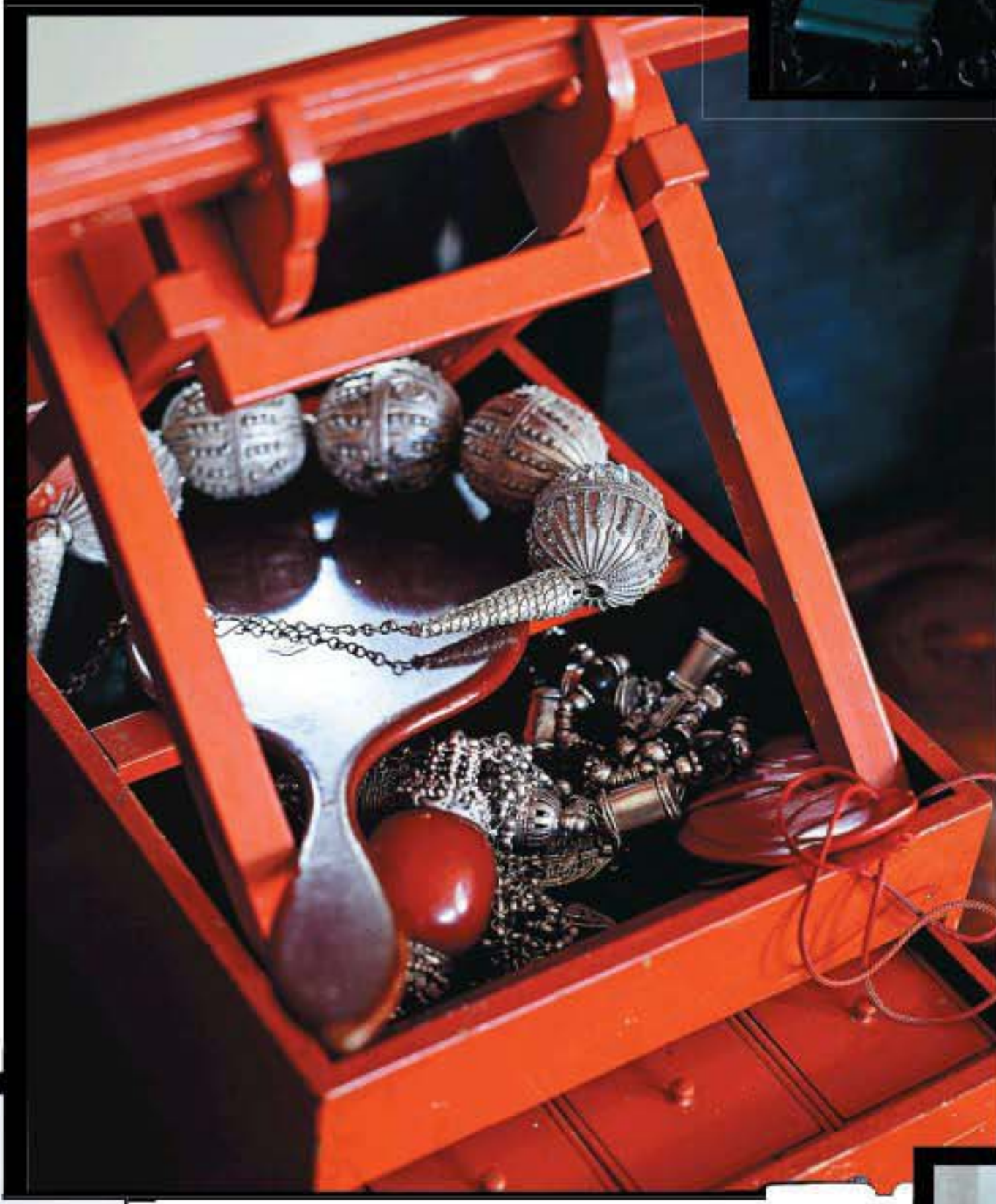
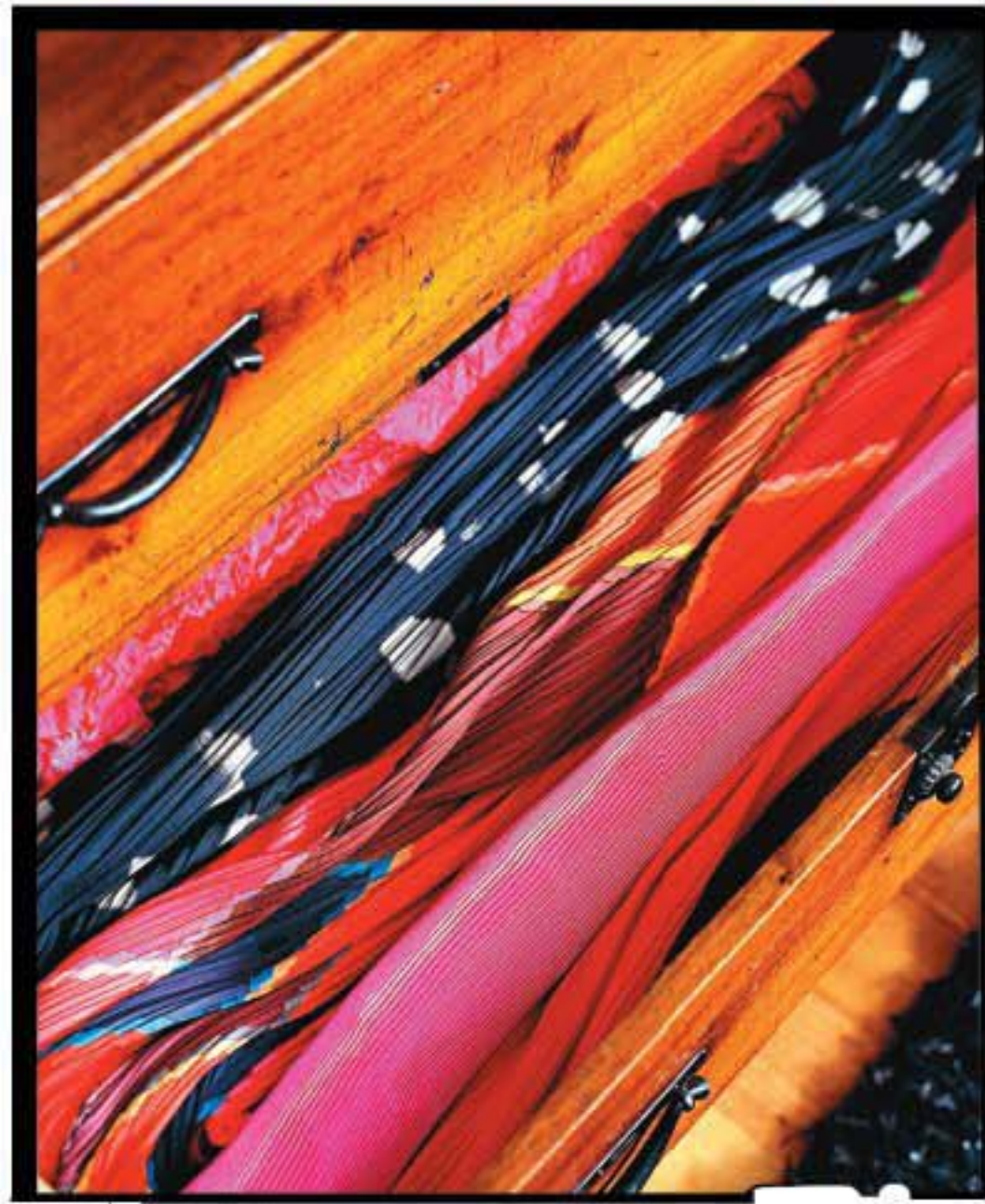
Hermon & Hermon, 556 Swan Street, Richmond, Melbourne, (03) 9427 0599, hermonhermon.com.au



