

# By Design

DESIGN INTERIORS 2023

ISSUE 7 | OCTOBER 2023

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Natural



CLADDING | PANELS | WEATHERBOARDS

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# Editor's Note

Welcome to the Interiors Edition of By Design Magazine, where we explore the artistry and innovation within the realm of interior design.

In this issue, we delve into the latest trends that are sculpting the landscape of Australian interiors. From the resurgence of art deco elements to the bold embrace of maximalism, we have curated a collection of articles that reflect the dynamism of contemporary design.

Our feature story takes you inside the homes of award-winning designers, offering an intimate glimpse into the living spaces that inspire their creativity. We examine the subtle interplay of light and texture, and how these elements coalesce to create harmony and balance.

Sustainability continues to be a cornerstone of our discussions, and you'll find thought-provoking pieces on eco-friendly materials and practices that are not just good for the planet but also add an unparalleled aesthetic value to any interior.

We also celebrate the ingenuity of Building Designers Association of Australia (BDAA) members who have pushed the boundaries of interior design, transforming ordinary spaces into extraordinary experiences. Their projects, insights, images and vision are an integral part of this edition, showcasing the brilliance that lies within our community.

Our aim is to inspire our readers, provide valuable insights, and celebrate the diversity and talent within the Australian design community. Whether you're a professional designer, a student, or an enthusiast, there's something in these pages for you.

So, we invite you to turn the page and immerse yourself in the world of interiors—where design meets life.



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# Find the inspiration

All the information needed to create your own winning designs in By Design



# Sustainable Interiors

CRAFTING THE FUTURE OF DESIGN

As the global consciousness shifts towards a greener tomorrow, sustainable interiors have become the clarion call for designers, architects, and homeowners alike. Incorporating sustainable practices not only helps reduce a home's environmental footprint but also crafts spaces that are healthier, more economical, and aesthetically appealing. Here's a look at key sustainable techniques making waves in interior design:

1

## Material Matters

**Reclaimed & Recycled:** Using reclaimed wood, recycled glass, and repurposed metal not only saves resources but also adds a unique character to spaces. Each reclaimed piece tells its own story, adding depth and history to the interiors.

**Natural & Non-toxic:** Materials like bamboo, cork, and organic cotton are rapidly renewable and leave a smaller environmental impact. Additionally, using paints, adhesives, and finishes with low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) ensures cleaner indoor air.

2

## Energy Efficiency

**Passive Design:** Maximizing natural light through strategic window placements and using thermally efficient materials reduce energy needs. Incorporate shading devices or deciduous trees to control sunlight during different seasons.

**Smart Home Technology:** Using energy-efficient appliances and installing smart thermostats and lighting systems can reduce energy consumption considerably.

3

## Water Wisdom

**Eco-Friendly Fixtures:** Water-saving faucets, showerheads, and toilets can significantly reduce water usage in homes.

**Greywater Systems:** Reusing water from sinks and showers for toilets or garden irrigation can drastically reduce water waste.

4

## Biophilic Design

**Natural Connections:** Bringing nature indoors, whether through indoor plants, green walls, or natural textures, can enhance mental well-being and improve air quality.





5

## Multi-Functional Furniture

**Less is More:** Opt for furniture pieces that serve multiple functions. For instance, beds with storage or extendable dining tables. This reduces the need for more items and thus conserves resources.

6

## Durability Over Disposability

**Timeless Designs:** Opt for quality over quantity. Investing in durable, timeless pieces might be costlier upfront but saves resources and money in the long run as they stand the test of time.

7

## Local Sourcing

**Reduce Carbon Footprint:** Sourcing local materials and furniture reduces transportation emissions. Plus, it supports local economies and craftsmen.

8

## Sustainable Maintenance

**Eco-friendly Cleaning:** Using natural cleaning agents like vinegar, baking soda, and lemon not only reduces chemical exposure but also reduces environmental pollution.



### Sustainable interiors

Incorporating these techniques doesn't mean compromising on style. Sustainable interiors exude warmth, beauty, and authenticity, marking a paradigm shift from ostentatious consumerism to thoughtful living. As we forge ahead, these practices will not just be 'trends' but the backbone of all interior endeavors, ensuring our homes are in harmony with the planet.

# Neuroarchitecture

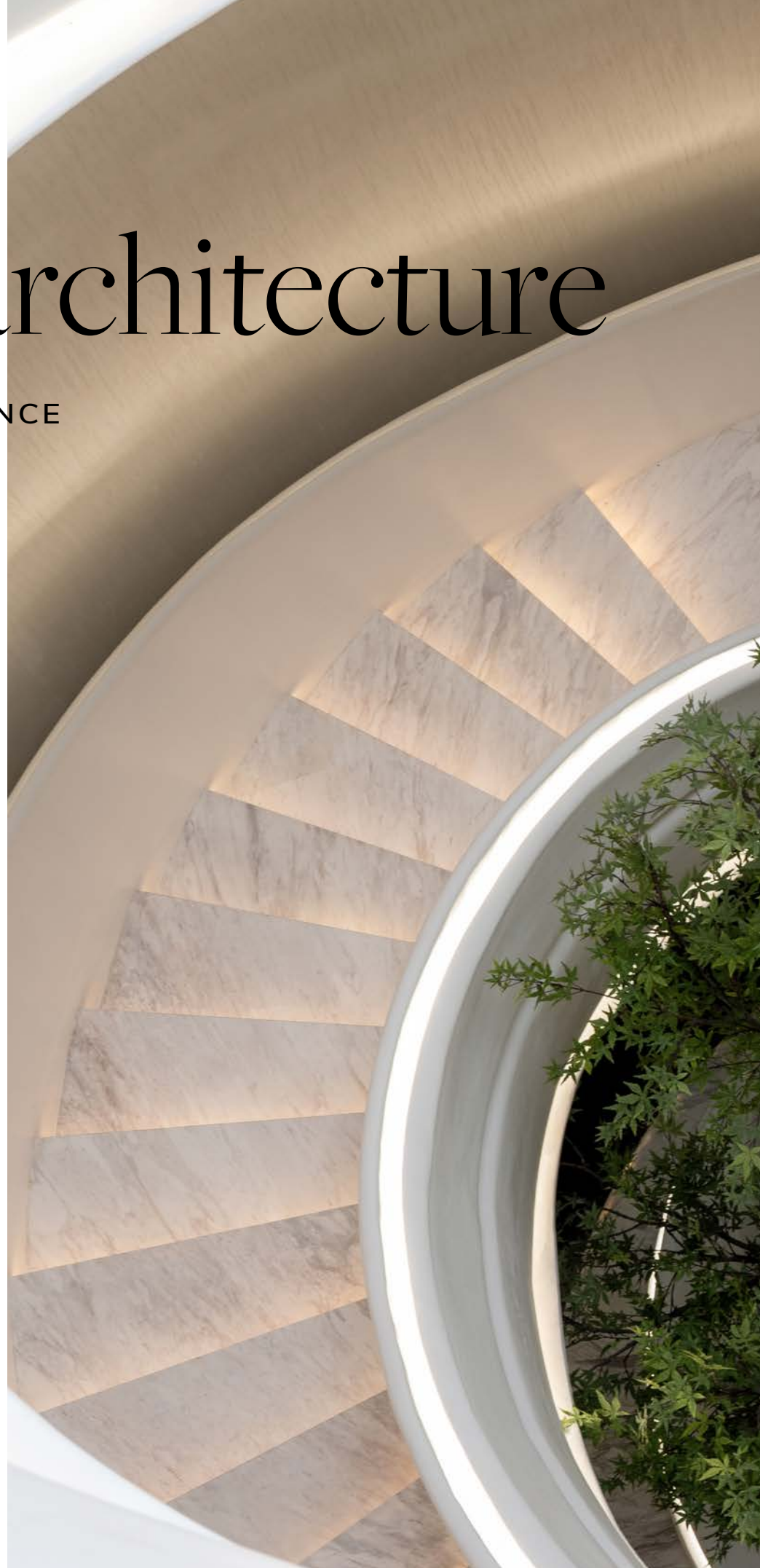
BRIDGING THE GAP  
BETWEEN NEUROSCIENCE  
AND SPATIAL DESIGN

The intersection of neuroscience and architecture, known as neuroarchitecture, delves deep into understanding how spaces can impact our brain processes and consequently our emotions, decisions, and health.

1

## Historical Context

The idea that architecture impacts well-being isn't new. Ancient civilizations like the Greeks and Vastu Shastra in Indian traditions considered spatial orientation and design critical for spiritual and health benefits<sup>1</sup>.





2

## The Brain-Space Interaction

### Spatial Navigation

The hippocampus plays a crucial role in spatial navigation and memory<sup>2</sup>. Maze studies indicate a relationship between spatial complexity and cognitive development<sup>3</sup>.

### Stress & Built Environment

Spaces can evoke feelings of stress or relaxation. Urban environments with limited green spaces have been shown to elevate cortisol levels compared to natural settings<sup>4</sup>.

### Aesthetic Appreciation

Regions including the anterior insula and the amygdala engage in aesthetic judgments, suggesting a deep-seated evolutionary aspect to our appreciation of beauty<sup>5</sup>.

3

## Applications in Design

### Therapeutic Environments

Hospitals and therapy centers can benefit from designs that reduce stress and anxiety, potentially aiding faster recovery<sup>6</sup>.

### Educational Spaces

Classroom designs can influence students' attention and retention. Incorporating natural light, for example, can enhance cognitive function and mood<sup>7</sup>.

### Residential and Workspace Designs

Considering neuroarchitectural principles can lead to homes and offices that boost productivity, mental well-being, and overall life quality<sup>8</sup>.

4

## Challenges and Opportunities

While neuroarchitecture offers a wealth of insights, translating complex neural processes into design principles requires caution. More research is necessary to generalize findings across diverse populations.

Neuroarchitecture, with its interdisciplinary approach, holds the promise of creating spaces that resonate with our innate neural processes, ensuring environments that promote health, happiness, and holistic well-being.

