



The owners' vision was to create a relaxed and informal space; a place of community where locals and visitors can come together in a shared experience of taste, through local wine and producers, and sound, through conversation and record collections, says Guthrie.

A sense of nostalgia for the existing utilitarian low-lying 1970s building, sited on the edge of bushland, was the basis for the renovation. "We wanted to touch the building lightly and introduce an intimate scale through furniture, lighting and artwork and use the existing change of levels to define different spaces," Guthrie says.

Brick is a recurring element and Guthrie admits to a love of the texture, colour and depth it delivers. It is one of the most traditional building materials and Guthrie uses it both horizontally and vertically where appropriate.

The practice's mantra is "don't replace unless with something much better", so they repurposed the existing church tables and added Carl Hansen & Son CH88 chairs for their light, sculptural expression. The owners invested in such expensive, crafted chairs in order to highlight the importance they feel dining among beautiful objects is to the experience. 🍷

Keep material choices in a room limited to three. Here, Hecker Guthrie favours a palette of natural materials, including brick, timber and terracotta. It gives a feeling of consistency and allows the furniture pieces to be the focus.



LIGHT TOUCH

This bistro uses natural materials to create a relaxed and informal space for diners.

Words KAREN MCCARTNEY

THE CLUE to the decorating approach at Many Little, a bar and bistro in the Polperro winery in Victoria's Red Hill, lies in the name itself. Originating from the Cornish saying "Many a little makes a mickle", it translates as "many small things make something great". And a conversation with Hamish Guthrie, principal at Hecker Guthrie, the design practice responsible for the interior scheme, deconstructs the elements to illustrate just how it is done.



Freestanding joinery pieces in stained solid timber add to the informal nature of the space.

Artwork is a great mood-setter. Try placing one directly above a table setting. Shown left is the work of Alice Blanch.