



Saunders Street Clinic

› Words: Enrica Rigoli

› Image: Glenn Mason



The revamped general practice at Wynyard in Tasmania's rural north has recently given a whole new meaning to "going to the doctors" – in fact, you just might be forgiven for thinking that you had entered the latest café or coffee lounge to emerge on the hip streets of Europe.

Located in the small rural town of Wynyard, Saunders Street Clinic not only provides for an incredibly easy-on-the-eyes experience, but promotes a healthy atmosphere with its positive and stylish environment. Complete with medical diagrams, motifs and models (and the all-important skeleton), the clinic endorses a relaxed, funky atmosphere not seen before at any other medical clinic in Tasmania. Practice manager Rebecca Berrysman

says that much of the inspiration for the clinic came from the travels that she and her husband Jim (who is a doctor at the clinic) experienced in Europe and mainland Australia.

"We had a chance to create an environment that we wanted to spend time in, where we had a connection with outside, where we felt we were in one of our favourite cafés or travel spaces. So rather than go down the bland Ultrium stereotypical medical centre line, we deliberately set out to create an environment that is a pleasure to be in, whether as a staff member or a patient."

With a medical-gone-shabby-chic twist, Rebecca says that the timelessness of European buildings

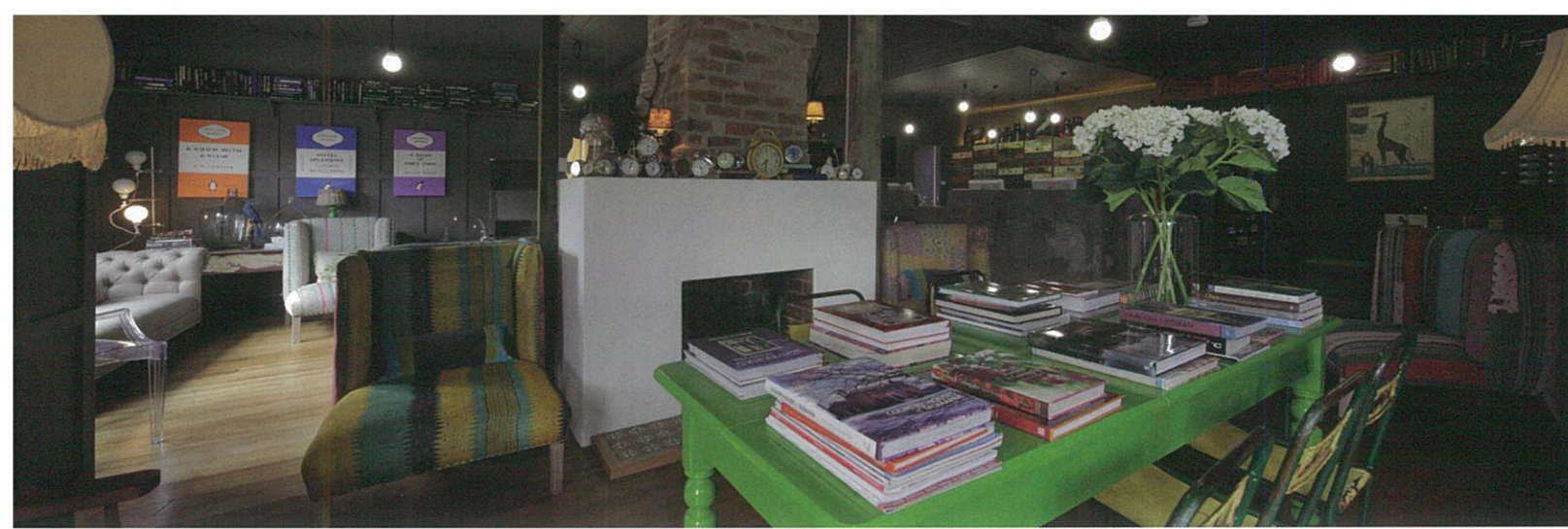
enticed the Berrysmans to create a similar feel to their clinic, with the use of old doors and fittings from France, recycled wood, thick walls, deep windowsills, and an interior full of books, fireplaces and taxidermies. The impressive end result was achieved through an outstanding building team and architectural designer, Peter Greiner.

"It is tempting to design a large compact building to accommodate everyone, but I believe this [was]

Saunders Street Clinic
OPEN MON-FRI 9:00 - 5:00
MONEY ACCEPTED
CONSULTATION FEES APPLY

