

our experts

This issue, we've assembled a panel of insiders to provide the soundest renovation advice. Meet the team!



tiles

Georgia Ezra

Director of Melbourne-based interior design practice Studio Ezra and artisan tile purveyor Tiles of Ezra, Georgia is a treasure hunter at heart. She takes her inspiration from a range of exotic cultures and is passionate about pushing the boundaries of modern design. She believes in crafting spaces that enliven the senses and mood, leading to better spiritual health. Her wise words appear on pages 38 and 125.



bricks & pavers

Jai Sanderson

At *Inside Out*, we love bricks and were delighted when Jai came on board. She is the general manager of marketing for PGH Bricks & Pavers at CSR Ltd. Offering real style and integrity, PGH Bricks & Pavers has a wide variety of products in myriad colours, shapes, textures and sizes to help people create a home that is truly theirs. Head to page 126 for Jai's top tips on choosing the perfect product for your outdoor space.



textiles

Greg Natale

Arguably Australia's most famous interior designer, Greg is known for his masterful use of pattern and colour, and his bold application of both across a big portfolio of projects. Over the years, Greg has branched into other disciplines through signature ranges of rugs, wallpaper, tiles, furniture and homewares. He talks about pattern on page 37.



horticulture

Melissa King

One of Australia's most popular garden experts, Melissa has a passion for gardening that was formalised with a horticulture degree that she topped. After four years as host of the ABC's *Gardening Australia*, she moved to Channel 7 to host the gardening segment on *Melbourne Weekender*. In addition to her TV work, she's a proud ambassador for Northcote Pottery. Melissa's thoughts on balconies are on page 124.



kitchen appliances

Mark Elmore

The general manager of design at Fisher & Paykel Appliances, Mark has driven design-led thinking across the company. He has a keen interest in the physical and architectural evolution of kitchens, and the accompanying social and psychological impacts. Over his years at the company, he has overseen the transformation of its HQ to an impressive centre for research and development. He talks integrated appliances on page 76.



living

David Hardwick

In his role as head of products at King Living, David guides development, ensuring KL furniture reflects the high standards of design and production that have become synonymous with the brand. Having been recognised with awards at both local and international levels, he is perfectly positioned to advise on choosing the right bed for a better night's sleep. See page 105 for some of his insights.



furniture

David Harrison

Sydney-based design journalist David is a regular *Inside Out* contributor. He's been gracing the pages of Australian interiors magazines since 1999, and in recent years has applied his expert knowledge of furniture and lighting to his own furniture designs. David's blog, *Design Daily*, shares his views on the latest design releases and local design talent, as well as important vintage pieces. Read what he says about buying new vs vintage on page 37.



interiors

Lauren Keenan

You might know Lauren from her award-winning design podcast, *At Home With Lauren Keenan*. Or from her work as an interior stylist and decorator, creating beautiful homes that reflect her clients' lifestyles, tastes and budgets. She always approaches interior design with a sense of fun and a firm belief that everyone deserves a home they truly love. See her top tips for transforming a bedroom on page 125.



mid-century design

Tim Ross

Tim is an award-winning comedian, writer, broadcaster and self-proclaimed Mid-Century Modern design nerd. Renowned for the 2016 ABC series, *Streets of Your Town*, and live shows *Man About the House* and *Motel*, Tim also writes about architecture for leading publications and has had three books published. He shows us into his Mid-Century-style study on page 36.



bathrooms

John Hoogendoorn

The creative design manager at Phoenix, John has had a 30-year career in the industry and been recognised internationally in major design awards, including the International Red Dot, iF Design Awards, Bombay Sapphire Design Discovery Award and the Osaka Design Prize. He's overseen the development of hundreds of water-saving tapware and shower products, which is why his advice on page 66 is so welcome.



upcycling

Deborah Bibby

Deborah has over 20 years' experience as an editor-in-chief, leading teams across print, product and digital in the interior and fashion spaces. She was founding editor of award-winning magazine *real living*, and also *Jones* and *Mr Jones* magazines. Her first interiors book, *The Originals: Beach Houses To Fall In Love With*, is out in March. Her thoughts on buying furniture appear on page 37.



bricks & breeze blocks

Brett Ward

Brett Ward's extensive knowledge of local and global design is unparalleled. The general manager of international marketing at Brickworks Building Products, he's known for his commitment to sustainability and vast knowledge of building materials. Brett also hosts a yearly international study tour with a group of Australia's design elite. On page 125, he flags the virtues of breeze blocks.



gardens

Adam Robinson

Landscape designer Adam thrives on running his Sydney design studio, ARD, and working with his team to create beautiful, evocative and functional urban outdoor spaces for residential clients. When not designing stunning gardens, he also holds workshops on styling, decorating and other design topics. Page 36 is where he's at.



