

Two walls were knocked down for a gallery.



Art dealer Jan Manton was tapping into a strong history of home galleries in Brisbane when she decided to fuse her living and business spaces three years ago. Besides the practical consideration of not having to travel to work each day, she also enjoys being able to live surrounded by the art she sells. Her apartment in Spring Hill, on the edge of the CBD, takes up one floor of the building, with two other apartments above. "It was very ordinary when I first saw it," says Manton. "There was nothing to it aesthetically, but there was this big, long corridor with light at the end, and that's what sold it."

The 18-metre internal wall became the focus of the conversion for interior designers Wrightson Stewart. Principals Ian Wrightson and Steven Stewart knocked down walls between two existing bedrooms to make an internal gallery space, and designed a custom-made series of sliding screens along the 18m wall for displaying art. "Each sliding wall weighs over 100 kilograms," says Wrightson. "There was nothing to buy off the shelf like it, so we manufactured it ourselves."

The wall acts as the stock room, where different works can be shown as the backdrop to Manton's living room, while the current exhibition inside remains intact. Manton is generous with her private space, and art openings spill out into her living areas beyond the gallery, incorporating a courtyard served by the kitchen and bar.

Wrightson Stewart designed large joinery units that serve as domestic and office storage in the dining room-cum-office, incorporating a hidden television and a fireplace. The dining table doubles as an office desk, but can fold out to seat ten when Manton entertains friends or clients. The rest of the space has been cleverly planned to ensure privacy with an ensuite bedroom and balcony.

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PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID KELLY / KYLIE HOOD



Art of living ... Jan Manton's inner-city apartment doubles as a display space for her artist clients by means of ingenious custom-made sliding screens.

INTERIOR DECORATORS:
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ARTWORKS (ABOVE):
ABSTRACTS #1-13 (OILS
ON CANVAS), VILLES
HALL: (LEFT) L-R GOLDEN
CLOUD (OIL ON CANVAS),
APPROACHING CLOUD (OIL
ON CANVAS), KEITH BURTT
MAN AND ANGEL (BRONZE
SCULPTURE), JUMMAD
(ABOVE LEFT) HERR DONO
(VARIOUS ACRYLICS ON
CANVAS), MANTS TILLERS



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