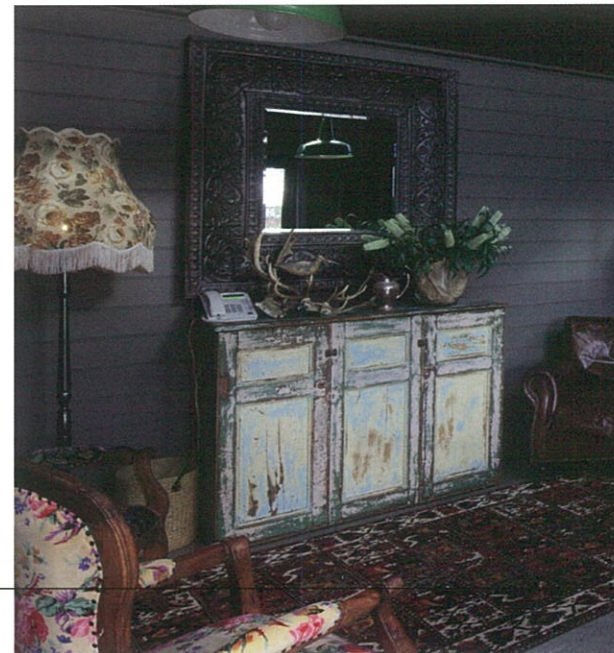
SAUNDERS STREET CLINIC

saunders street clinic



not appropriate in this setting," Peter says. "The best solution seemed to be to break the building up into 'bite-sized bits'. This has resulted in a welcoming, non-threatening and easily understood environment for everyone."


But aside from the incredibly modern and trendy interior, the clinic aims to promote feelings of health and wellbeing, which Rebecca believes are essential aspects of not only happy, healthy patients, but staff members too. "Where you spend time does have an effect on your mood and outlook. Our experience has confirmed that surroundings that engender a feeling of wellbeing reflect positively on patients. Patients are happy to complete follow-ups, are relaxed before their appointments, and don't mind waiting if the need arises. They use the time to catch up with each





other, read, have a coffee, or sit in the courtyard. A space that is pleasant to be in encourages people to positively manage their health."

A positive working environment is also encouraged at the clinic, with a friendly atmosphere enhanced by the team relationships between staff members. "The environment is family friendly. We have a large staff room where we cook and share our meals and encourage staff members' children to visit. Our trainees and students are a part of this team and leave with a positive experience of healthcare in the community.

"We hope this will inspire them to return to work in a rural area, and – who knows – a few more clinics may become 'de-uglified' in the process." 