entertaining

Alyce Tran

Leaving behind a career in corporate law to follow her passion for design and accessories, Alyce co-founded The Daily Edited in 2014 and has since become an international success story. As a side project to The Daily Edited, Alyce also co-founded tabletop homewares brand In The Roundhouse, which has quickly gained traction with customers. Head to page 36 where Alyce shares how to set a guest-friendly table.



flooring

Nicole Canty

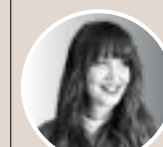
The product manager for leading flooring retailer Choices Flooring, Nicole lives and breathes all things homewares. With a love of colour and design, Nicole is passionate about helping the Choices Flooring team design beautiful homes for everyone. Nicole sources product locally and from overseas, ensuring the Choices Flooring team are always on trend. Her advice is on pages 83 and 124.



window coverings

Amelia Taylor

As head of product and marketing at Wynstan, Australia's best-known company for blinds, doors, shutters and awnings, Amelia knows how to select both stylish and practical treatments to suit the interior or exterior of any property. Extensive experience has made her the go-to expert for window and door advice. Turn to page 124 for her sage advice on the coolest window coverings.



colour

Megan Morton

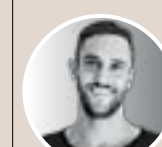
Mega stylist Megan creates spaces that make people happy. She has been called on to work her house-whispering magic for celebrities, magazines and even her next-door neighbours. From bars to weekenders to forever homes, Megan works domestically and corporately, creating luxury atmospheres for special occasions. Her thoughts on colour run on page 34.



interior design

Tina Engelen

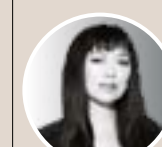
Tina spent her formative years travelling with her parents, who imported architectural design products for Dedece, their family business. After studying interior design, she became features editor at *Interior Design & Architecture* magazine. She then co-founded Engelen Moore architectural practice in 1995. Tina was a jury member for the NSW Chapter of the AIA Awards in 2014 and 2018. Page 39 is where you'll find her tips on lighting.



design

Shannon Vos

Shannon has always been fascinated by design and spent 10 years in the construction industry and studying interior design before winning Nine's *The Block: Glasshouse* in 2014 with his brother Simon. Shannon is a regular *Inside Out* contributor and works on interior-design projects through his own business, Vos Creative. Pages 39 and 116 are where to find his insider's take on renovating.



contemporary art

Kitty Clark

Four years ago, Kitty moved from corporate to the art world by founding Sydney's Saint Cloche gallery. Now she's at the epicentre of a growing community of like-minded creatives, promoting art, culture and contemporary thinking. With a knack for uncovering the 'next big thing', her gallery champions emerging and early-career artists, giving them an opportunity to present their work to new audiences in a design-led space. See page 35 for more.



indoor plants

Lauren Camilleri

The co-founder of Leaf Supply, Lauren has worked for more than 12 years as an art director and graphic designer in the publishing industry. With a Bachelor of Interior Architecture, she also has a keen interest in design and the positive effects of plants. She lives for matching the right plant and pot with the nook where it can truly live its best life. For more on this topic, see page 39.



I

Megan Morton
Stylist and The Studio owner

“What I know about colour is that it’s an ‘access all areas’ design value. Anyone can have a go. From wild, abandoned gestures to finely nuanced tone-on-tone schemes, colour can make a room feel alive, relaxed, passive, comforting or just plain magnificent. And the challenge of using (rather than abusing) it sits within this range.

How does one room reign supreme in a cacophony of shades while another can look like a first-year visual merch project? It’s like cooking, where every ingredient helps to make that end-flavour outcome unique. Every colour does for the eyes what those ingredients do for the taste.

But the real masterstroke is something people don’t usually talk about – that sticky question of what colours, and what combinations of colour, really make your heart sing. It’s a bit like when you wear something and feel it’s so very ‘you’, versus something someone else has worn and you have bought into.

This is the magic. When you put down the Pinterest, or your favourite interior designer’s palette, and work from inwards rather than outwards, your colour scheme will be so beautiful – just like a great bowl of ragu that you make effortlessly while your favourite song is playing.”

@megan_morton; the-studio.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHARYN CAIRNS (CASTLE); STYLING: TAHINEE CARROLL (CASTLE)

INDUSTRY SPEAK

what I know...

