

**inspirations**

with Mary-Jane Daffy

## Stylish substance

Furniture-maker focuses on design and functionality

**W**hen it comes to furniture, Anton Gerner admits he's obsessive about quality – and it shows. A sign positioned high in his workshop in East Hawthorn reads “Keep Quality High”, and it's proving to be a winning formula for the reputable furniture designer and maker.

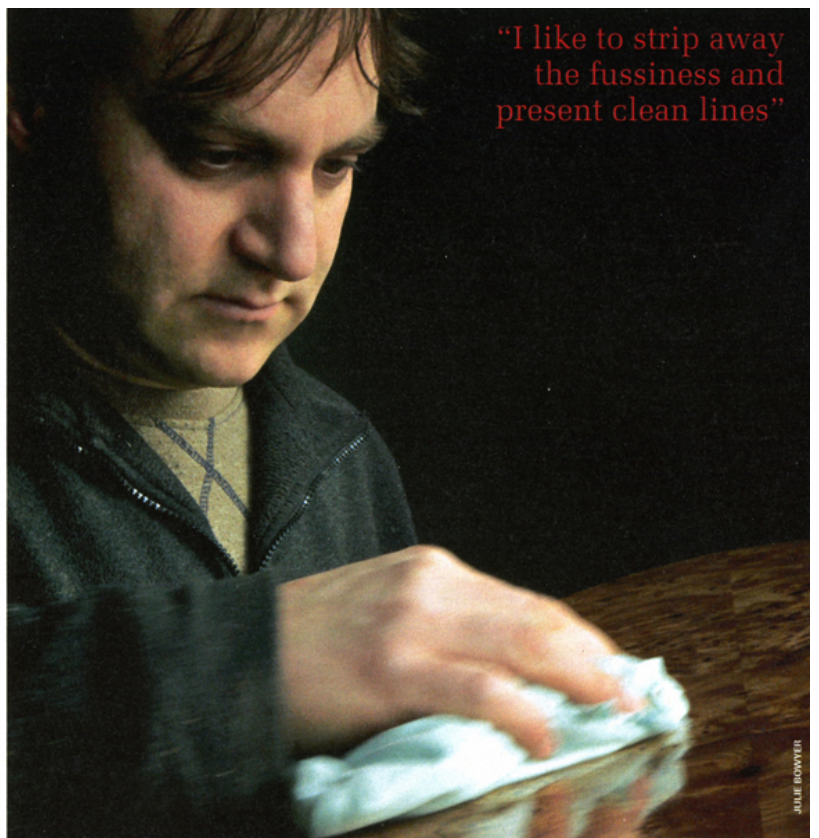
In an age where much furniture is mass produced, Gerner is focused on quality furniture designs that are made using quality timber, traditional techniques and hand tools. Hand-cut dovetail, mortice and tenon joints are common throughout the furniture, and all pieces are hand-planed and finished with natural waxes or traditional French polishing.

Gerner has been inspired by the Biedermeier and Art Deco periods and

it is evident throughout his work. His workshop displays solid timber pieces that have been shaped into contemporary furniture with Art Deco flair.

The Art Deco period used high-quality materials in furniture design and saw the strength in form that Gerner was attracted to. “I like to strip away the fussiness and present clean lines,” Gerner says of his Art Deco influence.

Gerner's focus shifted from school books to woodwork at a young age. He studied at the Melbourne School of Woodcraft before opening his own business almost 20 years ago. Now a successful furniture maker and designer, Gerner is regularly commissioned to make a variety of quality furniture. [mwm](#)



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