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# Mood & Lighting

THE INTERPLAY OF LUMINESCENCE AND EMOTIONS



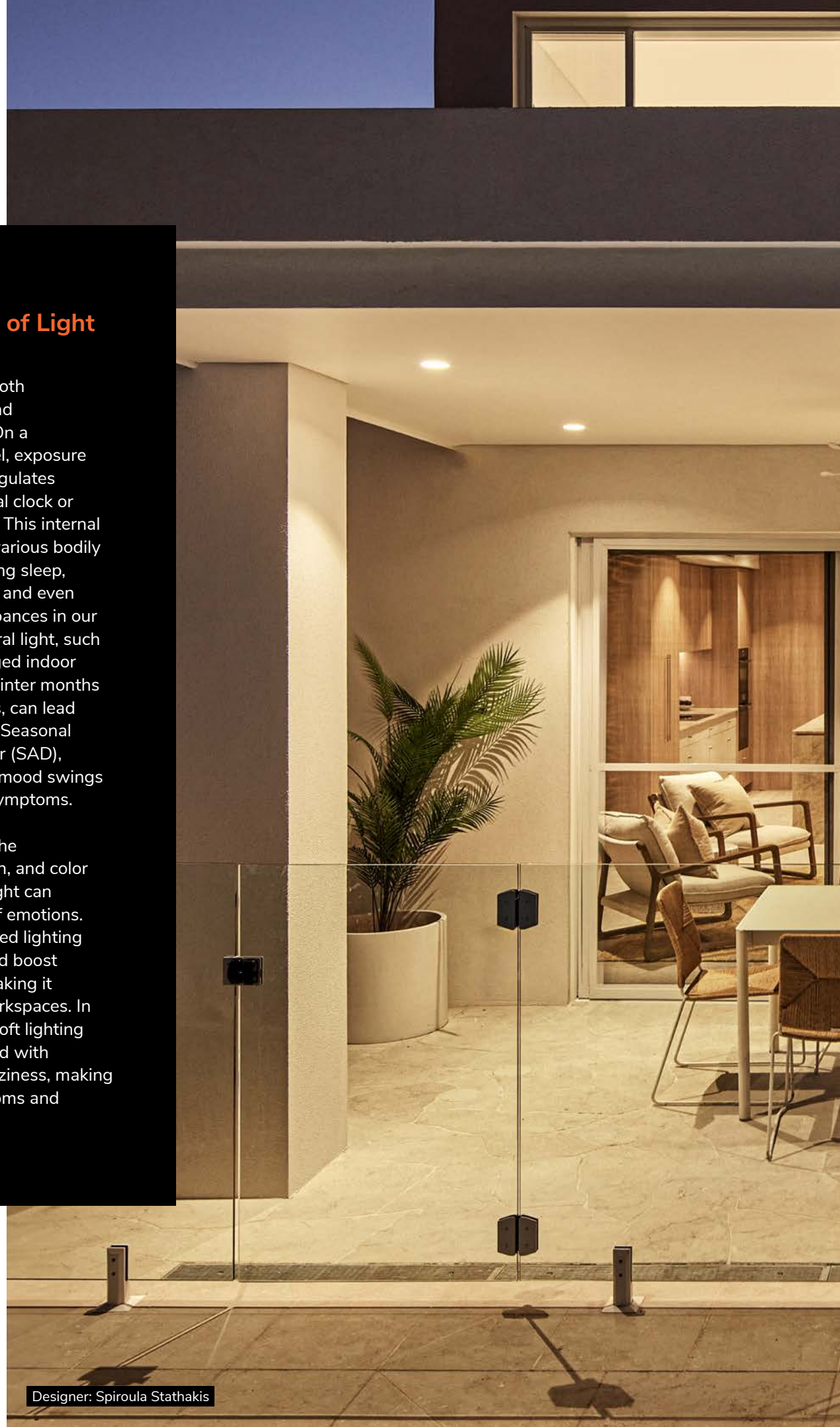
Designer: Spiroula Stathakis

The relationship between light and mood is intricate and profoundly influential. The spaces we inhabit, whether they be our homes, workplaces, or recreational areas, have the power to shape our emotions and overall mental well-being, with lighting playing a pivotal role. As we delve deeper into this dynamic, understanding the nuances of lighting becomes essential for crafting spaces that resonate with our emotional and physiological needs.

## The Science of Light and Mood

Light affects us both physiologically and psychologically. On a physiological level, exposure to natural light regulates the body's internal clock or circadian rhythm. This internal clock influences various bodily functions, including sleep, hormone release, and even digestion. Disturbances in our exposure to natural light, such as during prolonged indoor stays or during winter months with shorter days, can lead to conditions like Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), characterized by mood swings and depressive symptoms.

Psychologically, the intensity, direction, and color temperature of light can evoke a myriad of emotions. Bright, cool-colored lighting can invigorate and boost concentration, making it preferable for workspaces. In contrast, warm, soft lighting is often associated with relaxation and coziness, making it ideal for bedrooms and lounges.







Designer: Spiroula Stathakis



## Implementing Effective Lighting Strategies in Homes

Creating a harmonious lighting environment in a home goes beyond choosing beautiful fixtures. It's about understanding the purpose of each space and tailoring the lighting to enhance its function and ambiance. Here are some insights to guide the implementation:

### Natural Light:

Whenever possible, optimize the inflow of natural light. Large windows, skylights, and strategically placed mirrors can enhance the amount of sunlight entering a room, promoting well-being and reducing dependence on artificial lights.

### Layered Lighting:

No single light source can cater to all needs. Homes benefit from a combination of ambient, task, and accent lighting. Ambient lighting provides general illumination, task lighting focuses on specific areas like reading corners or kitchen countertops, and accent lighting highlights decor or architectural features.

### Flexibility:

The ability to adjust lighting is crucial. Dimmable lights allow residents to modify the intensity based on the time of day or the activity, from a bright setting for morning routines to a subdued ambiance for evening relaxation.

○ No single light source can cater to all needs. **Homes benefit from a combination of ambient, task, and accent lighting.**

### Color Temperature:

Pay attention to the color temperature of bulbs. Warm lights (2,700 to 3,000 Kelvin) are relaxing, making them ideal for bedrooms and living rooms. Cool lights (3,500 to 4,100 Kelvin) are energizing, making them suitable for spaces where focus and alertness are necessary.

### Biophilic and Dynamic Lighting:

Advances in lighting technology have paved the way for biophilic designs that mimic natural light patterns, adjusting color and intensity throughout the day. This dynamic approach can support the body's circadian rhythms, promoting better sleep and overall well-being.

The profound influence of lighting on mood underscores the need for thoughtful design decisions. As we shape our living spaces, understanding and harnessing the power of light becomes paramount. With the right approach, every home can be a luminous sanctuary that uplifts, comforts, and rejuvenates its inhabitants.

# Inclusive Design

CRAFTING INTERIORS FOR ALL



In a world striving for inclusivity and acceptance, the built environment plays a pivotal role in reflecting and promoting these values. Inclusive design, an approach that seeks to make interiors accessible to everyone irrespective of age, ability, or circumstance, is not just about compliance with standards but about creating spaces that embrace diversity. While the National Construction Code (NCC) of Australia provides a foundational framework, genuine inclusivity goes beyond just following guidelines.

## Understanding Inclusive Design

Inclusive design is more than just adding a wheelchair ramp or wider doorways. It encompasses a holistic approach, recognizing that every individual interacts with space differently. This design philosophy values flexibility, simplicity, and intuitive use, ensuring everyone, including the elderly, children, and those with disabilities, feels welcomed and accommodated.

## NCC Standards and Beyond

The NCC provides a comprehensive set of guidelines that outline the minimum requirements for accessibility in building design. While these standards, like ensuring accessible paths of travel or tactile indicators for those with vision impairment, are crucial, inclusive design looks beyond these stipulations.

## Flexible Spaces

Homes should be adaptable. Think of adjustable countertops for those in wheelchairs or standing, or modular furniture arrangements that cater to different needs.

## Intuitive Navigation

Incorporate clear signage with both visual and tactile information. Contrasting color schemes can assist those with vision impairments, while tactile paths can guide individuals with severe vision loss.

## Sensory Considerations

Some individuals are hypersensitive to stimuli. Using non-glare finishes, soundproofing, and soft lighting can make spaces more comfortable for them.

## Safety

Features such as non-slip flooring, especially in wet areas, are crucial. While the NCC dictates specific guidelines for areas like stairways and balconies, thinking about rounded corners on furnishings or easily accessible emergency exits can further enhance safety.

## Technological Integration

Embracing technology can significantly enhance inclusivity. Voice-activated systems or apps that control lighting and climate can be invaluable for those with mobility issues.

## ○ Collaboration is crucial.

Engaging with a diverse group of users during the design process ensures a broader perspective.

## Challenges and Solutions

One challenge in embracing inclusive design is the misconception that it's merely a reactive approach, responding only to specific needs. Instead, it should be proactive, anticipating a range of needs and scenarios. Another misconception is the perceived trade-off between aesthetics and functionality. However, with modern design solutions, these two can coexist seamlessly.

Collaboration is crucial. Engaging with a diverse group of users during the design process ensures a broader perspective. Moreover, continuous education, staying updated with new technologies, and understanding the evolving guidelines of standards like the NCC are essential.

Inclusive design, underpinned by standards like the NCC, is about creating interiors where everyone feels valued. As designers, architects, and homeowners, we have the responsibility and privilege to shape spaces that celebrate diversity, ensuring every individual can navigate, enjoy, and thrive in them.





In our bustling urban lives, the quest for tranquility often leads us home. But amidst the city's cacophony, ensuring our abodes truly offer a sanctuary of serenity becomes a challenge. Enter soundscaping, the art and science of curating a sonic environment. Through acoustic solutions and mindful design, our homes can become harmonious retreats that nurture not just our senses but our souls.

# Soundscaping Interiors

CRAFTING SERENITY  
THROUGH SOUND







## The Impact of Sound on Well-being

Our auditory environment plays a significant role in our emotional and psychological well-being. The constant buzz of traffic, neighbors' conversations filtering through walls, or even the hum of household appliances can contribute to stress, disrupted sleep, and reduced concentration. Soundscaping seeks to balance these intrusive noises with curated sounds and silence, crafting an environment conducive to relaxation and rejuvenation.

With technology playing an ever-increasing role in home design, smart acoustic solutions are on the horizon.

Imagine walls that change their density based on the noise level outside or sound systems that adjust in real-time to mask intrusive noises.

### Strategies for Soundscaping Interiors

#### Acoustic Insulation:

Begin with the basics. Installing acoustic insulation in walls, ceilings, and floors can significantly reduce external noise intrusion. Specialized window solutions, such as double or triple glazing, can also shield interiors from street noises.

#### Soft Furnishings:

Fabrics absorb sound. Incorporate plush rugs, curtains, upholstered furniture, and decorative wall hangings to dampen noise. Not only do they serve an aesthetic purpose, but they also provide acoustic relief.

#### Room Dividers:

Open-plan living spaces are popular but can be challenging from an acoustic perspective. Using bookshelves, movable partitions, or even tall plants as room dividers can disrupt sound paths and create quieter zones within a space.

#### Acoustic Panels:

Modern acoustic panels, available in various materials and designs, can be integrated into decor seamlessly. From art-inspired panels to wooden slats, they can be both functional and decorative.

#### Water Features:

The gentle babble of a water fountain or a small indoor waterfall can mask jarring noises with a calming, consistent sound. This concept, known as sound masking, introduces a soothing noise that drowns out more disruptive sounds.

#### Sound Systems:

Advanced sound systems today come equipped with soundscaping options. Whether it's the chirping of birds, gentle ocean waves, or rustling leaves, these sounds can be played subtly in the background to create a peaceful ambiance.

#### Mindful Room Design:

The shape and layout of rooms can influence acoustics. Rounded shapes and varied surface levels can help break up sound waves, reducing echoes and noise magnification.

A harmoniously designed sonic environment can elevate the quality of our lives, offering solace in our sanctuaries. Soundscaping interiors is not just about drowning out the world but about attuning our homes to resonate with our need for peace and tranquility. In the rhythm of life, let's not forget the symphony of sounds that can bring joy to our hearts and homes.

# The Art of Minimalism

## FINDING HARMONY BETWEEN AESTHETICS AND FUNCTIONALITY

In a world awash with clutter, both physical and metaphorical, the allure of minimalism emerges as a breath of fresh air. This design philosophy, which emphasizes simplicity and intentionality, is not about stark spaces or the absence of decor but about achieving balance. By integrating aesthetics with functionality, minimalism paves the way for interiors that are both visually captivating and profoundly livable.

