

THE DESIGN JOURNAL

INTERIOR DESIGN INSIGHT + INSPIRATION



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Welcome to The Design Journal

YOUR NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR NEWS AND INSPIRATION

Welcome to the launch edition of The Design Journal, a publication that is a dream come true for me and my team! With an ever-changing industry and global economy, it is more important than ever to stay on top of challenges, trends, wants and needs for design, designers and clients. This is why The Design Journal was born.

This is a magazine for all; whether you are looking for some inspiration for styling your home; if you are a designer wanting to stay current in an evolving marketplace; if you are building a home and need advice on what to look for in a designer; or if you are an industry-peer looking to learn and collaborate.

This magazine, produced monthly, will cover it all, including the latest news, tips and advice on all things design and styling.

It seems only fitting we start our first edition on a cosy note with a nod to winter and ways to cultivate warmth in homes, You'll love our tips on styling for the cooler months, especially our favourite place of all: bed!

Whilst we might want to remain under the covers literally and figuratively, sadly the ongoing implications of COVID-19 mean we must rise to face the challenges the pandemic bears on our home, work and lifestyle.

I hope my lockdown lessons help you face the 'new normal' with a passion to innovate and solve the needs of the modern home.

Thank you for reading. Your support means more than you know.

Melissa Lunardon
Editor, The Design Journal

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Melissa Lunardon

INTERIOR DESIGN



It's time to get cosy

BEDROOMS TAKE
CENTRE STAGE

We have once again entered the season of warm blankets, mugs of coffee, oversized jumpers and huddling by the fire. Now is the perfect time to bring the outside in with furniture pieces made from timber and a nod to a more earthy colour palette.

There are plenty of warm colours to help you achieve the perfect space to snuggle. Think rusts, warm greens, charcoal and browns, and you will be right on trend.

It's only natural we spend more time in our bedrooms in winter, which means bedrooms take centre stage. We therefore need to make sure it's our own personal little sanctuary, a place to escape the chill.

We love a statement bed with matching bedside tables, finished off with beautiful luxe linen. Quality materials are essential for a high-end aesthetic, but apart from that seek chic, cosy and expressive linen for an iconic winter bedroom look.



**REAL COMFORT,
VISUAL AND
PHYSICAL, IS VITAL
TO EVERY ROOM**

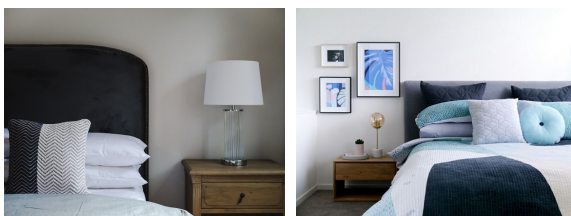
DESIGNER MARK HAMPTON

Bed styling for form and function

STYLING A MAGAZINE-WORTHY BED WHERE YOU CAN SLEEP WELL

When it comes to bedroom design, style must meet comfort. In this little personal sanctuary, a good design will enable form and function to co-exist. The goal is a stunning bedroom that feels as good as it looks, and one which will ensure you have a quality night's sleep.

While the look of the bedroom is important, comfort and function is paramount.



Pillow talk

Use soft, fluffy pillows that fill out the pillowcase for styling purposes. This will make your bed look like something from a magazine, but it is not optimal for sleep quality as they often don't provide the right neck support. Have another actual sleeping pillow that is ergonomic and supportive. It might not look as nice, so pop the fluffy pillow on top of your sleeping pillow when you make up the bed to achieve both a stylish look and a good night's sleep.

The right light

Choosing the right lighting for your bedside is important. Soft, nurturing light is ideal, provided it is strong enough to enable reading and other bedroom tasks. To achieve a good balance, look for a style where the actual light globe is covered in some way, either with a fabric or glass shade, to diffuse the point of light.

All covered up

Just as you would dress yourself in different layers of clothing, you should do the same with bedding. Choose sheets and blankets in natural fibres like cotton, wool and bamboo to regulate your body temperature throughout the night. When it comes to colour, muted tones help to create a more relaxed vibe and are generally recommended with some interesting shapes and textures in accent pillows or cushions.

Want help creating your own bedroom sanctuary? Melissa Lunardon Interior Design is offering readers a complimentary and obligation-free 15 minute Design Call to discuss your bedroom design ideas and needs. Book in your free call today!

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK A CALL](#)

The pandemic and design

HOW COVID-19 AND LOCKDOWN IMPACTS FUTURE DESIGN

The lifestyle shift created by COVID-19 and lockdowns has reshaped how Australians are choosing to build and renovate their homes. From an increased focus on hygiene, to rallying against shrinking block sizes, the story of Australian architecture and design has taken a new turn.

