

**NO**

10

**BECAUSE**

HE'S  
HAVING  
**ALL THE  
FUN**

**DAMIEN GRIVAS**

says he will do just about anything (legal) for cash.

We caught up with this leading creative, who is known for his

**ABILITY TO  
CRAFT ANY  
INSTALLATION  
HIS CLIENTS  
DREAM UP.**

PHOTOS DOOK WORDS MILA CREWE-BROWN



**01** Damien Grivas in the main restaurant at Marble. The macramé screen is his work.

**Start at the beginning...** I left home to start my career as an artist after studying graphic design, sculpture and painting, but I wasn't making much money. A friend asked me to help him do paint finishes for R80 a day, which I did for about four years. During that time I started playing with

silicone and rubber, and developed a home decor range that I sold at flea markets.

**What was your big break?** About 15 years ago, Maira Koutsoudakis saw my work and asked me to supply her company Life. She then asked if I could make a range of items

(sculptures, pod lights and so on) for North Island, a resort in the Seychelles. Naturally I said yes to it all, not knowing a thing!

**Name three career highlights.** A gold-leaf wall at the concept shop Collective by Charles Greig, a dowel-stick relief eye I did for

Herman Smit Optometrists and my work for the David Higgs restaurant Marble.

**Tell us about the macramé screen you made for Marble.** I was briefed to create a simple black background in front of which a theatrical Harrods-inspired fruit and food

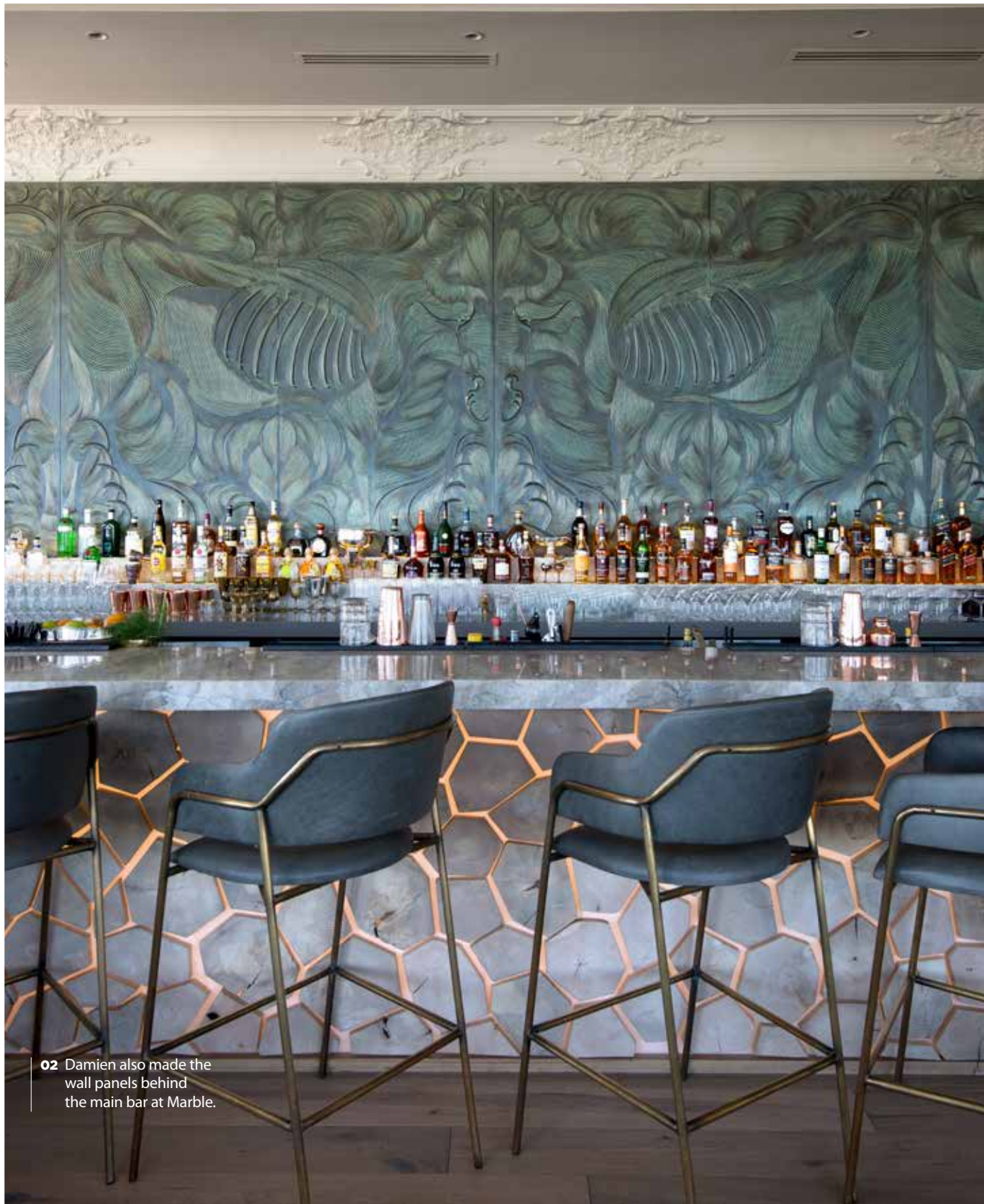
display could be shown off. I designed a screen of knotted black chord – a job that took our team of three 12 days to complete.

**And the relief panel behind the bar?**

It is an abstract graphic of cows in the grass. Since solid bronze would have been

pricey, I had to think outside the box. Eight Supawood panels were cut with a CNC router. I then gave them a black enamel base coat and added five layers of glaze to build up the bronze effect.

• [damiengrivas.co.za](http://damiengrivas.co.za)



02 Damien also made the wall panels behind the main bar at Marble.