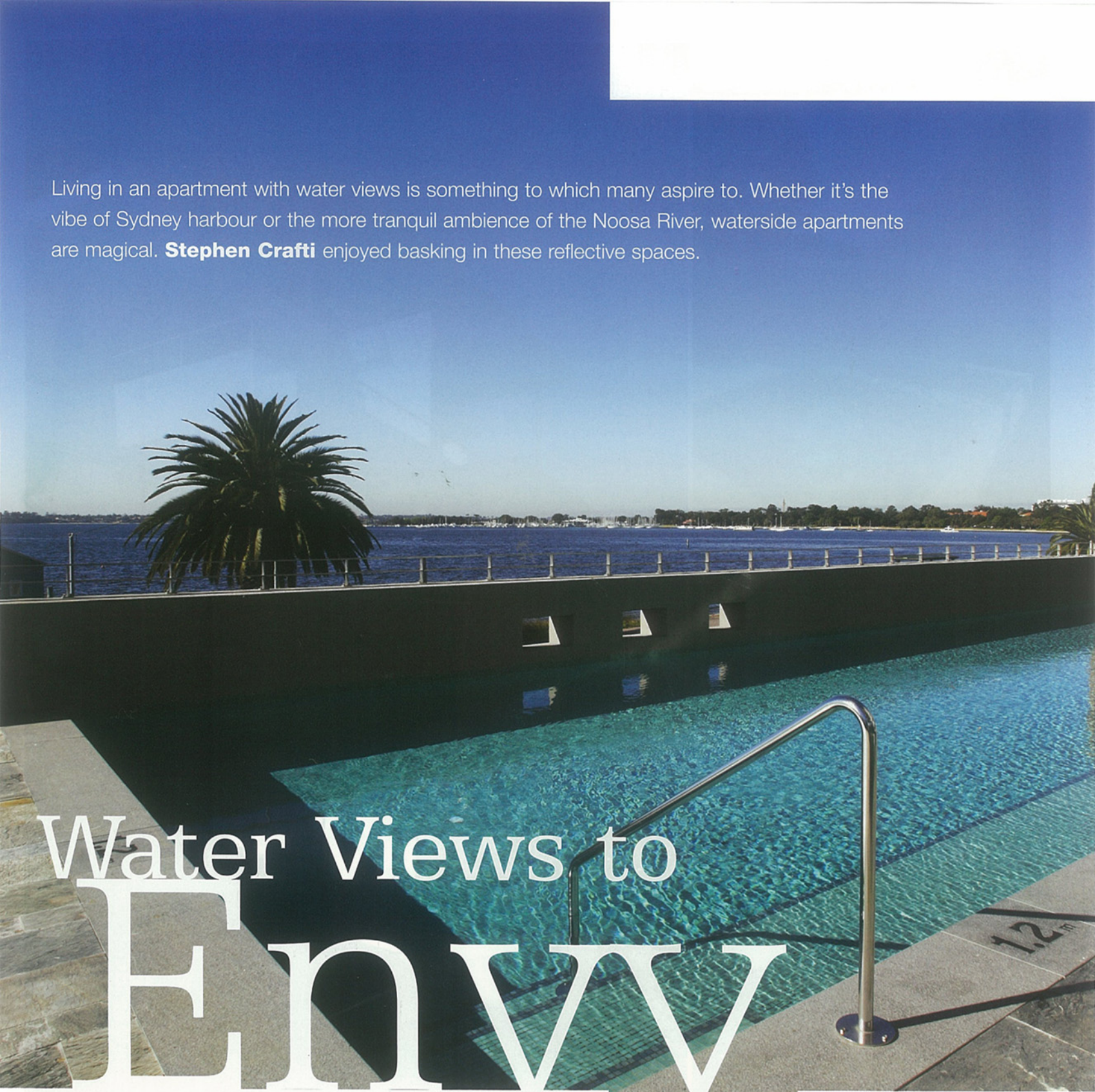


Living in an apartment with water views is something to which many aspire to. Whether it's the vibe of Sydney harbour or the more tranquil ambience of the Noosa River, waterside apartments are magical. **Stephen Crafti** enjoyed basking in these reflective spaces.



