

THE AUSTRALIAN

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THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

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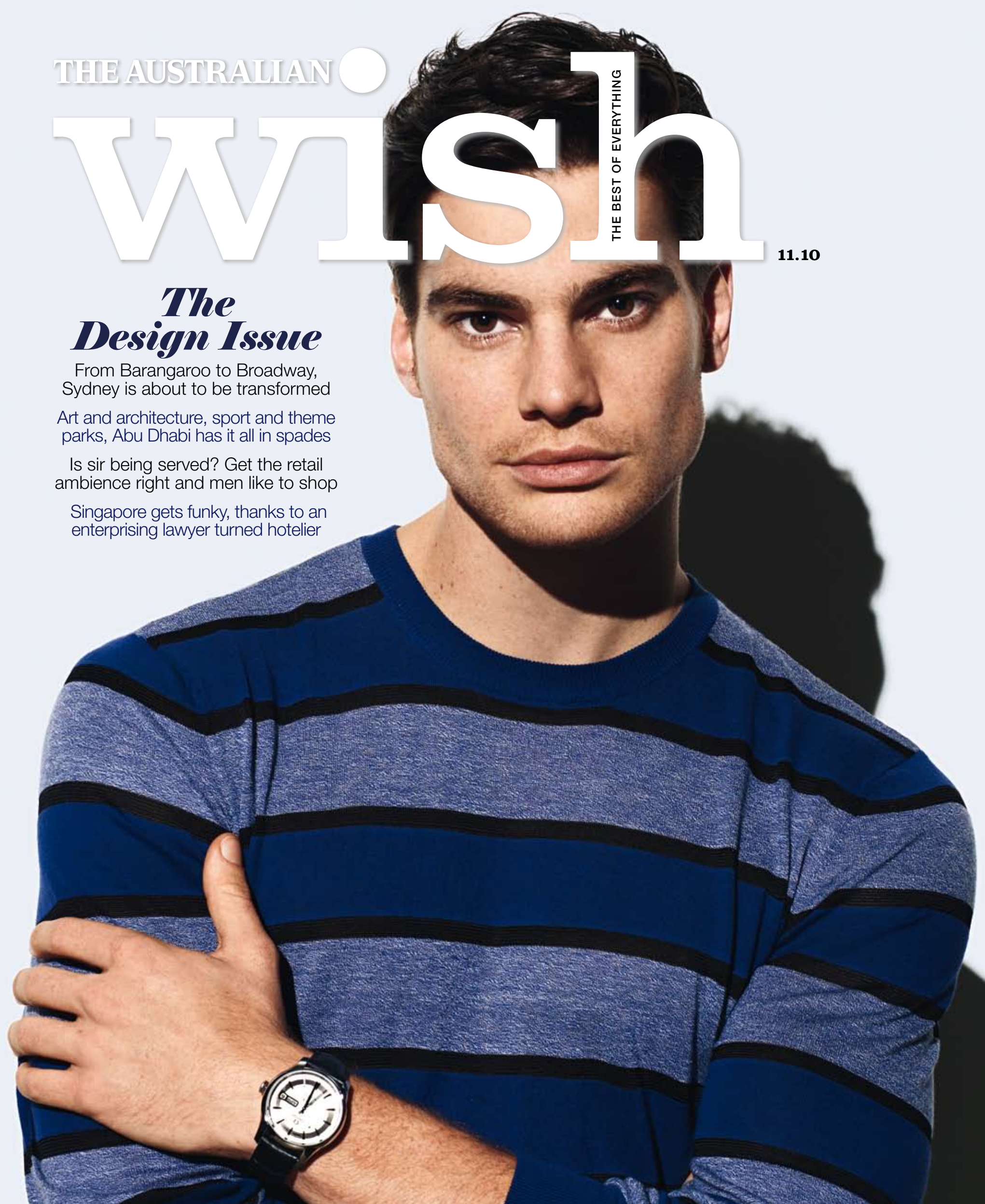
The Design Issue

From Barangaroo to Broadway,
Sydney is about to be transformed

Art and architecture, sport and theme
parks, Abu Dhabi has it all in spades

Is sir being served? Get the retail
ambience right and men like to shop

Singapore gets funky, thanks to an
enterprising lawyer turned hotelier





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01 Paris was never more chic than in this beautifully appointed home.

