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Indoor

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Samantha Drummond was one of the key individuals in the interior design of Marina Bay Sands, orchestrating a large team of artists and designers. Image – Canva.

- Started out renovating well-known Melbourne restaurants, bars and nightclubs
- Developed appreciation for business aspects of design in Melbourne
- Moved to Asia, working for Marina Bay Sands, Four Seasons Macau and other major projects

In the first of an interview series on Samantha Drummond, one of the minds behind Marina Bay Sands, Four Seasons Resort Macau, and other projects, we explore her roots and how she got into designing some of Asia's most iconic projects...

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“It’s great to hear an Australian accent,” said Samantha Drummond, as we started our video call. Each person was on the other side of the world, she in Denmark, myself, in her native Australia.

Samantha Drummond, the Managing Partner of Habitus Design Group, is a powerhouse that has led some of the world’s largest and most iconic projects, including Marina Bay Sands in Singapore and Solaire Resort & Casino in the Philippines.

From Melbourne to the world

The conversation begins with her humble beginnings in Melbourne where she started out at the Balaclava Hotel.

A job offered to Ms Drummond by her grandfather whilst still in school, the hotel pub was where she first developed a fascination for hospitality.



There are very few people in the world with Ms Drummond's skill set, she said: "a client asked me to do a lot of the design myself because they couldn't find a specialist to do these large volume spaces with connectivity and adjacencies which are quite complex, and require a different mindset of thinking."



Ms Drummond was one of the key individuals in major integrated resorts such as Marina Bay Sands, Four Seasons Macau, and Solaire Casino & Resort Philippines. Image – Supplied.

Working in Asia was exciting and varied, her Antipodean roots putting her in good stead to walk through building sites in harsh weather.

"It's hard work when you're out on these building sites and it's 45 degrees, and you're working with project people, and managing these large scale builds, and anything and everything goes wrong every day, you've got to be in crisis mode every time, and putting out fires and making quick decisions on the ground."

Samantha Drummond

Asia has also provided fertile ground for unique design inspiration and unique talent to bring a vision to life, as Samantha Drummond continues in part two of *Ex Animo*.

'Ex Animo' is a new series of interviews and profiles on people in real estate and property.