Delicious details

clockwise from top left A portrait of Barbara Hermon. A dining room vignette shows a Georgian **tea table** set with a **Mayan figure** on an old silver **tea tray**, a **drawing** of Gaby the terrier by Robbie Perkins, a **mirror** made by John Hermon, and an antique Rajasthani **figure** (one of a pair). *Cranes and the Pit*, an **engraving** by Marco Luccio, represented by Australian Galleries. The pearlescent lustre of **horn and shell** feature in dining room accessories. A selection of books on inspirational **artists and designers** fills the bookcase. More lustrous **horn and mother-of-pearl** cutlery and accessories. A wooden **Indian temple toy** and a small **artwork** by Tes Pasola.





Well red

clockwise from top left One bedroom drawer is filled with **Issey Miyake** pleats. **Ngarkat Red Bluff** by artist Alex Rowland. Indian **textiles** drape over a clothing stand. A signature of Barbara Hermon's look is Chanel Pirate Red **nail varnish**, housed in a Japanese **makeup box** from Kazari. Bedside reading is the stuff of travel memories, pictured with Joshua Yeldham's *Solitude's Bride*. A favourite **destination** is the Cristal Room restaurant at the Baccarat showroom in Paris, designed by Philippe Starck. Slung over an Ifagao **tribal chair** is a souvenir **Baccarat bag**. A collection of Japanese **paper fans** – all of which she uses – are stored in a Japanese **cicada box** from Hermon's youth, on a Japanese **chest** from Kazari. Tribal **jewellery** in a Japanese **makeup box** were brought back by John Hermon from a recent trip to Yemen.



Luscious linen

The bedroom, a monochrome composition interrupted by the odd splash of red, is dressed in Libeco linens from Belgium. Pillows and duvets are goose down, made to order from Abode.



"My sleep space needs to be peaceful, calm and airy. I like to listen to my CDs during Sunday breakfast with the papers and Gaby on the bed."