### The Minimalist Ethos

The heart of minimalism beats to the rhythm of "less is more." But this doesn't translate to empty spaces. Instead, it calls for purposeful choices, valuing quality over quantity, and allowing the inherent beauty of spaces and objects to shine. In the minimalist home, every piece has a role, either serving a functional purpose or evoking emotion.

### Balancing Aesthetics and Functionality

#### Color Palette:

Minimalist designs often gravitate towards monochromatic or neutral color palettes. Whites, grays, beiges, and blacks dominate, setting a serene backdrop. But splashes of colors, when used judiciously, can infuse life and character into spaces.

#### Furniture Selection:

The key is to select pieces that combine form and function. Furniture with clean lines, unobtrusive designs, and inherent functionality, such as storage compartments, exemplify the minimalist ethos.

### Maximizing Space:

Embracing negative space is essential. Instead of filling every corner, allowing rooms to breathe creates a sense of calm. Multi-functional pieces, like fold-out desks or Murphy beds, can help optimize space without compromising utility.

### Decor with Purpose:

Instead of crowding spaces with decor, the minimalist approach is to choose fewer pieces with greater impact. Artworks, sculptures, or even a beautifully designed lamp can serve as focal points.

○ In the minimalist home, every piece has a role, either serving a functional purpose or evoking emotion.





Designer: Tracy Graham



## **Textures and Materials:**

While color palettes are restrained, playing with textures and materials can add depth and interest. Think of a sleek marble countertop juxtaposed against a textured wooden wall or soft, plush fabrics against hard, polished surfaces.

## **Clutter-Free Environments:**

Beyond aesthetics, a clutter-free environment is beneficial for mental well-being. Adopting a "less is more" attitude towards possessions and regularly decluttering ensures that only items that add value remain.

## **Challenges and Overcoming Them**

Minimalism might seem cold or impersonal to some. The challenge lies in crafting spaces that, while pared-down, still exude warmth and personality. Integrating personal elements, such as family heirlooms, personal artworks, or even a curated collection of books, can infuse individuality into spaces.

Moreover, the minimalist journey is ongoing. As life evolves, interiors should adapt, continuously reflecting the philosophy of living with intention.

Minimalism, at its core, is about embracing simplicity in pursuit of a richer, more meaningful life. In interior design, it's a dance between aesthetics and functionality, creating homes that are not just showcases but sanctuaries. As we strip away the unnecessary, we uncover the beauty of spaces and objects in their purest form, allowing us to live with clarity and purpose.





# Tech-Infused Living

SMART TECHNOLOGY  
RESHAPING  
INTERIOR DESIGN

As we steer into the digital age, the line between our physical and virtual worlds blurs, with technology weaving its way into the very fabric of our homes. No longer relegated to the realms of science fiction, smart home technologies are revolutionizing the way we interact with our living spaces. But how does this impact the aesthetics and functionality of interior design? Let's delve in.



## The Dawn of the Smart Home

With the advent of IoT (Internet of Things), devices and systems can communicate with each other, orchestrating a symphony of automated tasks and responses. From lighting and climate control to security and entertainment, smart tech offers a heightened level of convenience and efficiency.

## Technology and Design: A Seamless Fusion

### Integrated Systems:

Modern interior design prioritizes seamless integration. Out of sight yet impactful, built-in speakers, under-cabinet lighting, or embedded screens merge effortlessly with decor, maintaining aesthetic purity.

### Flexible Living Spaces:

As tech requires fewer physical constraints, rooms become multifunctional. A living room can transform into a home theater with a drop-down projector, or a kitchen counter can double as a charging pad.

### Adaptive Lighting:

Smart lighting systems can adjust based on time, mood, or activity. This not only saves energy but also allows homeowners to create ambiance on demand, influencing the design and usage of spaces.

### Artful Displays:

Devices like smart TVs or digital art frames have evolved to become design pieces in their own right. When not in use, they can display artworks or patterns, complementing the room's aesthetic.

### Green Tech:

With an increasing emphasis on sustainability, smart technologies assist in optimizing resource use. Automated blinds, energy-efficient appliances, or intelligent thermostats can be integrated, aligning design with environmental consciousness.





## Challenges and Solutions

### Overdependence:

With tech integration, there's a risk of over-relying on it. It's crucial to design spaces that remain functional even when tech fails.

### Obsolescence:

Technology evolves rapidly. Designers must ensure that interiors remain adaptable, allowing easy upgrades without significant overhauls.

### Aesthetic Disruption:

Some devices may not blend seamlessly. Creative solutions, like concealing routers within decorative boxes or using cable management systems, can preserve the design integrity.

### Tech as a Design Tool

Beyond integration, technology also serves as a tool for designers. Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) allow clients to visualize spaces before committing, ensuring alignment with their vision.

Tech-infused living represents the evolution of our living spaces, mirroring our broader societal shift towards digital integration. While challenges exist, the fusion of smart technology with interior design opens up a realm of possibilities, crafting homes that are not just aesthetically pleasing but also intuitively responsive. In this dance between design and tech, the potential for innovation is boundless.



Designer: Chris McCabe

# Materials Matter

A JOURNEY THROUGH TOMORROW'S INTERIORS



The world of interior design is akin to a vast, ever-evolving tapestry, with each thread representing a material choice, weaving stories of aesthetics, utility, and now, more importantly, sustainability. Our story today takes you on a voyage through the myriad paths of innovation, where materials not only define spaces but also our commitment to the planet.

## Once Discarded, Now Treasured

At a quaint café in Melbourne, I sat on a chair that felt oddly familiar, yet entirely novel. Upon inquiry, I learned it was crafted from recycled PET bottles. This exemplifies the design world's pivot - transforming waste into wonders. Reclaimed wood, recycled glass tiles, or upcycled plastics, materials once deemed 'trash' are now at the forefront of chic, eco-conscious interiors.

## Nature's Ingenuity: Biophilic Delights

Beyond just plants and natural light, biophilic design is diving deeper into embracing nature. Cork, once relegated to bulletin boards and wine stoppers, now graces floors with its soft, sustainable charm. Bamboo, the rapid-growing grass, is making its way into everything from furniture to wall treatments. And then there's mycelium – the fungal network – being heralded as the construction material of the future. Durable, sustainable, and entirely organic.

## A Touch of Alchemy: Transforming the Mundane

Imagine a world where concrete purifies the air or wallpapers that change color with the temperature. We're no longer bound by the traditional confines of materials. Innovation is sparking alchemy, giving birth to self-healing concrete, phase-changing materials, and even tiles that absorb and release heat, optimizing indoor climates.

## A Fabric Revolution

The soft touches, the upholsteries, and drapes are not left behind. Fabrics are going green - with organic cotton, hemp, and even 'Piñatex' (derived from pineapple leaves) offering sustainable alternatives to conventional choices. They're not just sustainable but also bring an avant-garde charm to interiors.

## A Matter of Health and Well-being

Our quest for sustainable materials isn't just about the planet; it's also about us. The rise of low-VOC paints, natural fiber rugs, and non-toxic finishes ensures our homes remain sanctuaries, free from harmful chemicals. The design world is embracing health as much as aesthetics.

## A New Era Beckons

Materials, in the grand design narrative, are no longer mere backdrops. They're protagonists, narrating tales of innovation, responsibility, and hope. As we stand at this intersection of design and sustainability, one thing is clear: materials matter, now more than ever. Join us in this journey, for our homes and our planet.





# Green Facelift

## The Student Challenge

ITI's office at St Mary's needs a makeover, and we're turning to the brightest young minds for a visionary transformation. Are you ready to design the future? Introducing the Green Facelift competition, where your design could redefine how we look at sustainable architecture.

### Rewards for your exceptional designs:



1<sup>st</sup> Prize

**\$5,000**



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

**\$1,500**



3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

**\$500**



## How and Where to Submit

- Register or log in to [bdaa.awardsplatform.com](https://bdaa.awardsplatform.com)
- Submit your groundbreaking design before the clock runs out.
- Eagerly await the judges' verdict and potentially see your vision come to life.

**Registration Opens:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Submission Deadline:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023

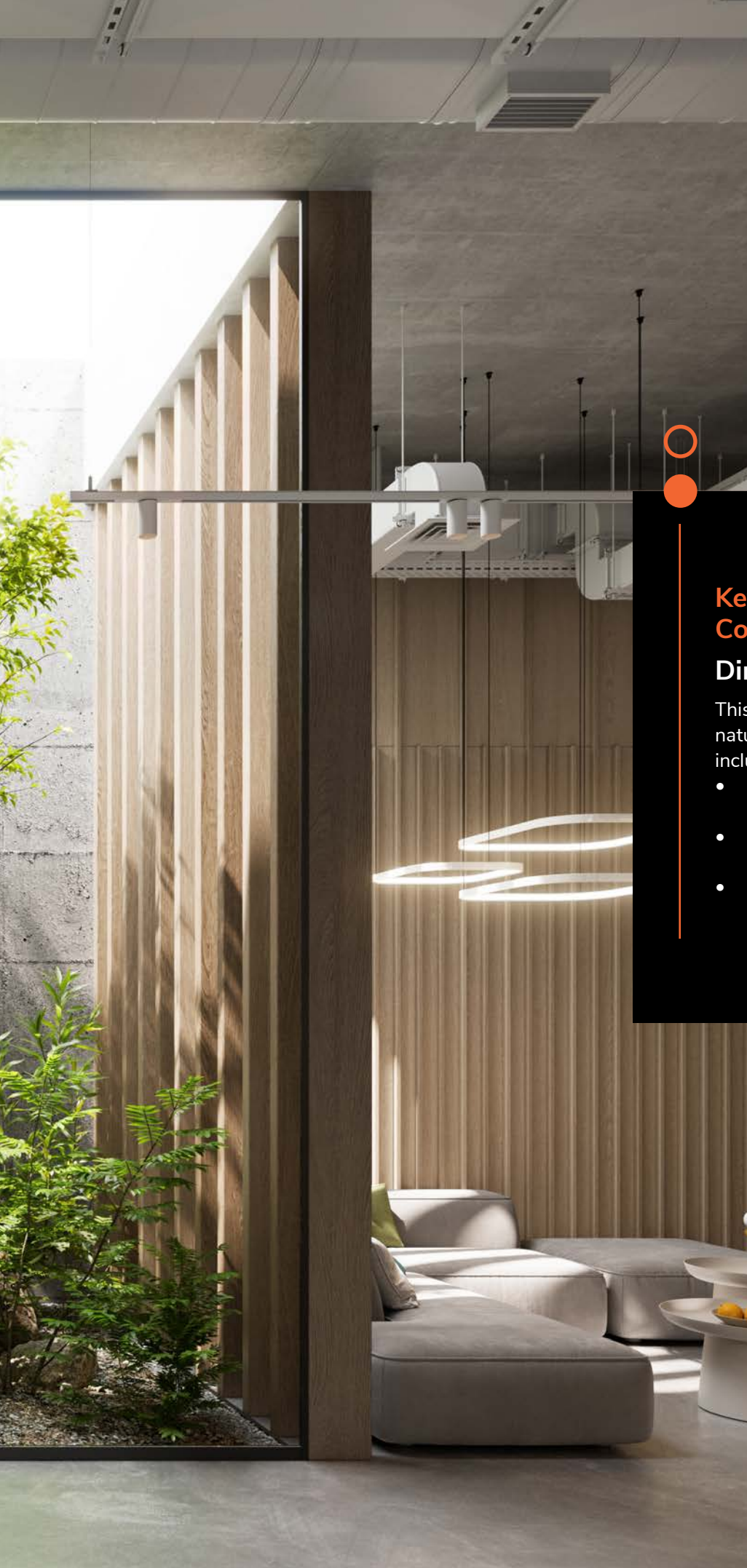


ITI Australia



# Biophilic Design

BRIDGING NATURE AND INTERIORS FOR WELL-BEING



## What is Biophilic Design?

Biophilic Design is an innovative approach to interior design that seeks to integrate nature into built environments. Rooted in the term 'biophilia', which suggests an inherent human inclination to affiliate with nature, this design methodology goes beyond aesthetics to promote health, well-being, and environmental stewardship.

