

SPACE WE LOVE

MANLY PAVILION

Thanks to Luchetti Krelle's redesign, a mix of warm tones, surf-like curves and loose-luxe finishes make 55 North the definitive spot to sip cocktails on Sydney's Northern Beaches



When designing a beachside bar, there's a temptation to make it, well, beachy. But renowned creative director Rachel Luchetti of Luchetti Krelle didn't take the road well travelled when reimagining the lounge bar of the refurbished Manly Pacific Hotel. Layered with a rich, spice-inspired colour palette and 'loose luxe' finishes such as marble, timber and leather, it draws more from a New York speakeasy than a Hamptons inn.

Tasked with effectively turning the project around in five months, Rachel was given carte blanche to create spaces where patrons could relax with a cocktail that would complement the rest of the hotel, which you can also stay in. She worked within the existing structures, such as the impactful central bar, and channelled the budget into touchpoints that would be noticed by guests. "We wanted them to feel the quality of the finishes and details," she explains.

One of her influences was "unashamedly" Kelly Wearstler's revamp of the Proper Hotel in Santa Monica. In particular, the curved, arched booths. "But it wasn't cut and paste! Design should be the synthesis of many things, not a pastiche," says Rachel. Her favourite feature is the bar itself, combining stone, timber and veneer with curves that emulate a giant clam shell.

55 North comprises clusters of lounges that feel residential, and as you move deeper into the venue, away from the beach, you reach the cosy booths. "They take advantage of darkness, drawing people into spaces that weren't utilised before and providing acoustic privacy," says Rachel. "Booths are always a great idea."

After a whirlwind build, she celebrated with French Champagne in the bar but is yet to sample the cocktail menu. "I can't wait to bring the whole studio team in to check it out. And I'm excited for locals and guests to see it." **LO**

Discover 55 North at manlypacific.com.au and [@manlypacific](https://www.instagram.com/manlypacific)

CLOCKWISE (from opposite) The booths are reminiscent of a 1970s nightclub while the loggia-like arches and Venetian plaster point to Italy. Another inviting drinking spot that eschews predictable coastal style. Cinnamon and turmeric tones warm up the space and Teranova floor tiles bring the fun. A pastel underwater mural by Steady Hand Studio adds patina.

