



Garden in the sky

Landscape designer Adam Robinson invites the outdoors into his high-rise sanctuary

Through the keyhole
Melissa Hoyer

With a career as one of Australia's most popular landscape designers, when it came to designing his own home, Adam Robinson was determined to make his surroundings as peaceful, relaxing and 'living green' as possible.

Despite residing in a chic high-rise apartment in the middle of Surry Hills, Robinson endeavoured to bring the outdoors in and combine his talents for landscaping with his love of interior design.

"It is an apartment but the building is near a green area of Surry Hills with large trees around and when I walk into my space I find it instantly relaxing and de-stressing," Adam says.

"Having my dog and plant children also brings life into my home - we all make a happy family."

Light, bright and uncluttered, walking into and out of Adam's home certainly fills you with a sense of calm and cool.

"I love my home and it sounds like a cliché but it is my sanctuary."

With more and more people wanting to turn their urban homes into differing kinds of a green oasis, it was in 2011 Adam created his Oxford St, Paddington business, ARD, having been a horticulturist, stylist, interior and landscape designer.

"I love plants and nature, ever since I was a kid, so the landscape business is a natural progression."

Tell us about the style of your home. I like a minimal, uncluttered space that can breathe. I've used washed out natural materials throughout the space like the oak floorboards, cable knit rug, black Moroccan tiles in the kitchen and grey in the bathroom with linen on the sofa, the bed and the window drapes.

Who lives in your home? I share my home with my French bulldog, Paige - the light of my life haha!

She keeps me sane during these times as living in an apartment we do need to spend a fair amount of time outdoors which I love, so it's not a problem. Paige goes everywhere with me from work in the office, to consultation meetings with clients. She's a real character.

Who did your interiors? It was a collaboration between myself and my interior design friend Brett Goodrich.

I knew what I wanted and Brett drew it up to ensure everything worked from an interior design point of view.

I have a background in styling and interior design.

What was the design brief? I wanted a warm, light-filled, welcoming space that feels natural and fresh with plenty of life from having lots of plants around me in beautiful pots.

What inspires you when it comes to interior design? I love authentic spaces that reflect the people that live in them. You can tell when someone has lovingly chosen everything that they live with. I also feel you have to walk into a space and feel and see beauty - it's so important. It doesn't have to be



Far left: Adam Robinson in his Surry Hills apartment with his French bulldog, Paige. Picture: John Appleyard

Above: Adam and his friend Brett Goodrich collaborated on the interior design, using "washed out natural materials throughout the space".

Left: Adam's favourite part of his home, the balcony.

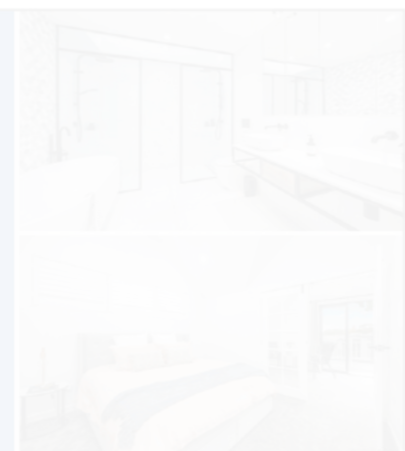
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Garden Island Defence Precinct, Sydney, New South Wales

The Department of Defence is holding a Community Information Session to outline upcoming works at the Garden Island Defence Precinct, Sydney, New South Wales under the Garden Island (East) Critical Infrastructure Recovery Program. These works will allow the Navy to schedule more of its ships berthing and maintenance activities further away from nearby residents. You are invited to attend the following Community Information Session:

Online Community Information Session
Date: Thursday, 3 December 2020
Time: Drop in any time between 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Location: Banksia Room, Holiday Inn Potts Point, 203 Victoria Street, Potts Point, NSW 2011

If you would like further information on the upcoming works, please visit: <https://www.defence.gov.au/id/N22633stage2/Default.asp>
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fancy or expensive but it does have to be beautiful and comfortable.

Left: Adam's bedhead which he had specially upholstered.

What is your favourite room in your home? I love sitting out on my balcony looking at the horizon, the view of the sky and the city. I really think the outdoor room has taken over as the 'new heart of the house'.

Right: Adam in his kitchen. Picture: John Appleyard

What did you find most challenging when designing your home? The final selections. There are so many things I love and wanted to include, but I also love

a paired back palette.

What is the most unique feature of your home? Probably my bedhead which I had specially made and upholstered in the most gorgeous green velvet fabric.

Which feature makes you most proud? All my plant children. It's so important for your physical and mental health to have plants around you – especially during COVID-19. Looking after plants is so therapeutic – when you nurture nature – nature nourishes in return.

Where is the best place to stand or sit to best enjoy your home? My round dining table – you get a good view of the whole layout of the place and the view of the park across the road.

Where are some of your favourite interiors and key pieces of furniture from? MCM House, Armadillo, Tait, Thonet, and Great Dane, Planet Furniture and Water Tiger.

Describe your use of art in



your home. The Palm Leaf near the dining table was rescued and painted by a friend. The other pieces are by Jordy Kerwick, Jeff Waterman and Papunya Tula.

What is something you treasure in your home? I have a Chinese timber stool that I bought from the Salvos store. It was \$5 but I've had it ever since I moved out of home to Paddington.

What has been taking up your time at the moment? I've been collaborating on a few pot collections with Zakkia Homewares, House of Bamboo and Garden Life which I've really enjoyed. I also launched Garden Angels – a new arm of the business that provides bespoke maintenance and revitalisation service to keep gardens healthy and looking their best throughout the year.

Did you find anything you wanted to revamp in your home during lockdown? I have recently refreshed the balcony planting and bought some new bed side lamps.



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