



**SABLE**  
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Words Victoria Meppem May 1 2008

When Julianne Mcguigan was thinking of a name for her East Sydney salon she wanted something small, short and sweet that represented luxury and the glamour of hair and beauty.

"Sable is a beautiful fur that's really glossy, soft and luxurious, and it conjures the finest of artist brushes and makeup brushes. And then I found out it means 'sand' in French but hey," she laughs, "We're in Sydney not Paris."



"I hadn't ever thought of having my own salon but I came back from three years working in New York and decided then that I really did want to keep working for myself," explains Mcguigan. In August 2007 she opened Sable with colourist Kim Edwards and two other staff.

"It's a boutique salon: it's small and intimate and has a relaxed atmosphere. We all focus on giving the best in technical expertise so you get really good service. There's lots of reading material, books as well as magazines," she says. "We are always available and if you call up you'll speak to one of us on the phone, rather than a receptionist."

While Mcguigan came up with the chic neutral and black colour scheme for Sable, she praises interior designer Andrew Cliffe and his company The World Is Round for executing the interior on a tight budget. "I wanted the space to have a professional edge, to feel homely but not too cluttered, and not so modern it felt stark or hollow. Originally I had tried to find somewhere with sandstone walls but with no luck. So we found a sandstone paint with a rough texture in a shade called jute for the walls and its tactile texture contrasts nicely with the polished concrete floors."

Open Tuesday to Saturday, including two late nights to cater for working clients, Sable's client list is an



eclectic cross section from all walks of life – from local art and fashion students to professional women and men. “We welcome all with open arms,” Mcguigan says.

When it comes to her work, Mcguigan says she personally puts a strong emphasis on giving a haircut that works brilliantly with the hair’s natural texture so that it enhances whatever is already great about a client’s hair. “We do a lot of polished work as well, and I do a lot of styling because I’m also a freelance session stylist. There’s definitely a strong following of women who come and have their hair done for events.”

Colour-wise, natural beautiful colour is a speciality. “Ballayage, hair that looks naturally lightened, deeper at the roots and going darker through to the ends, is very popular at the moment,” she says. “But also a lot of people are going for very strong glossy colours again. We use Redken Shades which is a great colour range that’s ultra glossy and gives a lot of variations of colour so you can really personalise a client’s colour.”