### Key Principles and Components

#### Direct Nature Experience:

This involves the incorporation of actual natural elements into spaces. Examples include:

- Plant installations: Vertical gardens, potted plants, and green roofs.
- Water features: Fountains, ponds, or water walls.
- Natural light: Achieved through skylights, large windows, and open spaces.

#### Indirect Nature Experience:

Represents nature through designs, materials, and spatial configurations. Common elements include:

- Natural materials: Wood, stone, or materials with natural textures.
- Nature-inspired patterns: Wallpapers, fabrics, and artworks that echo patterns found in nature.
- Naturalistic shapes: Furniture or fixtures that mimic organic forms.





## Space and Place Conditions:

Refers to spatial configurations that resonate with the human psyche, such as:

- Prospect and refuge: Spaces that offer broad views (prospect) alongside intimate, sheltered spaces (refuge).
- Organized complexity: Balancing order with complexity, much like natural landscapes.

## Benefits of Biophilic Design

### 1. Enhanced Air Quality

Plants act as biofilters, reducing indoor air pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and carbon dioxide.

### 2. Improved Mental Well-being

Natural light and green spaces have been linked to reduced stress levels, enhanced mood, and improved cognitive function.

### 3. Thermal Comfort

Natural materials and features, such as green walls, can regulate indoor temperatures, reducing reliance on HVAC systems.

### 4. Acoustic Comfort

Vegetation, water, and specific materials can absorb sound, mitigating noise pollution in urban settings.

## 5. Case Studies

### The Edge, Amsterdam:

Touted as the world's most sustainable office building, it employs a vast range of plants for air purification and boasts an intelligent façade that maximizes natural daylight.

### 6. Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Singapore

A stellar example of biophilic design in healthcare, the hospital integrates gardens, water bodies, and natural materials to create a healing environment for patients.

## Challenges and Considerations

While the advantages are compelling, implementing biophilic design requires thoughtful planning. Factors such as maintenance of green installations, ensuring that natural elements don't introduce allergens, and balancing the integration of tech with nature are critical considerations.

Biophilic design offers more than just a visual connection to nature; it provides tangible health and environmental benefits. As urbanization continues at an unprecedented pace, creating spaces that foster this intrinsic bond with nature is not just desirable – it's essential.

# Flexible Spaces

REDEFINING MODERN INTERIORS

In an era characterised by dynamic lifestyles and evolving needs, the concept of a fixed spatial design seems almost archaic. As urban spaces become more compact and our lives more multifaceted, there arises a demand for interiors that can change as swiftly as our schedules do. Enter the world of flexible spaces.

## The Evolution of Multi-Use Areas

Long gone are the days when rooms had singular functions. Today's living room can seamlessly transition from a work-from-home office during the day to an entertainment hub in the evening. This evolution is a response to our multi-dimensional lives, where work, leisure, and rest often overlap.

## Movable Walls: Transforming Spaces in Minutes

The ingenuity of movable walls cannot be overstated. These are not merely partitions but are often integrated storage and display solutions. Whether it's sliding walls, rotating panels, or foldable barriers, these innovations allow homeowners and businesses to reshape interiors on a whim. An expansive living area can be split into intimate zones for dining, working, or relaxation, all with a simple shift.





## Adaptable Furniture: More Than Meets the Eye

The magic of modern furniture lies in its duality. Sofas that extend into beds, desks that fold away into sleek cabinets, or coffee tables that rise to become dining tables are emblematic of design meeting functionality. These pieces cater not only to spatial constraints but also to the unpredictability of modern routines.

## Benefits of Embracing Flexibility

1

### Space Optimization:

Particularly in urban settings where square footage comes at a premium, flexible spaces ensure every inch is utilized effectively.

2

### Economic Efficiency:

Instead of investing in multiple pieces of furniture or moving to larger spaces, flexibility offers cost-effective solutions for evolving needs.

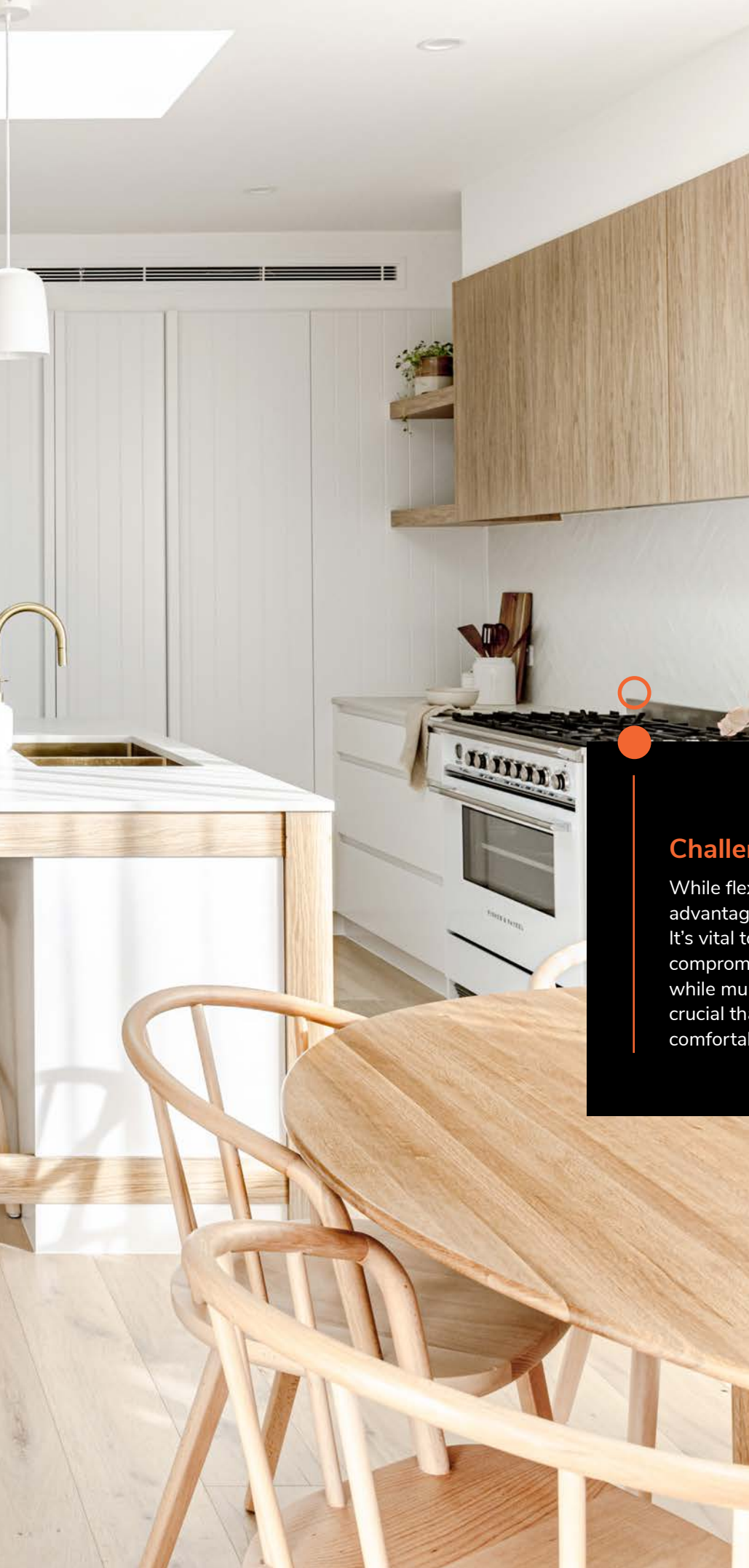
3

### Future-ready:

As our lifestyles continue to evolve, flexible spaces can adapt without the need for major overhauls.



Designer: Craig Farrugia



## Case Studies in Flexibility

### The Dynamic Office

Tech companies, known for their innovative workspaces, have embraced the concept of flexible spaces wholeheartedly. From communal workbenches that transform into evening seminar areas to meeting rooms with movable walls that adjust based on attendee numbers, flexibility is at the forefront.

### Urban Micro-Apartments

In cities like Tokyo and New York, micro-apartments are pioneering spatial flexibility. With areas often less than 400 square feet, these spaces employ retractable beds, lofted solutions, and multi-functional furniture to ensure livability.

### Challenges and Considerations

While flexible spaces offer numerous advantages, they require meticulous planning. It's vital to ensure that movable elements don't compromise structural integrity. Additionally, while multi-use furniture is valuable, it's crucial that each function is as efficient and comfortable as its singular counterparts.

The rise of flexible spaces is a testament to our evolving relationship with our interiors. It's no longer just about aesthetics or static functionality; it's about creating spaces that move, adapt, and evolve with us. As we stride into a future marked by dynamism, our spaces, too, are poised to keep pace.



# Art in Interiors:

CRAFTING VISUAL NARRATIVES IN RESIDENTIAL SPACES



Designer: Adam Hobill

From the momentous strokes of a Renaissance masterpiece to the evocative hues of contemporary abstracts, art has always transcended time and culture. But beyond the galleries and museums, art finds a deeply personal canvas within our homes. Incorporating art into residential interiors is more than just decoration; it's a reflection of individual stories, journeys, and identities.

## The Emotional Impact of Art

At its core, art evokes emotion. It can soothe, invigorate, provoke, or inspire. In residential spaces, art can transform the ambience of a room, setting the tone and mood. A tranquil landscape can bring calm to a bedroom, while a vibrant abstract piece can inject energy into a living space.

## Choosing the Right Piece

The beauty of art lies in its subjectivity, and there are no hard and fast rules. However, some guidelines can assist in the selection process:

### Scale and Proportion:

Ensure the art complements the space. An oversized piece can overwhelm a small room, while a diminutive artwork might get lost in a spacious area.

### Color Palette:

Art can either complement the existing color scheme or introduce a bold contrast. Both approaches can be effective, depending on the desired impact.

### Theme and Subject:

Align the artwork with the room's function. For instance, serene landscapes or soft abstracts suit bedrooms, while energetic pieces might be apt for communal areas.



## Placement and Presentation

### Height:

Ideally, the center of the artwork should be at eye level, approximately 57 to 60 inches from the floor.

### Lighting:

Proper lighting can enhance an artwork. Consider adjustable spotlights or picture lights for highlighted pieces.

### Grouping:

For smaller artworks, consider creating a gallery wall. It's a cohesive way to showcase multiple pieces, each contributing to a larger narrative.

○ As the famous  
● saying goes,  
“**Art speaks where words are unable to explain.**” And in our homes, it speaks volumes, crafting visual symphonies that enrich, elevate, and inspire.

