

Sydney's Kirketon Hotel gets a sensuous style injection.

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RED CARPET TREATMENT Stepping off the busy Darlinghurst footpath and entering Sydney's Kirketon Hotel has always provided a sharp contrast in atmosphere, but never more so than in recent months. After an extensive refurbishment, all guest rooms, common spaces and the separately run bar and restaurant have been updated, replacing the minimalism of old with a more sensuous hotel experience: "Our brief to designer Connie Alessi was to create soft furnishings, luxury finishes, comfort and practicality,

while adding individual touches of Sydney cool," says Paul Fischmann, chief executive of Eight Hotels. While the boutique experience is enhanced by the new wi-fi flatscreen TVs, premium Kevin Murphy toiletries and luxurious bed coverings in all 40 suites, with this location, cool was already on the doorstep. Cafes, restaurants and nightlife are all just moments away. *The Kirketon Hotel, 229 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst, Sydney; 1800 332 920 Australia, 02 9332 2011 NZ; kirketon.com.au; doubles from \$155.* — SUE WHITE