



MCRAE BAR LAUNCHES ARCANA & ALCHEMY TWELVE STORIES, ONE CITY



Sydney, Australia, 11 December 2025 - Capella Sydney, recently ranked **Best Hotel in Oceania** and **No.12 in The World's 50 Best Hotels**, continues to redefine luxury hospitality through art, history, and immersive experiences. This summer, the hotel unveils its latest innovation at McRae Bar, **Arcana & Alchemy**, a curated cocktail journey that blends mixology, mythology, and modern design while paying homage to George McRae, the original architect of the building that now houses Capella Sydney.

As the heart of the Capella philosophy is the curation of memorable and impactful culture and experiences, Arcana & Alchemy reflects the brand's commitment to crafting experiences that are the hallmark of its hotels. Each Capella property is inspired by the soul of its destination, and in Sydney, this ritual brings the city's architecture and heritage to life.

Celebrating Sydney's architectural heritage and the timeless craft of cocktail-making, Arcana & Alchemy invites guests to partake in a ritual where taste, story, and design converge. Each cocktail in the collection is inspired by a Major Arcana archetype and paired with one of twelve of McRae's most iconic buildings, including the Capella Sydney building itself, originally designed by McRae in the early 1900s. Through this pairing, history becomes experience, heritage becomes ritual, and architecture comes alive in every glass, exemplifying Capella's philosophy of crafted hospitality and world-class guest experiences.

Upon arrival at McRae Bar, the journey unfolds through taste, aroma, design, and narrative. Guests draw a tarot card rather than order a drink, transforming a simple cocktail selection into a personal ritual guided by intuition and chance, facilitated by McRae Bar's expert bartenders.

George McRae's architecture defines the heart of Sydney, from grand civic landmarks to intricate commercial buildings. The Arcana & Alchemy cocktail experience celebrates this legacy by translating twelve of his signature works into archetypes, from The Empress at the Queen Victoria Building to The Fool at St James Station, each paired with a cocktail that embodies the spirit, story, and personality of the building it represents.

"Arcana & Alchemy is more than a cocktail menu, it is a storytelling journey," said Samson Li, Director of Food and Beverage at Capella Sydney. "Every flavour, colour, and garnish has been carefully

considered to reflect the personality of the building and its archetype. Our team has created a ritual that surprises and delights, where each drink becomes a memorable moment connecting guests with the history, craft, and soul of our city. This embodies the Capella philosophy of crafting world-class experiences that honour history, place, and community.”

“Every great idea begins with a question: how can guests feel Sydney’s history, not just see it?” said Kat Robinson, CEO of Miroma Project Factory. “Through this collaboration, we have translated architecture, story, and emotion into a ritual that engages all senses, from the tactile feel of the tarot cards to the layered flavours of the cocktails themselves.”

Beyond the physical bar, the experience extends online via a bespoke microsite, where each card is animated and accompanied by layered storytelling, elegant visuals, and subtle soundscapes. Guests can continue their journey long after their visit, marking each card drawn and unlocking the mysterious 13th card, a final symbol of discovery, completion, and connection.

The Arcana & Alchemy cocktail experience was conceived by Eleonora Biella, McRae Bar’s Assistant Bar Manager, who developed the concept and creative direction alongside her team. Brought to fruition with Miroma Project Factory, the experience celebrates local craftsmanship, design, and storytelling, transforming McRae Bar into a destination where city, mixology, and imagination converge, in line with Capella’s commitment to creating experiences that are the hallmark of its brand.

Arcana & Alchemy launches at McRae Bar on 11 December 2025. For more information and to explore the cocktail collection, view the [full menu here](#).

[Imagery available here](#).

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ABOUT CAPELLA SYDNEY

Capella Sydney in Australia transforms one of the city’s most treasured heritage landmarks into a contemporary sanctuary of culture and luxury. Set within the restored sandstone Department of Education building, the property’s 192 guestrooms and suites showcase soaring ceilings, bespoke furnishings, and an extraordinary collection of artwork. Situated steps from Sydney Harbour and the Harbour Bridge, the hotel invites guests to experience the city’s architectural grandeur and creative spirit firsthand. Having opened in March 2023, Capella Sydney marks a remarkable debut for a property so young, already celebrated for redefining Australia’s luxury landscape. Conceived as both an urban retreat and a cultural gateway, it stands as a place where design, history, and modern sophistication converge to create a deeply enriching stay.

Balancing storied architectural features with a contemporary design aesthetic, Capella Sydney celebrates the Australian panorama through its interiors, location and experiences. 192 spacious guestrooms and suites and an unsurpassed wellness offering are anchored by three ground-level food and beverage outlets and a collection of bespoke function spaces. Original characteristics are

celebrated throughout the hotel, with reimagined interiors unfurling to reveal commissioned and collected artworks, sophisticated furnishings and intriguing objet d'art– all within footsteps of the glistening harbour foreshore, the famed Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

For more information, visit capellahotels.com/sydney IG: capellasydney FB: capellasydney

ABOUT CAPELLA HOTEL GROUP

Capella Hotel Group is a leading hospitality management company specialising in luxury hotels, resorts, and serviced residences. Based in Singapore, the rapidly expanding group has two brands under its portfolio and properties across ten destinations. The award-winning Capella Hotels and Resorts is renowned for its service excellence, crafted luxury design and immersive experiences celebrating the locale, while Patina Hotels & Resorts is the group's transformative luxury brand pioneering a fresh perspective in luxury hospitality.

For more information visit www.capellahotelgroup.com.

ABOUT CAPELLA HOTELS AND RESORTS

The Capella Hotels and Resorts constellation consists of properties located in Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Ubud, Bangkok, Hanoi, Shanghai, and Hainan. Future openings include exciting destinations such as Kyoto, Macau, Seoul, Riyadh, Nanjing and Shenzhen. The exceptional hospitality brand, taking its name from the brightest star of the Auriga constellation, shines a spotlight on local heritage, culture and community whilst crafting authentic guest experiences with the highest level of personalised service and combining a legacy of thoughtful design. Capella was named Best Hotel Brand in Travel + Leisure's "World's Best Awards" from 2023 to 2025. Capella Bangkok and Capella Sydney earned the distinction of being included in The World's 50 Best Hotels in 2025, with Capella Sydney debuting as Best Hotel in Oceania. Capella Hotels and Resorts is a member of GHA DISCOVERY, a multi-brand loyalty programme representing a collection of 40 independent hotel brands over 100 countries worldwide.

For more information, visit www.capellahotels.com
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ABOUT MIROMA PROJECT FACTORY

Miroma Project Factory (MPF) is a multi-award-winning digital strategy and product studio that delivers innovative digital solutions across web, platforms, and systems. Specialising in purposeful technology, MPF works at the intersection of strategy, design, and engineering to create impactful digital products for organisations ready to lead. With deep expertise in interactive connected systems, MPF helps clients scale responsibly, communicate clearly, and connect meaningfully with their audiences. For more information, visit www.theprojectfactory.com.