

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN & INTERNATIONAL DESIGN















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've always held the view that great design can change our lives for the better, especially when it comes to architecture and interiors. I've been a designer for more than 30 years, and I'm still as passionate about the medium as ever. My stance on sustainable, energy-efficient and eco-friendly design is well known, and I never tire of spreading the word about living a more sustainable life.

This issue, I've noticed a theme — not necessarily one that was created on purpose, but one that — because of the times in which we live — more and more designers are responding to. Sustainable design is now a growing trend, aiming to create projects and products that are beautiful, designed to respect the environment, and are created from renewable materials that are made to last,

Our bedroom feature showcases gorgeous linen and accessories made from natural materials including linen, hemp, cotton and wool. Writer James Cleland explores natural materials in his Eco and For Him stories and our resident writer Holly Cunneen features products with raw finishes and unrefined materials in her Moodboard. Designers this issue include Mark Tuckey, Johan and Nia Neve and Jacqueline Fink — creatives whose products are made with beauty and integrity, which is great news for those of us wishing to live with authentic design.

Most of us aim to create a home that's beautiful to live in. But aside from the aesthetics, it's the things we don't see that are as important as those we do. Things such as the VOCs (volatile organic compounds) concealed in the paints, glues, dyes and joinery that may be lurking in our homes; things such as furniture made from questionable materials with an unknown provenance and materials which may be made with chemicals impregnated into them to make them 'wrinkle-free' or colourfast. Even our mattresses can contain chemicals which may be harmful to our health, so it pays to shop wisely and enquire before you buy.

The good news is there are many companies who supply high-quality, ethically produced, eco- and human-friendly products and materials. The challenge for consumers is to find them. My advice is to do your research. Ask questions about the origin, materials and manufacturing methods used. If your supplier can't provide a suitable answer, maybe it's time to purchase elsewhere? The more consumers demand quality products and materials that don't damage their health and the environment, the more suppliers and manufacturers will be compelled to provide them.

Enjoy this issue.

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Kate St James, FDIA, Editor-in-Chief



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