## Beyond Traditional Frames

Art in interiors is not limited to paintings. Consider sculptures, installations, textile art, or even digital art projections. The three-dimensionality of sculptures can introduce depth and texture, while installations can be interactive, adding layers of experience to a space.

## Caring for Artworks

Once an artwork finds its place in a home, it's essential to care for it. Protect pieces from direct sunlight, maintain consistent room temperature, and consider using UV-protective glass for framed works.

## Case Studies: Homes as Art Galleries

Many modern homes globally are seamlessly integrating art collections. From New York lofts featuring post-modern sculptures to Parisian apartments adorned with Impressionist paintings, the line between living spaces and art galleries is blurring.

Incorporating art into residential interiors is a journey of self-expression. It's about curating spaces that resonate with individual tastes, stories, and experiences. As the famous saying goes, "Art speaks where words are unable to explain." And in our homes, it speaks volumes, crafting visual symphonies that enrich, elevate, and inspire.

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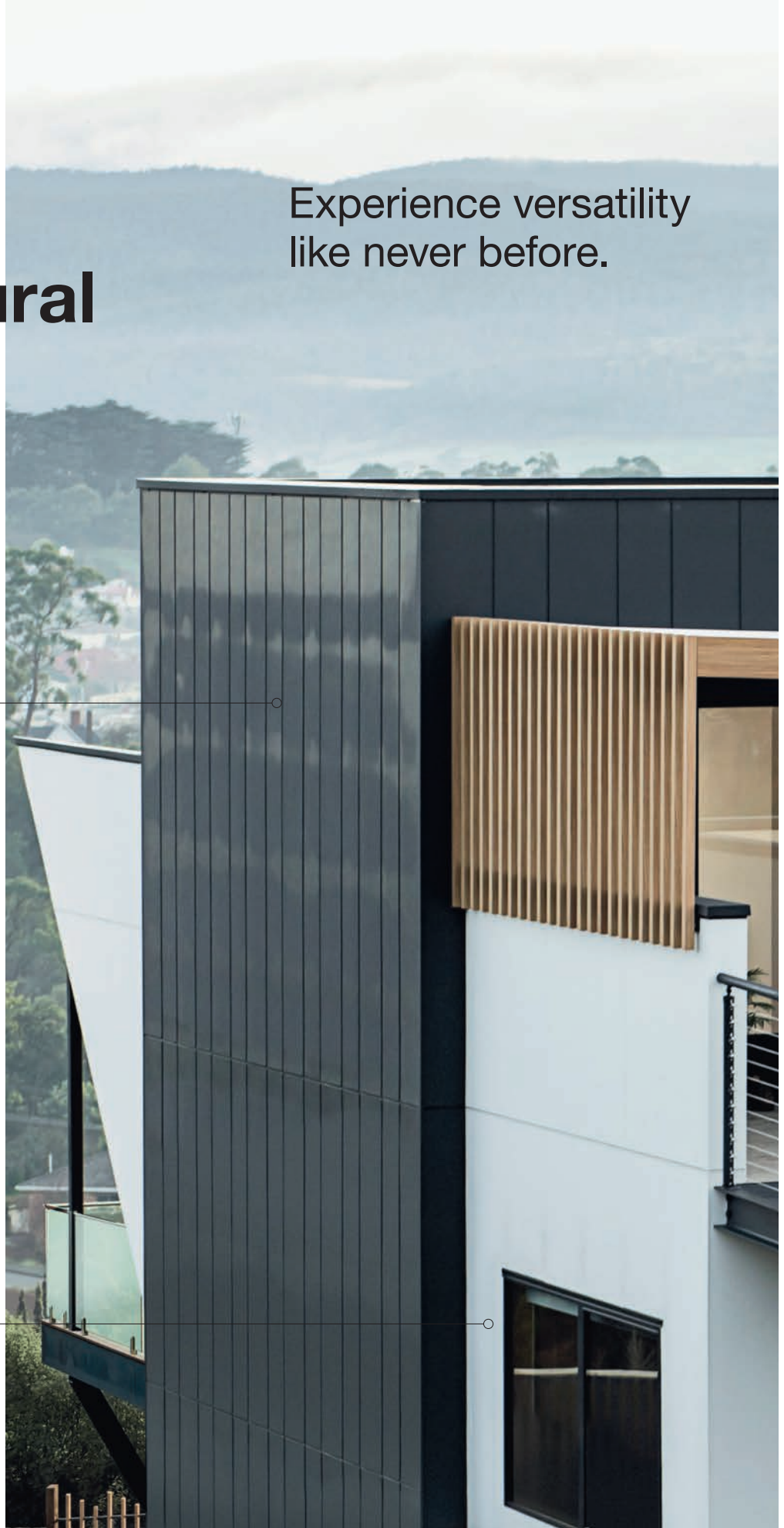
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Designer: Ashley Beaumont

# Urban Micro Apartments

## BIG IDEAS FOR SMALL SPACES

In bustling metropolises worldwide, as populations surge and real estate footprints shrink, a unique kind of residential design is rising: the urban micro-apartment. These compact living spaces, often no larger than a hotel room, are a testament to innovative design's ability to marry style and function, all within the constraints of minimal square footage.

### The Micro-Apartment Phenomenon

Driven by escalating property prices, urbanization, and an increasing desire for centrally-located living, micro-apartments cater to city dwellers who prioritize location over space. But, being small doesn't mean sacrificing comfort or style.

○ **Being small**  
● doesn't mean  
sacrificing comfort  
or style.

### Maximising Functionality

Every inch matters in a micro-apartment. Key strategies for functional design include:

#### Multi-functional Furniture:

Think beds with storage underneath, dining tables that fold out from walls, or ottomans that open up to store items.

#### Vertical Space Utilization:

Lofted bed designs, high shelving, and hanging storage can make use of often-overlooked vertical space.

#### Innovative Partitions:

Sliding or foldable walls can divide an area for privacy or open it up for a more expansive feel.

### Styling the Compact Space

#### Light and Color:

Light shades, particularly whites and neutrals, can make a space feel larger and brighter. Mirrors also help in amplifying light and creating an illusion of space.

#### Minimalism:

A less-is-more approach not only looks chic but also prevents the space from feeling cluttered.

#### Quality Over Quantity:

With limited space for decor, each piece should be thoughtfully chosen – perhaps a statement art piece or a stylish but functional lamp.

## The Challenges

Designing a micro-apartment is not without challenges:

### Ventilation:

With compact spaces, ensuring good airflow is crucial.

### Noise Control:

In urban centers, noise can be an issue. Soundproofing strategies and materials become essential.

### Avoiding the 'Boxed-In' Feel:

Through smart design and decor choices, it's crucial to ensure the space doesn't feel too confined.

## Case Studies: Micro Marvels

### Tokyo:

Renowned for its efficient use of space, Tokyo features micro-apartments that seamlessly blend traditional Japanese design elements like tatami mats and modern, space-saving solutions.

### New York City:

The Big Apple, with its sky-high rent prices, has seen a surge in micro-apartments. Many of these feature innovative lofted designs and communal amenities to extend the living space.

## Sustainability and Micro-Living

Compact living is inherently sustainable. Reduced square footage means less energy for heating, cooling, and lighting. Furthermore, the limited space encourages residents to be mindful consumers, buying only essential items and reducing waste.

Urban micro-apartments are a reflection of our times, representing a shift in priorities and a recognition that with creativity and innovation, even the tiniest of spaces can become comfortable, stylish homes. As urban landscapes continue to evolve, these micro marvels stand as a testament to the adaptability and resilience of modern design.

○ **Urban micro-**  
● **apartments**  
**are a reflection**  
**of our times,**  
representing a shift  
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innovation, even the  
tiniest of spaces can  
become comfortable,  
stylish homes.





Designer: Ashley Beaumont

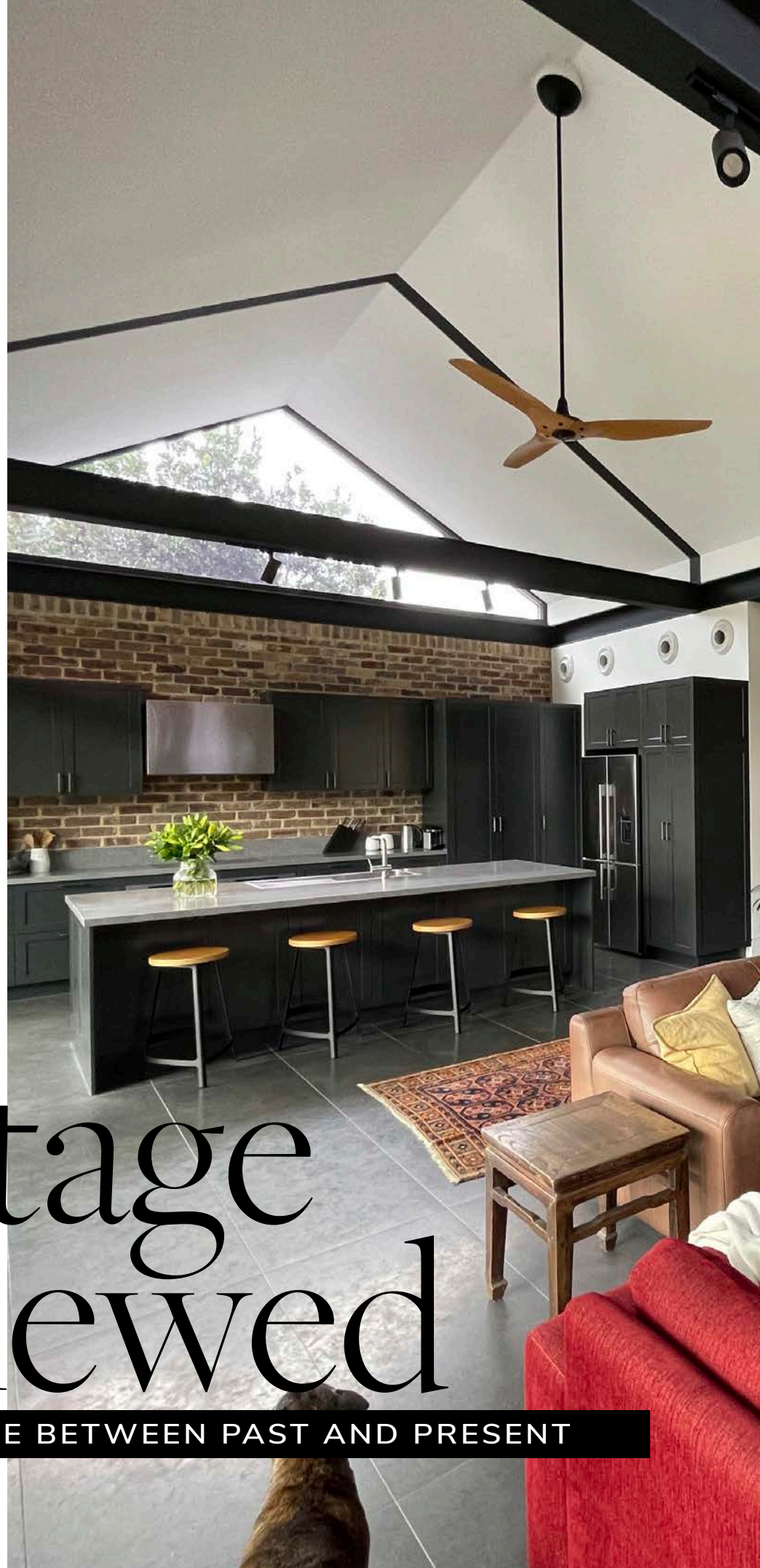
Historic homes stand as tangible links to our past, each brick and beam echoing tales of bygone eras. Yet, as the rhythm of modern life accelerates, there emerges a need to adapt these structures to contemporary standards. The challenge lies in modernizing these homes while reverently preserving their inherent character.

