

URBAN LEGEND

A Parisian-style apartment is right at home in a heritage building on Auckland city's waterfront

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THIS PAGE The master bedroom of Jane Mantell's city apartment, in Auckland's Endeans Building, makes the most of the 4.10m stud with floor to ceiling storage; the wall with a recessed bed space is created from panels of hot-rolled steel, used throughout the apartment.

OPPOSITE With Auckland's Ferry Building in the background, Jane and her daughters can sit on the long white couch from Forma (inspired by a similar sofa in the Paris apartment of designer Paola Navone) and people-watch; the red Kartell side table and translucent red storage cubes also mirror Paola's design taste.



THIS PAGE Jane hosts dinner parties with the grand Britomart building as a backdrop, around a dining table that was once a makeshift bar at Mantells Mt Eden and is now graced with Stephane Rondel legs; New Zealand furniture designer Michael Draper created the galvanised steel chairs.

OPPOSITE (clockwise from top left) Jane's en suite features hand-glazed turquoise blue tiles from Middle Earth Tiles. Jane Mantell with daughters Paige, left, and Anita. The vintage library chairs were found at a garage sale, reupholstered and painted white; she swapped her old microwave and clothes drier with an inorganic collector for two butterfly chair frames and had white covers made for them.



THE SOARING STEEL-FRAMED windows in Jane Mantell's downtown Auckland apartment allow a year-round stream of sunlight – and they've looked out on some unforgettable moments in the city's history.

Outside the Endeans Building at Number 2 Queen Street, soldiers farewelled loved ones as they departed for the First World War. It was the spot where "Massey's Cossacks" lined up on horseback facing waterside workers during the Great Strike of 1913. A stream of royal visitors began processions through cheering crowds from here.

And, most recently, Emirates Team New Zealand's 2017 victory parade wended its way past with the America's Cup.

Jane has witnessed just one of those great events, but creating her home on the first floor of the heritage-status Endeans

Building has stirred many of her own memories. As a teenager, she lived in the building next door, where her parents Annie and Colin Mantell had fitted out an entire floor.

Now that her eldest daughter Paige, 17, is the same age as she was, she hopes her two daughters will love the experience of living in the ever-changing central city as much as she did.

"I think the girls have moments where they would like to be living out in the suburbs near their friends. But as they get older, I think they will appreciate it more." It appears they already are; in the winter school holidays, 13-year-old Anita could walk to movie theatres and the ice rink at Aotea Square.

It wasn't a simple transition from the suburbs to the city – Jane couldn't afford a house in a central location and she kept missing out on warehouse spaces at auction. >



THIS PAGE The 3m-long kitchen bench is concrete reinforced with glass, to make it lighter for builders to carry it up the building's internal stairwell; Jane was afraid of not getting the concrete the exact shade of white she wanted, so opted for grey at the last minute; a herb garden flourishes in the warmth and light of the window. **OPPOSITE** Within the kitchen's steel cabinetry, the acid-etched mirror splashback by Eric Knoben reflects the changing cityscape outside; three pendant lights from Flotsam and Jetsam were once glass wine funnels. >



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APARTMENT LIVING THE PROS AND CONS

UPSIDES: There's always something interesting happening outside, even if it's construction work! It's so intriguing to watch people walking by; they never look up and see me. Everything is so easy to get to. There are beautiful restaurants next door; the ferries are across the street; the local people are great - when you order your coffee, they know your name.

DOWNSIDES: Not having a car park. You can't just nip out when you want to; you just have to plan better. But if anyone wants to sell or lease me one...



ABOVE The pear-shaped bath, imported from Paris, is made of a smooth polymer, with lights at its core that gently alternate between pink, green and blue.

OPPOSITE (clockwise from left) When both girls were asked what they needed in their rooms, Anita wanted room for a couch; the built-in cabinetry and desk, made by Dockside 37, divides the two rooms. The metal balustrade on the mezzanine level of Paige's room was custom-made by Pidcorp Engineering, who also made Anita's scaffold bed. Paige requested a dressing room in her space.

Then three years ago she came across the empty shell of the Endeans apartment. The building's rich history was an added bonus. The original 1902 building was virtually destroyed by fire and recreated in 1915 by architects Chilwell and Trevithick, in the Edwardian style, with reinforced concrete, steel framing and ferro-concrete floors. It boasted a grand atrium rising six storeys, a marble floor and an iron cage lift, which still operates today.

The owner was English mining speculator and businessman John Endean; his wife Ellen was the first woman to stand for Auckland City Council.

When Jane found her first-floor apartment with its generous 4.10m stud, it was the storage room for an art gallery above: "There were Hoteres and all kinds of great art in here." But it was the concept of a blank canvas that captured Jane's imagination. >





Having lived in France for eight years, she wanted to create a Parisian industrial living space, inspired by the apartment of Italian architect and designer Paola Navone. Jane's plans came straight from the pages she carefully removed from a magazine belonging to her mum, Annie.

There's no doubt that Jane has inherited her mother's finely tuned eye for design. Annie owned the acclaimed French Cafe for 16 years and then converted a home in Mt Eden into the boutique function and wedding venue, Mantells. Jane is now part-owner of Mantells Mt Eden and Mantells on the Water in Westhaven.

"My mum is so clever with everything she has done, but this feels like a footprint of me," Jane says.

Jane turned to architect Tim Dorrington from Dorrington Atcheson Architects to come up with the ingenious design for three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two living areas in just 110sqm. Tim also had to work within the guidelines of Heritage New Zealand.

His shrewdest idea was a black steel "cube" – 4m tall and 4m wide – that contains the girls' two bedrooms. Paige's bed is on a mezzanine; Anita's is custom-made from scaffolding. The two internal rooms had to have fresh air vented in, but the large steel pipes add to the industrial look that Jane wanted. So, too, do the long panels of hot-rolled steel that create the front wall of the girls' rooms and can be opened like vertical louvres to allow in light and air.

Q&A

FAVOURITE FEATURE? The huge windows, and the light they let in.

FAVOURITE VIEW? The beautiful Britomart building next door, through the kitchen windows.

BRAVEST THING YOU DID IN THE APARTMENT? Either the big metal-clad shutters that close up the cube of the girls' bedrooms or my long white couch.

BEST MONEY SPENT? Upgrading to Hansgrohe tapware. Especially the showers – the best showers ever!

FAVOURITE LOCAL RESTAURANTS? Cassia, for all the tasty interesting starters, and Amano, for the fit-out of the space and the great food.

Jane Mantell

THIS PAGE Jane outside the elegant curlicue iron gates that stand guard at the entry to the Endeans Building.

OPPOSITE (from top) Jane only uses the vintage iron cage lift when friends come to visit for the first time, otherwise she takes the stairs. For more than a century, the reinforced-concrete Endeans Building has been a feature on Auckland's waterfront.

Blue-black steel features throughout the apartment – the back wall of the kitchen and main bathroom, and the recessed niche for the bed in Jane's bedroom.

The master bedroom has vintage, unpainted wooden doors that Jane salvaged from Mantells. They now have heirloom status. "I beat my brother to them, because I was building first. Now we'll have to take them with us wherever we go." When the girls are away, she can slide the doors into their bedroom space, and create an open loft feel.

Jane's apartment has earned the tick of approval from her parents, now living in Wanaka. "Not long after we moved in, they stayed here and they loved how every little detail works," she says. "I feel a real sense of pride in what we've managed to achieve here." ■



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