Water Views to Envy

VIEW FROM SC LAND APARTMENTS, OVERLOOKING THE SWAN RIVER IN PERTH.

There's a desirable block of apartments in Noosaville that casually overlooks the Noosa River. Designed by Bark Design, the three-storey apartment building captures some of the features of the coastal buildings that helped establish the Queensland town: balconies, generous overhangs

and sunshade awnings and screens. "The design aesthetic is a contemporary interpretation of some of the original mid-century Noosa river buildings," says architect Stephen Guthrie, a co-director of the practice.

Each of the three boutique apartments is spread over an entire floor, with landscaped balconies providing natural light and cross-flow

ventilation from the river breezes. Stacking glass doors, linking the open plan kitchen and living areas, integrate the indoors with the river aspect. The top floor apartment is endowed with 180-degree views of the Noosa River, including dramatic sunsets upstream and views across to the Great Sandy National Park.

Unlike many of Bark's designs, which feature



ABOVE + TOP: THREE-STOREY APARTMENT BUILDING OVERLOOKING THE NOOSA RIVER, DESIGNED BY BARK DESIGN. RIGHT: POINT APARTMENTS, AT PYRMONT POINT, SYDNEY, BY ALLEN JACK + COTTIER.

timber and natural materials, the Noosaville apartments are concrete and steel. "The developers didn't want a weathered timber look. They didn't want something that required upkeep," says Guthrie. Louvred glass windows allow the breeze to circulate and steel louvers in

the fence abutting the river allow views of the water through ferns and Pandanus trees.

Allen Jack + Cottier were also keen to ensure that water views were integral to the 'Point Apartments', located at Pyrmont Point, Sydney. Overlooking the harbour, the forty-eight

apartments are spread over two towers, connected by a sandstone podium. Constructed of rendered brick and featuring aluminium louvers for sun screening, the silhouette of the towers is clean and minimal. Apart from articulated balustrades and moveable louvers, the



LEFT, RIGHT + TOP: POINT APARTMENTS.

apartments are painted a variety of white hues.

With 270-degree views of the harbour, the two to four bedroom apartments enjoy refracted light from the water. "Water is a source of light. The light is continually creating patterns on ceilings and walls," says Heenan, who kept the floor plans as narrow as possible to ensure water views from all rooms. Apart from the activity on Sydney's

harbour, the apartments experience the beauty of ever-changing weather. "We recently had an electrical storm here. From this vantage point, it's the best place to see it unfold," he adds.

SC Land built apartments overlooking the Swan River in Perth. Located in Crawley, near Kings Park, the apartments have become as much of a landmark as the original heritage listed

boat shed, directly in front of them. "It was built in the 1920s. The apartments and the boat shed have become intertwined," says architect Lance Chu, co-director of SC Land. "People either asked to be dropped off at Crawley Edge or at the boat shed," he says.

Chu was fortunate to have a forty-metre frontage to Swan River to work with. All the



LEFT AND ABOVE: SC LAND APARTMENTS, OVERLOOKING THE SWAN RIVER IN PERTH.

principle rooms, including the living areas and main bedroom, enjoy the river outlook. The vista can also be appreciated from generous 50 square metre balconies. "We didn't want the balconies to overpower the building or the river," says Chu, who modulated the balconies, made of glass and solid masonry. "We wanted to create depth to the building, as well as creating a rhythm

in the façade," he adds.

While the apartments border a main thoroughfare, SC Land included a high brick fence at the front of the property. As the site is elevated above the road, those using the lap pool look directly towards the river rather than traffic. "You feel connected to the water, whether you're in the pool or on the terrace. We've even made

sure that the lobbies have unimpeded views of the water," says Chu.

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