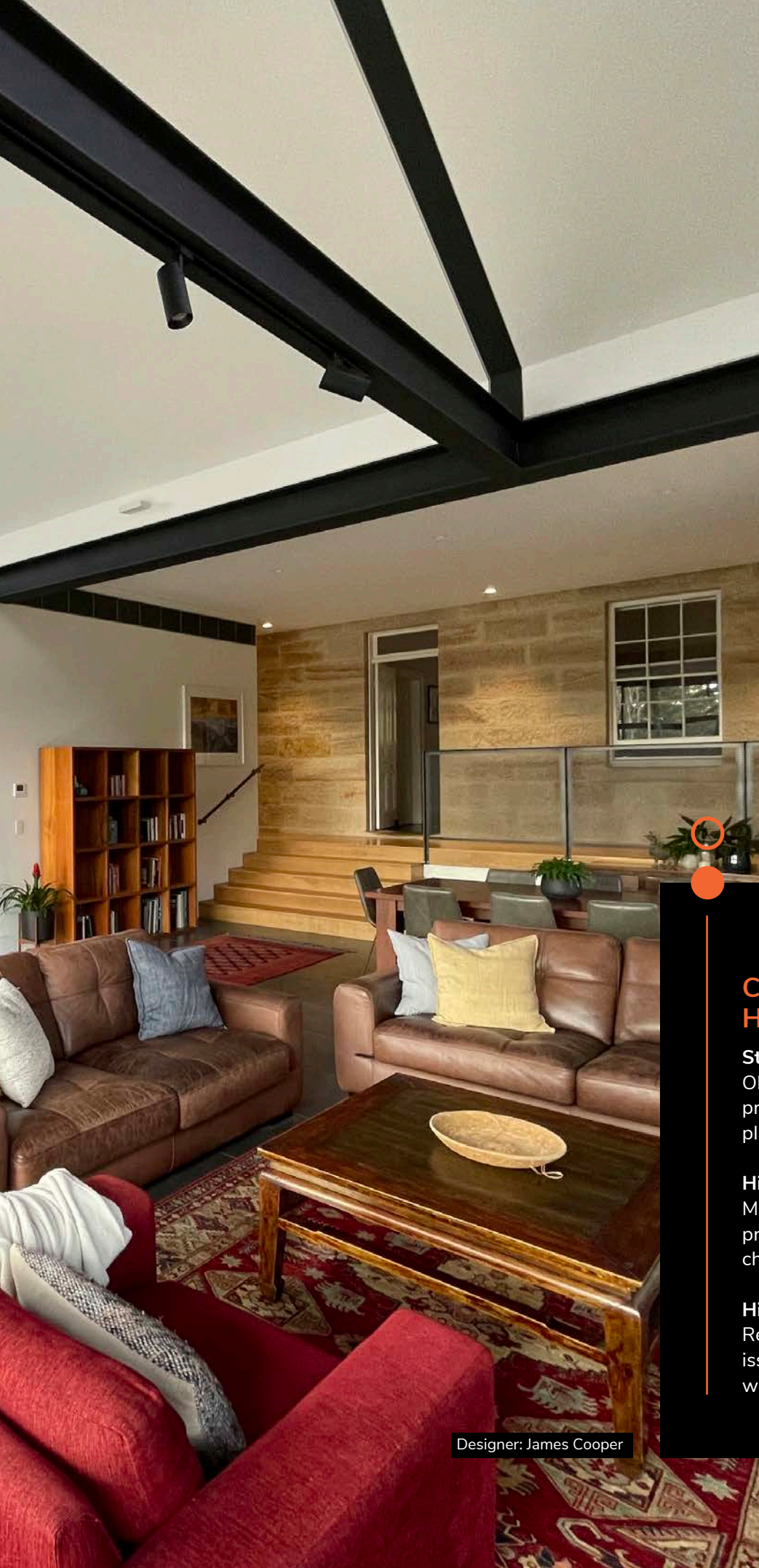
### The Allure of Historic Homes

Beyond their architectural beauty, historic homes encapsulate periods of architectural evolution, societal change, and often, personal histories of their past inhabitants. They present unique design elements, from ornate moldings and antique fixtures to timeless wooden floors.

# Heritage Renewed

A DELICATE DANCE BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT





## Modernization with a Mindful Touch

Marrying modern comforts with historic charm isn't straightforward. However, some guiding principles can assist:

### Respect the Original:

Any renovation should prioritize the home's original design elements. Features like fireplaces, staircases, and original woodwork should be retained wherever possible.

### Subtle Integration:

Modern amenities, whether it's underfloor heating, insulation, or smart home systems, should be integrated in a way that's discreet and doesn't disrupt the home's aesthetic.

### Materials & Craftsmanship:

Source materials that match the original. If you're introducing new materials, they should be in harmony with the age and style of the home.

## Challenges in Historic Home Renewal

### Structural Issues:

Older homes might have foundational problems or outdated electrical and plumbing systems.

### Historical Guidelines:

Many historic homes come with preservation regulations, limiting the changes owners can make.

### Hidden Surprises:

Renovations can uncover unexpected issues, from termites to concealed water damage.

Designer: James Cooper



Designer: James Cooper



○ The beauty of “Heritage Renewed” lies in this harmonious balance, a testament to the timeless allure of history and the endless possibilities of innovation.

### Striking the Balance

Successful modernisation of historic homes is as much about what's retained as what's introduced. For instance:

#### Glass Extensions:

Instead of altering the original structure, consider adding glass extensions or conservatories, which provide modern space without overshadowing the historic essence.

#### Modern Kitchens:

The kitchen is often the heart of the home. It can be modernised with state-of-the-art appliances, but perhaps set against a backdrop of reclaimed wood or period tiles.

#### Energy Efficiency:

Retrofitting historic homes for energy efficiency can be challenging, but using solutions like secondary glazing on windows or installing sustainable insulation can make a difference.

### Case Studies: Heritage Brought to Life

#### Victorian Homes in London:

Many of these homes, with their iconic bay windows and ornate detailing, have been gracefully modernized with open-plan living spaces and contemporary interiors, all while preserving their Victorian charm.

#### Colonial Houses in the US:

These structures, characterized by their brick facades and gabled roofs, have seen additions like modern porches and renovated attics, expanding living space without compromising their original essence.

Modernising historic homes is akin to a delicate dance, a respectful pas de deux between the rich tales of yesteryears and the conveniences of today. When done right, the result is a living space where every corner whispers stories from the past while seamlessly catering to the present. The beauty of "Heritage Renewed" lies in this harmonious balance, a testament to the timeless allure of history and the endless possibilities of innovation.

# The New Work-from-Home

## DESIGNING SPACES FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND PANACHE

The global shift towards remote work has transformed corners of our homes into boardrooms, brainstorming hubs, and breakout areas. With the boundary between work and relaxation now increasingly blurred, there's a growing need for home offices that are both functionally robust and aesthetically pleasing. Let's delve into the strategies that can make this a reality.

### ○ A productive home office goes beyond just a desk and chair.

It demands an environment conducive to focus, creativity, and well-being.

#### Understanding the Essentials

A productive home office goes beyond just a desk and chair. It demands an environment conducive to focus, creativity, and well-being. This starts with:

##### Ergonomics:

Invest in adjustable chairs and monitor stands. Your back and neck will thank you.

##### Lighting:

Natural light is ideal, but for darker spaces, LED lamps with adjustable brightness and color temperature can mimic daylight conditions.

#### Aesthetic Matters

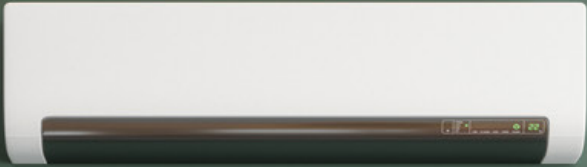
While functionality is paramount, the aesthetics of a workspace can significantly influence mood and productivity. Consider:

##### Color Psychology:

Cool tones like blues and greens promote calmness and concentration, while warmer hues can stimulate energy and creativity.

##### Personal Touch:

Add personal elements like photos, art pieces, or souvenirs. They lend warmth and make the space truly yours.



## Maximizing Small Spaces

Not everyone has the luxury of a dedicated room for an office. In such cases:

### Convertible Desks:

Wall-mounted drop-down desks or those that fold away can free up space when not in use.

### Vertical Storage:

Floating shelves or pegboards can efficiently store essentials without consuming floor space.

## Technology Integration

The modern home office thrives on technology. Hence:

### Cable Management:

Use cable clips, sleeves, or under-desk trays to keep wires organized and out of sight.

### Tech Essentials:

High-quality headphones, a webcam, and an external microphone can elevate video conferencing experiences.

## Zoning and Flexibility

For larger spaces:

### Dedicated Zones:

Create separate areas for tasks. A desk for focused work, a comfy chair for reading, and a whiteboard or corkboard for brainstorming can be useful.

### Flexible Furniture:

Consider height-adjustable desks or movable dividers for versatility.

## Well-being in Workspace Design

### Biophilia:

Incorporate plants. They not only purify the air but also reduce stress.

### Break Areas:

If space allows, a small nook with a comfy chair or bean bag can serve as a relaxation or reading spot.

## Case Studies: Evolving Home Workspaces

### Studio Apartments in Berlin:

Clever use of room dividers and multi-functional furniture has allowed residents to carve out workspaces in single-room living areas.

### Lofts in Toronto:

Mezzanine levels are being transformed into airy, open-concept offices with a bird's-eye view of the living space below.



“The New Work-from-Home” isn’t just about accommodating professional duties within the home. It’s about creating spaces that inspire, invigorate, and cater to holistic well-being. As remote work becomes a mainstay, our home office designs will continue to evolve, reflecting our quest for balance, productivity, and style.





# Wellness Spaces

CRAFTING SANCTUARIES OF  
SERENITY IN RESIDENTIAL DESIGNS

The modern home is evolving, and in this transformation, spaces dedicated to physical, mental, and emotional well-being are taking center stage. With the stresses of the fast-paced world outside, our homes are becoming vital sanctuaries where we can recharge, reflect, and rejuvenate. This article sheds light on how we can thoughtfully incorporate wellness zones within our living environments.

## The Concept of Wellness in Home Design

More than just a trend, the shift towards wellness-centric residential designs signifies an awareness of holistic health. These spaces are crafted to nurture both the body and the mind, aiding in achieving a balanced lifestyle.

## Meditation Corners: Spaces for Reflection

Every home can benefit from a quiet nook where residents can meditate, read, or simply breathe. Here's how to create one:

### Simplicity is Key:

A comfortable floor cushion, soft lighting, and perhaps a few calming wall art pieces or tapestries can set the tone.

