



FRANCO CAMILLERI

As the managing director of camilleriparisnode, Franco's workspace oozes a chic sense of style. It is also dotted with historic treasures such as family heirlooms and stunning pieces of art.

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When I planned this space I wanted it to have the semblance of an office, with a working desk and meeting space where matters can be discussed formally and informally. That's important to me. Sitting behind a desk while talking to someone reminds me too much of my school and all-too-frequent visits to the headmaster's office!

My desk sits in a glass box facing the shop, as at the end of the day that is where business is made. Back when I came into the business in 1979, my first brief was given to me by my late Uncle Lewis, my mentor. He instilled in me how important it was to have a great space to do business, and I've always remembered that. When we planned our Rabat shop we kept it in mind every step of the way.

There's lots of memorabilia here, from across the five generations that have contributed to the business since 1890. Some of them signify our role as merchants,

such as these original cash registers. One was found in the basement of our shop, and still had money in it! It must have been taken down during an air raid and forgotten.

Our large collection of books also takes pride of place – old ledgers and bankbooks dating back to the early 20s. Other favourites of mine include this old safe, as well as an icon of the Sacred Heart that was commissioned by my grandfather to remind us all of where our destiny lies.

A sketch of our Merchants Street shop was created by Perit England in the 50s. It reflects the vision of my grandfather's generation, as they truly believed our shops should be avant-garde.

Of course this is a workspace but it is also home to one of the indulgences I love to share – really good whiskeys, and I have quite a collection. It is a passion that was handed down from my father. We conclude every day with a toast, no matter whether it has been a good day or a bad one.