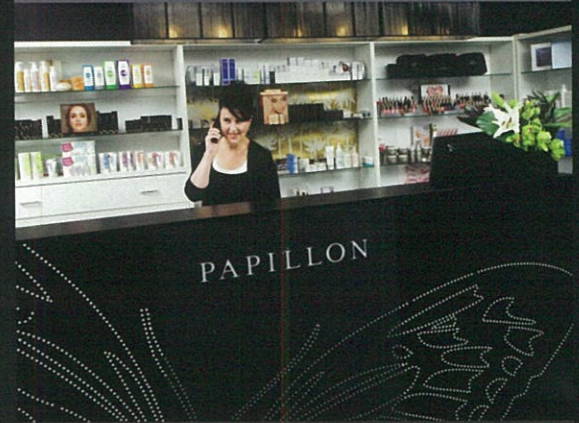


relax

transform



emerge

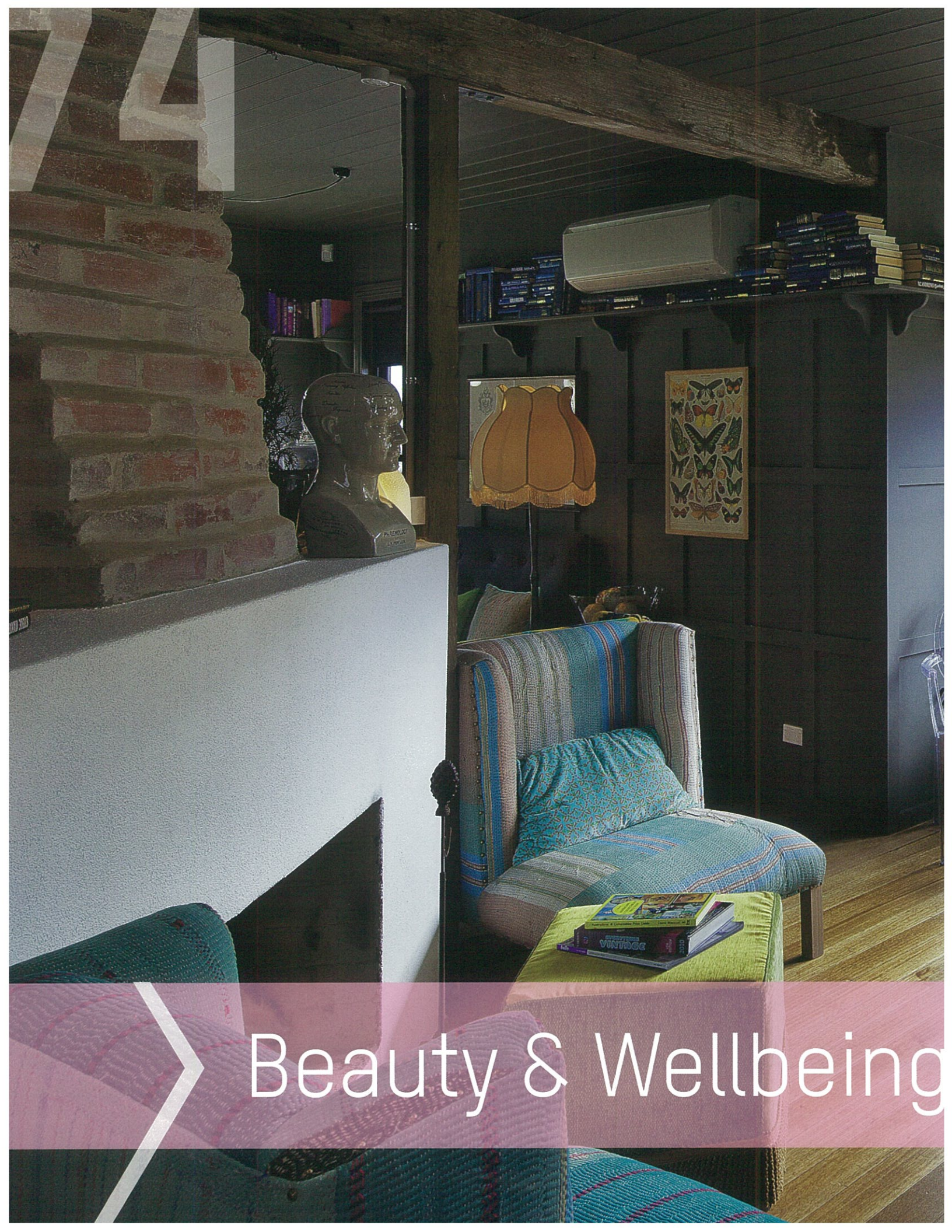


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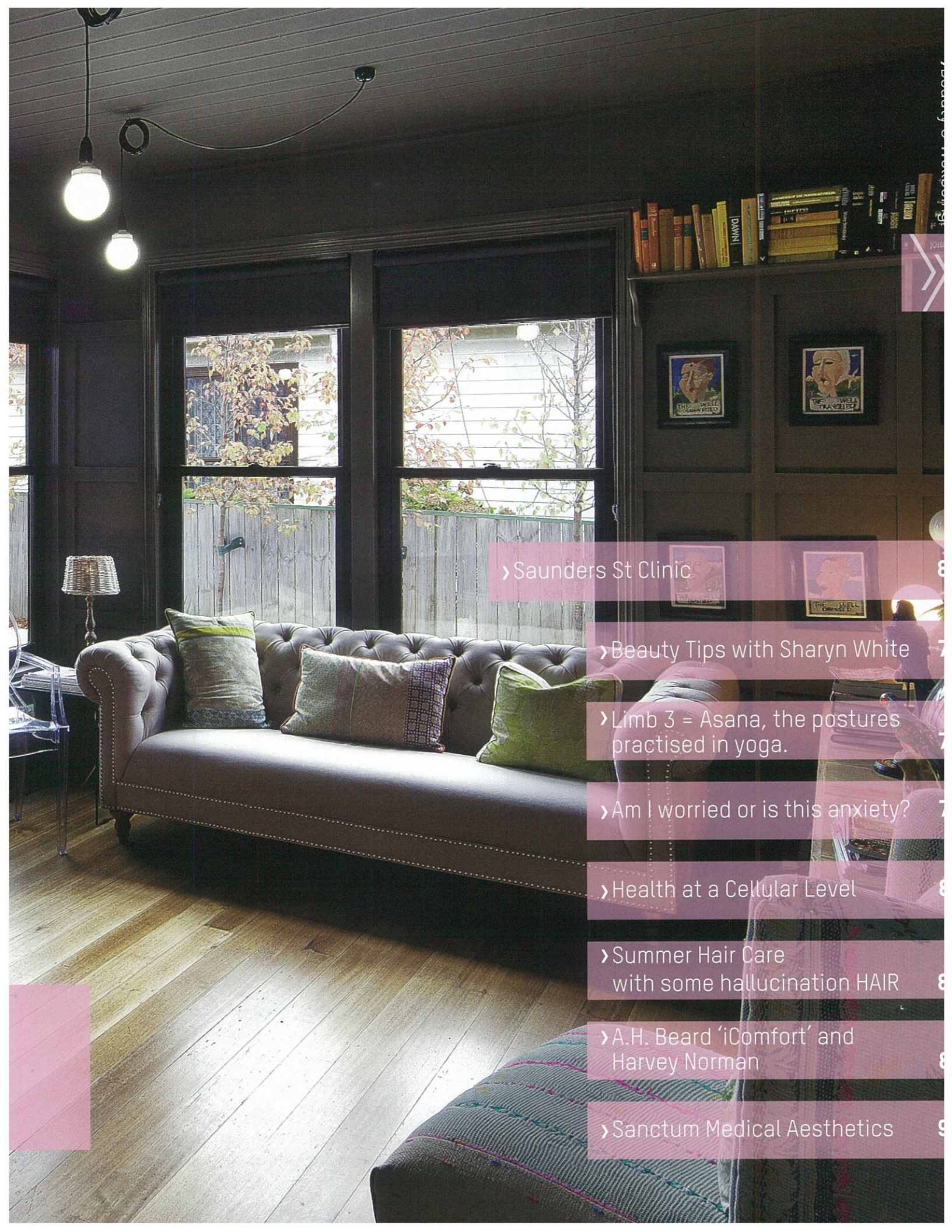
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