### Natural Elements:

Incorporate elements like indoor plants, water features, or even a bowl of river stones to connect with nature.

### Sensory Experience:

Soft, ambient music, or natural sounds can enhance the meditative experience.



## Home Gyms and Exercise Areas

Creating a space dedicated to physical activity can greatly impact daily routines:

### Space-Saving Equipment:

Think resistance bands, dumbbells, and foldable workout benches. Wall-mounted racks for weights or yoga mats can also save floor space.

### Mirrored Walls:

Not only do they make the space feel larger, but they're also great for checking form during exercises.

### Flooring:

Opt for non-slip, cushioned flooring or interlocking foam tiles for safety and comfort.

## Relaxation Zones: The Art of Doing Nothing

Sometimes, wellness is about allowing oneself to rest and do absolutely nothing.

### Comfortable Seating:

Whether it's a hammock, a chaise lounge, or a plush armchair, comfort is paramount.

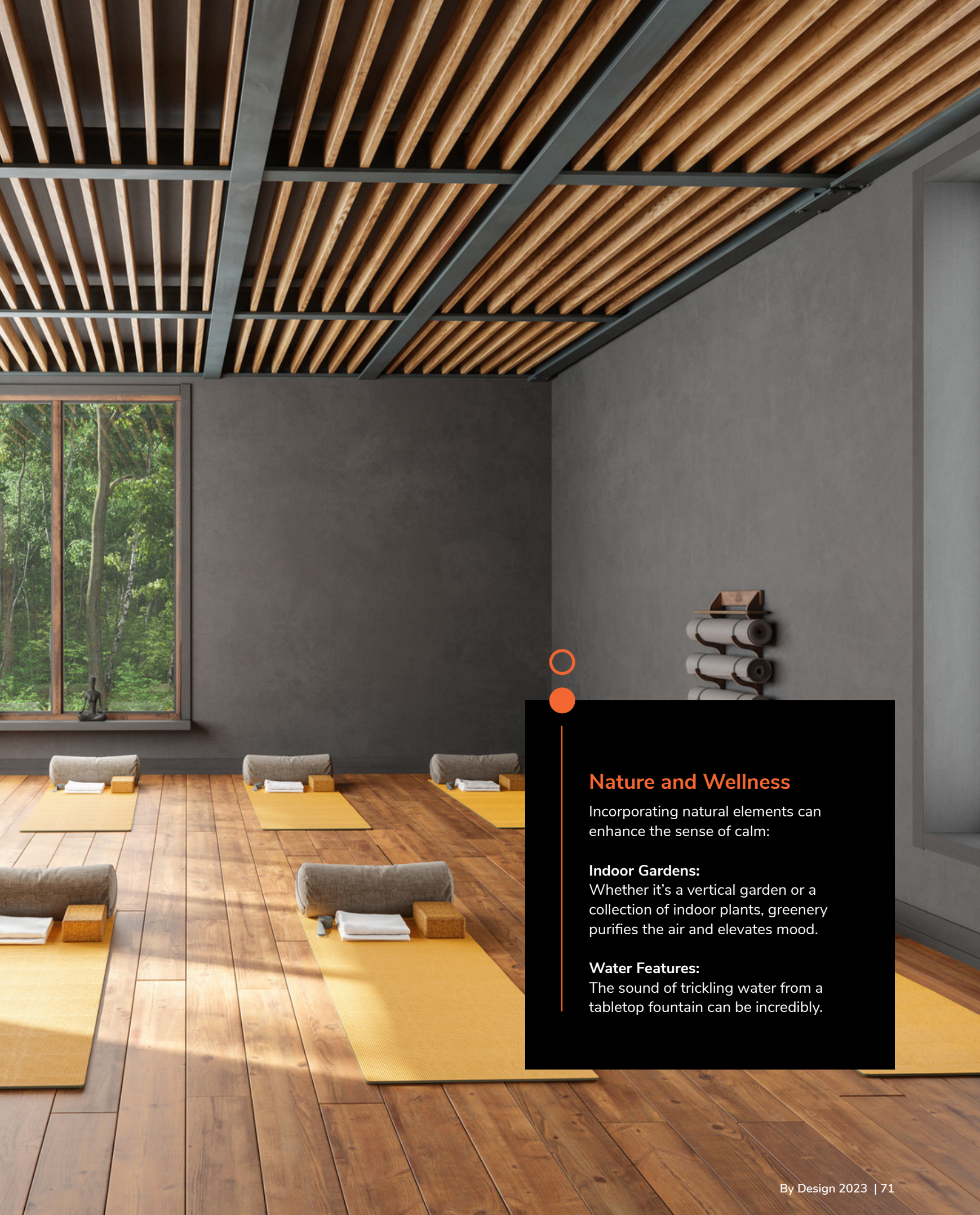
### Mood Lighting:

Soft, warm lights, perhaps from floor lamps or string lights, can set a relaxing ambiance.

### Books and Music:

A nearby bookshelf or a music system can be the perfect companions in such spaces.





## Nature and Wellness

Incorporating natural elements can enhance the sense of calm:

### Indoor Gardens:

Whether it's a vertical garden or a collection of indoor plants, greenery purifies the air and elevates mood.

### Water Features:

The sound of trickling water from a tabletop fountain can be incredibly.

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Designer: Cam Raymond



# Kids' Spaces

CRAFTING ENVIRONMENTS  
THAT NURTURE GROWTH,  
SAFETY, AND IMAGINATION

Children's rooms are more than just spaces where they sleep. They're universes where fantasies come alive, skills are honed, and memories are crafted. Designing such spaces demands a delicate balance between ensuring safety and fostering creativity. Moreover, with children rapidly evolving in their needs and tastes, these spaces should also be adaptable. Let's explore how to design rooms that grow alongside our children.

## The Dynamic Nature of Childhood

From toddlers to tweens and then to teenagers, each phase of childhood brings its own set of requirements. The ideal kids' space should be malleable, accommodating these evolving needs without necessitating frequent overhauls.

## Safety First, Always

Before diving into aesthetics and functionality, safety is paramount:

### Furniture Edges:

Opt for furniture with rounded edges to prevent injuries from accidental bumps.

### Secure Storage:

Ensure that storage units, especially taller ones, are securely anchored to the wall.

### Non-toxic Materials:

Ensure paints, finishes, and materials are non-toxic and child-friendly.



Designer: Cam Raymond



## Designing for Adaptability

### Convertible Furniture:

Invest in pieces that transform, like cribs that become toddler beds or desks that can be height-adjusted.

### Neutral Bases:

While children might have favorite colors or themes, it's wise to keep walls and larger furniture pieces in neutral hues. They can be livened up with easily changeable accessories and decals.

## Stoking the Flames of Imagination

### Creative Walls:

Chalkboard or magnetic paint can turn walls into canvases for doodling, drawing, and displaying artwork.

### Themed Spaces:

From astronauts to adventurers, themes can be incorporated subtly through bedding, curtains, and rugs.

### Reading Nooks:

A cozy corner with cushions, a lamp, and bookshelves can instill a love for reading early on.

## Organized Yet Accessible

### Open Shelving:

While it aids in organization, it also allows children to access their toys, books, and craft supplies without always seeking help.

### Under-bed Storage:

Pull-out baskets and bins can store toys and games, maximizing space utility.

## Spaces for Growth and Learning

### Study Areas:

A well-lit desk, ergonomic chair, and organized stationery storage can create a conducive environment for learning.

### Display Areas:

Corkboards or picture ledges can showcase their artwork, projects, or achievements, fostering a sense of pride and confidence.

## Incorporating Play

### Loft Beds:

These not only save space but can also create a play area or study zone below.

### Tents and Teepees:

Perfect for make-believe adventures, these can be folded away when not in use.

## Case Studies: Innovative Kids' Spaces

### Japanese Minimalist Rooms:

In Japan, some designers are creating rooms with multi-functional platforms that serve as beds, play areas, and study spaces, all while maintaining a minimalist aesthetic.

### Scandinavian Designs:

Prioritizing natural light, muted colors, and functional furniture, Nordic children's rooms often seamlessly blend play and rest.

Designing spaces for children is a journey into the realms of creativity, adaptability, and utmost care. It's about creating environments where they not only feel safe and comfortable but are also inspired to dream, learn, and grow. By ensuring these rooms evolve in tandem with them, we craft spaces that are cherished through the kaleidoscope of childhood.

# Material Sourcing Ethics

UNRAVELING THE ORIGINS AND  
CONSEQUENCES FOR COMMUNITIES  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In an era where sustainability and social responsibility play pivotal roles in business practices, understanding the ethics of material sourcing becomes paramount. For designers and architects, this understanding aids in making choices that align with both design goals and ethical considerations.









## Literature Review:

Historically, the focus on sourcing was largely determined by cost, availability, and material properties. However, recent literature indicates a shift towards considering the environmental footprint and socio-economic implications of sourcing decisions (Smith & Jones, 2018; Lui & Wang, 2020).

## Methodology:

A qualitative analysis was conducted, involving interviews with industry professionals, suppliers, and community representatives. This was complemented by a review of sustainability and corporate social responsibility reports from leading material producers.

## Findings:

1

### Environmental Impacts:

Many materials, especially rare woods and stones, are sourced from ecologically sensitive areas, leading to habitat destruction (Green et al., 2019).

2

### Community Implications:

The mining of materials like marble and certain metals has, in some cases, led to community displacement and socio-economic disturbances (Kumar, 2020).

3

### Supply Chain Transparency:

Few companies have complete transparency in their supply chains, making it challenging to trace material origins (Adams & Hardwick, 2021).

## Discussion:

The findings highlight a dire need for industry-wide standards on ethical material sourcing. While certifications like FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) for timber exist, many materials remain unregulated. Moreover, the socio-economic consequences on communities near sourcing sites necessitate a more comprehensive understanding and responsible action from companies. Ethical sourcing not only mitigates harm but can also add brand value, as consumers and clients increasingly prioritize sustainability and ethics.

Ethical considerations in material sourcing extend beyond mere environmental impacts, deeply affecting the lives of local communities. As the design industry evolves, it must prioritize the integration of ethical material sourcing standards, ensuring a harmonious balance between design aspirations, environmental conservation, and community well-being.

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# Collaboration in Design

BRIDGING THE GAP FOR A  
HARMONIOUS DESIGN PROCESS



The realm of architectural and interior design is multifaceted. It's not just about creating spaces but about understanding needs, expectations, and visions. When architects, interior designers, and clients operate in synergy, the resulting designs are not only functional and aesthetic but also resonate deeply with the inhabitants.

### **The Traditional Siloed Approach**

Historically, architects, interior designers, and clients often operated in isolation. Each phase of a project was distinct:

- Preliminary architectural design
- Interior design interventions
- Client feedback and approval

This approach often resulted in disjointed designs, delays, and, at times, dissatisfaction among the parties involved.





## The Collaborative Paradigm

In the modern design landscape, a more collaborative approach is encouraged, characterized by:

### Joint Visioning Sessions:

Before the project begins, all parties come together to brainstorm, share ideas, and set a unified vision.

### Regular Check-ins:

Periodic meetings ensure all stakeholders are aligned and any concerns are addressed promptly.

### Shared Digital Platforms:

Tools like BIM (Building Information Modeling) allow real-time collaboration and visualization, bridging the gap between idea and execution.