Twelve design and style insiders reveal their best tips for renovating, choosing furniture – and even setting a table

COMPILED BY ELIZA O’HARE

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Kitty Clark
Director, Saint Cloche Gallery

“What I know about buying art is you should always follow your heart – if there’s a place in your heart, there will be a place for it in your life. I don’t believe in buying art purely as an investment or only following popular trends. Buy something you love. Every. Single. Time. Something that thrills you and makes your heart skip a beat or feel something every time you see it.

I fantasise about having a house which is a blank canvas, where I can start again with nothing. I’d begin with a single piece of art that I’m crazy for and let that work inspire me to go on from there and decorate the whole house.” *saintcloche.com*



CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Like Kitty Clark, designer Rachel Castle surrounds herself with art she loves. This eye-catching 1971 lithograph by Bernard Villemot is in Rachel’s living room.



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Alyce Tran
Co-founder, In The Roundhouse lifestyle brand

“What I know about setting a great table is it must surprise and delight. I always start with coloured or patterned cloth. I like unusually shaped side plates and serving platters, and bowls filled with inexpensive details like grapes. For my last birthday, I did a Capri-themed party with a pink-and-white gingham cloth layered over a pink base cloth, made custom keyrings for the place settings and printed Capri-themed A5 menus the same size as the napkins. When it comes to flowers, I like sparse but luxe florals because I like sharing food and they can get in the way.” *intheround.house*

NO IMPULSE BUYS
Deborah Bibby extols the concept of living with things you love and taking your time finding them. Fashion store owner Lynn Clay did this with a curated collection of vases (right) in her Melbourne home.



Deborah Bibby
Interiors editor and writer

“What I know about thrifting is you should look for great shapes, classic pieces, neutral colours and natural fabrics. I lean to a 1970s influence, and anything with good design bones that is made well.

My best tip is to buy the best you can afford. Think of furniture as an investment and try not to buy interim cheap furniture because you’ll end up throwing it out. Instead, think sustainably and wait for the perfect piece, which you’ll have forever.

I don’t buy because I think an item is valuable. I buy because it’s a beautiful shape, well made and I’ve fallen in love with it. It’s about hunting out those unique special pieces and living with things you love. Buy once. Buy well. Buy forever, as trends come and go. Buy what you love.”

@deb_bibby; see Deb’s new book on page 46

CULT FOLLOWING
David Harrison is a fan of the classics, such as this 1996 Knotted Chair by Marcel Wanders, manufactured by Cappellini and sold through Cult. Noguchi lamp. Paper work by Lizzie Buckmaster Dove.

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David Harrison
Design writer and vintage-furniture obsessive

“What I know about buying classics is research is key, but swotting up on designs from the past is no hardship. When you decide which classic strikes a chord, the next question should be: do you want a vintage piece or the current production version? When a design is deemed a classic, it is invariably reissued so, rather than scour auction houses and vintage stores, you can order one in your choice of colour, finish or wood.

Sometimes the reissue is every bit as well-made as the original – but much of the time, an original has the added benefit of rarity, patina and other little differences that set it apart. Go for the version that makes you feel most excited. For me, this is usually vintage, but many find the lived-in nature of vintage pieces a little off-putting. Opting for a newly made but properly licenced version ensures you benefit from the design pedigree without the fading, dints and scratches that are inevitable with older examples.

Don’t be tempted to buy replica versions to save money. They’re essentially worthless once you have purchased them, and while some may be quite close to the original in terms of shape, they are typically made to a lesser standard.” *designdaily.com.au*



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Tim Ross
Mid-century design expert and author

“What I know about buying a mid-century home is, if you have a house with anything remotely resembling a flat roof, there’s a good chance you’ll have issues with leaks. It’s a small price to pay for all the feels you will get from living in a light-filled gem from the last century. Most of the time, the issue can be solved with overflows on your gutters or downpipes, or a well-placed bucket inside.

I can also almost guarantee you won’t have enough storage. People didn’t have as much stuff back then so they had less cupboard space. Get around this by putting in more cupboards, having a garage sale or getting a time machine to go back to 2019 when Marie Kondo was a thing. More than anything, I know you will have a better life.” *themanaboutthehouse.net; @modernister. Tim’s new design book, Motel, is available at modernisterbooks.com*



FIFTIES FLASHBACK
Tim Ross had a 1950s-style wall unit custom-made for this room in his home on Sydney’s northern beaches.

Adam Robinson
Landscape horticulturist/stylist

“What I know about small outdoor spaces is that, generally, balconies, courtyards and patios are in close proximity to the home, so it’s important to draw design ideas from the architecture and interiors when you select materials, colours and furnishings.

Keep the design simple yet strong. Use good-quality raw materials and don’t mix too many together – simplicity is key. Ensure the palette is easy on the eye and comfortable to live with.