02 An artist's impression of the interior of Westfield Sydney.

03 The Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi is a must-see.

04 Olga Berluti shoes, designed with Andy Warhol in mind.

05 Tom Ford stores are as stylish as the clothes that bear the label.

06 The Pop Art Room in the Wanderlust Hotel, Singapore.

07 The ground floor of this architect-designed home houses a "giant concrete cabana".



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18 Added sparkle for Emerald City

Sydney's CBD is being revamped, from the Barangaroo development on the harbour down to Broadway.

22 Palaces and petrolheads

The burgeoning city of Abu Dhabi is positioning itself as the tourist mecca of the United Arab Emirates.

28 Madcap voyager

Safe, sanitised Singapore hadn't seen anything like Loh Lik Peng's quirky boutique hotels. But the blend of fun, savvy and whimsy appeals to "curious travellers".

34 Famous footsteps

Presidents, celebrities and lovers of luxury are prepared to wait two years for custom-made shoes from Olga Berluti.

40 French dressing

Nikki Parker engaged Jacques Grange, doyen of French interior design, to perfect her Paris apartment.

42 Can I help you, sir?

Men will shop, if the ambience is right. Which means well thought-out retail spaces and one-stop shops.

48 Masonic meets mansion

In a fabulous urban home, which was once a masonic hall, giant plaster swags and corbels at head height make for a giddy quality, like Alice down the rabbit hole.

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A little place to call your own

Live like a Parisian, and an aristocratic one at that, in this beautiful apartment in one of the city's most romantic buildings

Story **David Meagher**

The Place des Vosges is not only the oldest planned square in Paris, it is also arguably the city's most beautiful. Its distinctive house fronts of red brick with strips of stone topped with blue slate roofs and anchored by vaulted colonnades are a perfectly preserved example of early 17th-century architecture. It's also, quite literally, a perfect square measuring exactly 140m by 140m.

With its formal garden, fountains and rows of mature linden trees it is the ideal place to sit and rest after a day's shopping in the boutiques of the Marais or to take a quiet moment after trawling the many museums of the surrounding area (the Musee Picasso and Musee de Carnavalet are nearby; the Centre Pompidou and Louvre are within easy walking distance). Doing so may get you wondering about how you could orchestrate your life so you could live here. There's the very chic Le Pavillon de la Reine hotel but for a more "in residence" feeling you can rent the spectacular home featured on these pages.

The apartment, known as Pavillon de Madame, is owned by Sydneysider Nikki Parker, who bought it while living in Paris. It was her dream, she says, to get Jacques Grange, one of Paris's most celebrated interior designers, to decorate it and after a lengthy meeting with Parker where she worked her charms on him the normally reticent designer agreed.

The mirror-lined entry hall is grand to say the least and sets the tone for the rest of the residence. Inside there are two beautifully appointed salons as well as a library area, a large eat-in kitchen, two bathrooms and three private bedrooms that can accommodate up to six guests. The master bedroom, which is off the main salon, features a large canopy bed, an ensuite and a view onto the tree-lined square.

The more formal main salon is decorated in light tones such as off whites and greys and is furnished with oversized sofas designed by Grange and a vast glass-covered coffee table. The more casual salon between the entry hall and the kitchen is in rich caramel colours and is perfect for relaxing and watching television. This room also has a magnificent painted, beamed ceiling that is a classified historic monument. Upstairs there is a double bedroom with an ensuite, as well as a smaller bedroom that is designed for children.

pavillondemadame.com



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- 01 The Place des Vosges.
- 02 The building's beautiful vaulted colonnade.
- 03 The apartment's entry hall.
- 04 Mirror-lined walls and chandeliers of Baccarat crystal reflect light and glamour.
- 05 A new staircase leads to the mezzanine level.
- 06 The library.



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- 07 Subtle lighting and calm neutral shades make the apartment both elegant and comfortable.
- 08 It overlooks the Place des Vosges, which is one of the most beautiful parks in Paris.
- 09 The main "summer" salon.
- 10 An art deco-inspired bathroom.
- 11 Decor in the "winter" salon is warmer and there is a more casual ambience.
- 12 One of the double bedrooms.
- 13 A leather club chair in the "winter salon".



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