## Benefits of Collaboration

### Cohesiveness:

A unified design language that respects architectural integrity and interior nuances.

### Efficiency:

Reduced chances of reworks, leading to time and cost savings.

### Client Satisfaction:

By being an integral part of the process, clients feel a sense of ownership and connection to the end result.

## Case Study: The Melbourne Loft Project

In 2020, the Melbourne Loft Project showcased the zenith of collaboration. The architect, interior designer, and client jointly envisioned a loft that paid homage to the city's industrial past while incorporating modern design elements. Regular workshops and shared digital boards enabled real-time feedback and iterations, resulting in an award-winning design that was lauded for its innovation and cohesiveness.

## Strategies for Effective Collaboration

### Open Communication:

Establishing clear channels and norms for communication.

### Mutual Respect:

Recognizing and valuing the expertise each party brings to the table.

### Feedback Loops:

Creating mechanisms for regular feedback, ensuring the project stays on course.

### Education and Training:

Workshops that help stakeholders understand each other's roles and challenges can foster empathy and collaboration.

The design world is evolving, with collaboration at its heart. By bridging the traditional gaps between architects, interior designers, and clients, the industry is poised to create spaces that are more holistic, functional, and deeply personal.

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Brick veneer homes of the '60s, '70s and '80s were once Australian housing staples, but decades on they're showing their age, especially when standing alongside contemporary counterparts, with their much bolder designs and diverse materiality.

For owners of these homes not all is lost though. Creative architects and designers are showing that amazing transformations are possible without the need of a bulldozer or big budgets. Through creative thinking and clever material selection, a lot can be achieved for a sensible outlay.

A recently renovated home in the coastal New South Wales town of Bulli is the perfect example. The owners' brief to Nadine K Design, was to modernise the home's façade, while also adding a front verandah to provide all season access and take advantage of ocean views at Sandon Point.

A modest budget of \$200,000 was allocated to the project, which proved sufficient to dramatically lift the appearance and integrity of the dwelling, while giving the owners the added functionality they wanted. In developing concepts for the exterior revisions, principal designer Nadine Ryan considered the personality of her clients, one of whom is a local artist, as well as the dark colour palette of the recently renovated kitchen to draw some styling cues. The result is a wonderful combination of timber, concrete, stonework and steel in the form of LYSAGHT ENSEAM®.

Nadine explains that a key element of the design is the roofline over the verandah which points boldly towards the ocean and is characterised by the strong vertical lines of the ENSEAM® cladding.

"The ENSEAM® roofing shaped from COLORBOND® steel in the colour Night Sky® is striking but with its broader pans is not too busy; the strong linear appearance is then softened by the circular concrete support column, while the use of spotted gum on the verandah ceiling and eaves brings additional warmth," Nadine said.

"Night Sky® is one of the darkest and boldest colours available within the LYSAGHT® steel range, but is very accommodating, not competing with the other façade materials or more generally with retained materials at the sides of the home; the dark colour also complements the black kitchen."

Consideration was given to making the new verandah usable year-round, this is achieved by using an ENSEAM® clad wall as a wind block from southerly winds, while a glass balustrade protects against onshore breezes. When warmer temperatures prevail, a large stacker sliding door between the verandah and kitchen and living areas provides seamless indoor – outdoor flow. A flush drain at the sliding door gives some added insurance against water ingress when the weather isn't as favourable.

Along with increasing the usability of the home, the project also addressed some structural concerns.

“Certain areas of the brickwork had become compromised over the years with mortar beginning to fail,” Nadine said.

“This was rectified with structural works but for added protection timber batons were applied to affected areas and clad with ENSEAM®. The long lasting and low maintenance qualities of ENSEAM® was another important reason why the material was chosen.” Other improvements to the home included the addition of a window over the entrance to increase natural light, with the door and window separated with a secondary roofline within the porch to create added architectural interest. A raised stone garden bed to the left of the entrance adds an exclamation mark to the rejuvenated home.

Nadine said that the wider adoption of LYSAGHT® cladding on domestic projects in recent years had seen proactive builders remarkably hone their skills in the installation of these products. The Bulli home which was completed by builders Country to Coast projects, showcases considerable workmanship, particularly the use of returns where the ENSEAM® abuts the front steps.



LYSAGHT ENSEAM® cladding

○ The ENSEAM®  
roofing  
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steel in the colour  
Night Sky® is striking  
but with its broader  
panels is not too busy.

“There’s a real skill involved in installing products such as ENSEAM® to maximum effect,” she said.

“I’m lucky to have worked with several builders who have made an artform out of it, their flashings are clean and crisp and on this project the returns where the ENSEAM® meets

the front steps adds extra detail and a high level of finish to the entry.”

As part of the broader project, the home’s original tile roof was also replaced with LYSAGHT CUSTOM ORB® corrugated roofing.

Nadine said that for owners of older homes who may not have the funds to undertake a full renovation, upgrading the façade was a viable alternative, or could be a first step towards a gradual complete renovation.

“Owners who may be weary about overcapitalising at a time when property prices are tightening a little, should consider a smaller scale project – they might find they can achieve a lot of what they seek in a larger renovation but in a more cost-effective way,” she said.

For more information, visit [www.lysaght.com.au](http://www.lysaght.com.au) or call 1800 641 417 for technical enquiries.



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# The Importance of Professional Indemnity Insurance

FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

Every design project is unique and has its complexities. That's why it's so important you have Professional Indemnity Insurance to ensure you are covered for the vast range of exposures that are present within your industry.

## What is Professional Indemnity Insurance and why is it important?

Mistakes happen, it's a fact of life.

It doesn't matter how experienced you are or how good your intentions were, mistakes still happen. That's why Professional Indemnity Insurance is vital for professionals who give advice or provide a service to their clients.

With the correct cover in place, Professional Indemnity Insurance will give you protection from legal costs and claims from third parties should you make a mistake – without the financial strain of having to defend yourself.

These claims could be for anything from damages that are perceived to have arisen from the professional's acts or omissions, to claims that professional duty has been breached.

For example, should a Building Designer do, or forget to do, something that is seen to cause injury or financial loss to their client and the client decides to take legal action against them, Professional Indemnity insurance would provide the Building Designer with the necessary cover to protect them and their business – ultimately saving time, money, reputation and stress.

Without the correct insurance, defending yourself can be financially crippling and your entire livelihood could be at stake. Even if your actions are carried out with the best intentions, you need to have backup in case a client feels you have been negligent or offered incorrect advice.

It's not uncommon for legal fees to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. With a tailored Professional Indemnity Insurance policy in place, you have the peace of mind that in the event of a claim, your costs could be covered and legal teams will work diligently to defend you in any action taken against you or your company.

## 3 Common Mistakes Designers Make With Insurance (And How To Avoid Them)

If you want to avoid making a mistake with your Professional Indemnity Insurance, you should...

### 1 Immediately notify your insurer of any issue that arises.

The insurer has solicitors that handle these issues so you don't need to get your own lawyer first.

### 2 Always read the exclusions on your insurance policy.

Familiarise yourself with your policy, so you understand what you are and aren't covered for.

### 3 Speak to a reputable broker before taking out insurance.

Don't buy insurance online without speaking with a reputable insurance broker. Anything you buy online is at your own risk and you have no recourse against the provider if the cover is not suitable for your needs!



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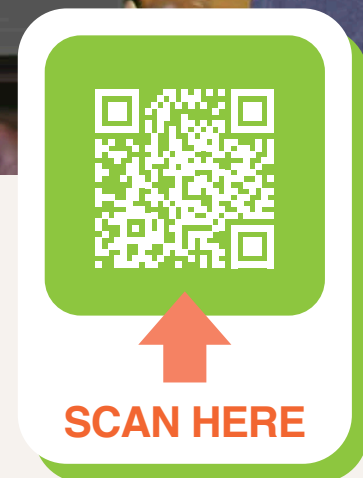
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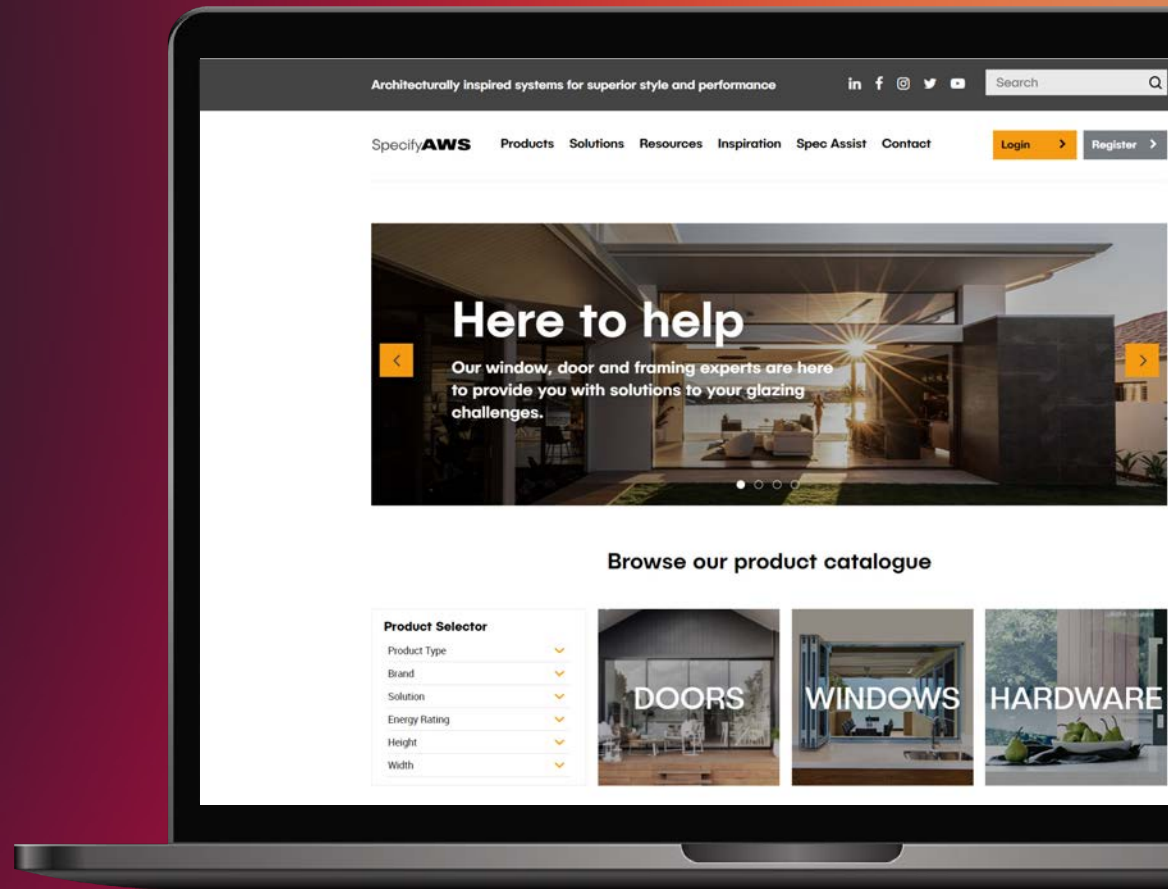
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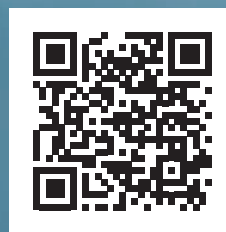
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