On the other hand, a varied plant palette allows the space to feel soft, lush and less rigid. I find dark, moody colours allow the boundaries to recede and give depth to plant foliage, which also helps to make a small space appear larger.” *adamrobinsondesign.com*

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PHOTOGRAPHY: SEVAK BARAKHANI (ALYCE), SCOTT HAWKINS (CLAY HOME), MICHAEL NALIMOFFE (ROSS HOME), NATALIE HUNFALVAY (ROBINSON GARDEN) STYLING: SARAH HILSON (ROSS HOME)

Greg Natale
Interior designer and retailer

“What I know about pattern is that it helps balance a space. I first became aware of pattern in my family home as a child. There was pattern in every room. I guess you could say it’s in my DNA.

When I approach pattern in a project, I have a bit of a formula. I like an injection of pattern with a fantastic rug. Currently, I am loving an oversized French Art Deco style with a block colour sofa. I then layer pattern by using cushions that are block colour, geometric, and botanical. But I have been known to break my own rules from time to time.

If I use wallpaper, the curtains need to provide balance. Always pay attention to the ceiling, treating it a bit like a fifth wall, with more decorative finishes and pattern. *gregnatale.com.au*



Georgia Ezra

Director, Tiles Of Ezra

“What I know about choosing tiles is there is no such thing as right or wrong. Design is personal, and it is for this reason that I’m passionate about the idea of embracing one’s own unique aesthetic.

When choosing tiles for your home, a timeless choice is one that speaks to your soul, not the by-product of a trend. Listen to, and trust, yourself and think about how you’d like to feel every morning when you enter the space. If you make your decision based on the feeling you wish to feel, rather than matching a specific look, you will certainly choose a tile that you will connect to for a far longer time.

Understand who you are and what is important for your needs, but remember that your tile choice needs to be practical, too. For example, if grout lines bother you, choosing a small mosaic with many grout lines will ultimately cause frustration. Success is about being able to marry your practical needs with your aesthetic dreams.”

tilesofezra.com

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WINNING WAYS

Interior architect Georgia Ezra designed this kitchen and the tiles featured in it. Her work was voted Best Kitchen of the Year for 2019 by *Australian House & Garden* magazine.



PHOTOGRAPHY: AMELIA STANWIX (EZRA); LUISA BRIMBLE (LEAF SUPPLY); ROSS HONEYSETT (TINA ENGELEN)



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Tina Engelen

Architect and lighting aficionado

“What I know about light is that Australia is in the southern hemisphere, and living in a north-facing home offers the most benefit. The sun’s arc is higher in the summer, providing natural shade to the interiors, and lower in the winter, providing deep, penetrating sunlight and free heating.

Depending on the weather, we can control natural light by installing curtains, roller blinds or shutters on the interior windows, and awnings or pergolas on the exterior. Use a mix of lights to balance night-time illumination: ceiling-mounted lights aimed to wash the walls and highlight artworks; wall or floor-mounted uplights to wash the ceiling plane; and table and reading lamps to provide ambient and task light.

Prevent glare and keep naked light bulbs concealed from view. Have dimmer lights that can be turned up to perform tasks and turned down to relax.”

co-ap.com



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Lauren Camilleri

Co-founder, Leaf Supply

“What I know about plants at home is they make me happy. They’re entralling, grounding, their presence promotes productivity, they can detoxify the air, and the act of caring for them and watching them thrive (or nursing them back to health) is incredibly therapeutic.

The advantages of keeping these leafy beauties go far beyond just the aesthetic. Humans truly benefit from a connection to nature, particularly those of us living in a densely populated city landscape with limited access to green space.

To keep your plants happy and healthy, choose varieties suited to the conditions of your space and lifestyle. Also, embrace the process of tending to your indoor garden. Indoor plants rely on us to provide the water, nutrients and light they need to survive. Check in regularly to ensure their needs are being met and respond to problems quickly.”

leaf-supply.com; Lauren’s co-authored book, Indoor Jungle, is out now

Shannon Vos

Builder and design writer

“What I know about renovating is that, as OutKast once sang, ‘...you can plan a pretty picnic but cha can’t predict tha weatha’. Not great gramma, but pretty spot on for most renovations.

The Southern rappers (yeah, I’m that old) must know a thing about renovating and building because their lyrics personify two of the biggest factors: the unknown and the unplanned. They have the power to break the most hardened tradie and blow any budget, so they *must* be considered before anyone straps on a toolbelt.

While you don’t necessarily need to budget for it, you should plan for things like busting through a water main, tradies not turning up on time and not getting the right order of tiles. Planning for all types of mishaps ensures you’ll know what to do if the proverbial hits the fan.”

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voscreative.com.au



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