With industry data showing that over 40% of home buyers have changed their preferences for their properties, interior design is rapidly adapting with a range of new trends influencing the homes of 2021.

More spacious homes

The beginning of 2020 saw increased interest in more sustainable 'micro homes' and an acceptance of shrinking block sizes in metro areas. However, in less than a year, our homes took on new roles, including home schooling, work offices and gyms. Homeowners are subsequently looking for a home office or study nook, additional living spaces and separate retreats for privacy.

Rise in renovations

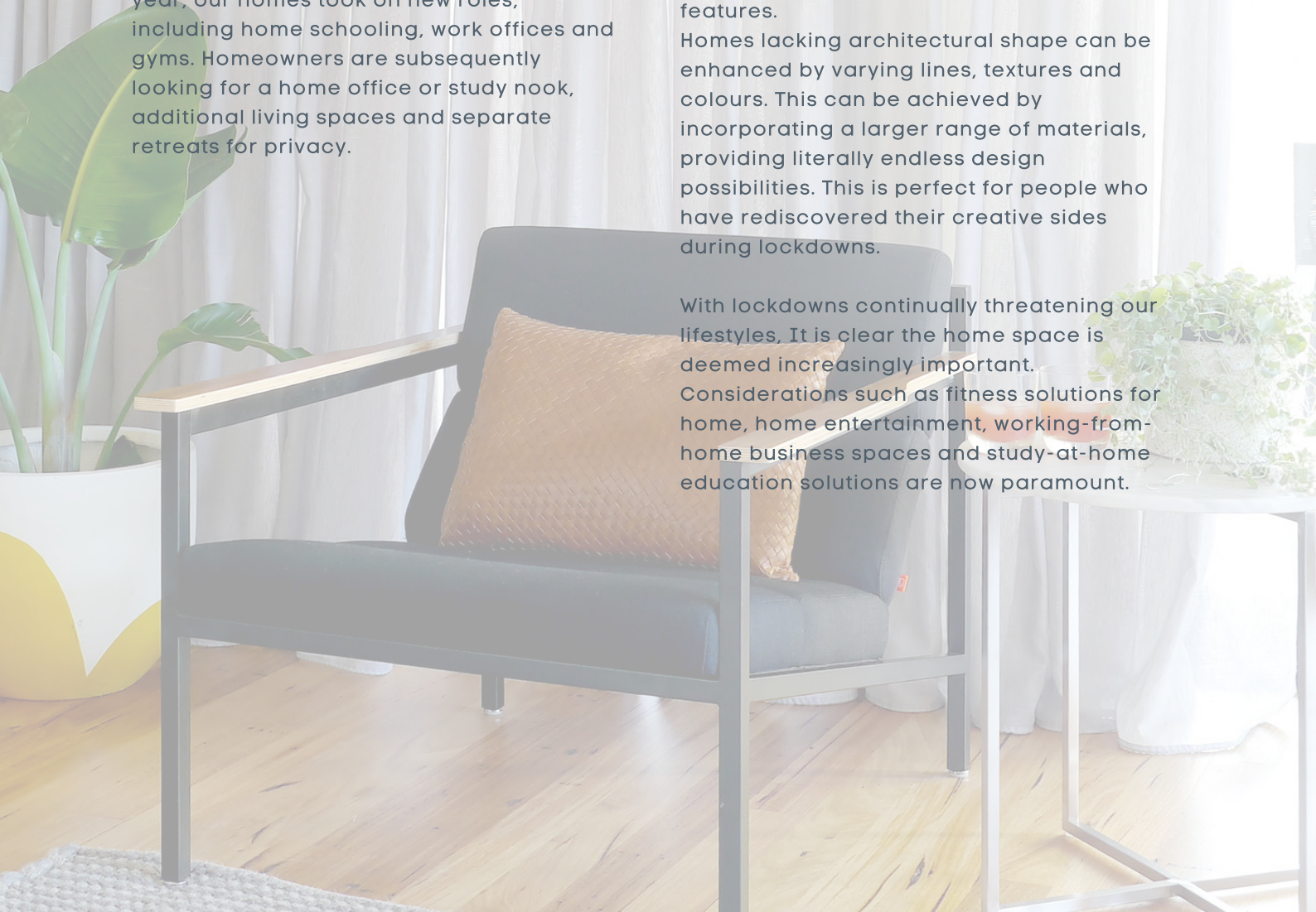
Home isolation is known to inspire renovation, as owners have time to reflect on potential improvements to their properties. Leading industry bodies are now expecting further growth in renovations, such as kitchen and bathroom updates. Additionally, without the ability to travel, bringing the holiday feeling to the home has become increasingly important. The idea of creating a sanctuary at home is not new, but it has certainly become a driving force in 2021.

Refreshing home exteriors

Homeowners want their properties to reflect their style. Many more experienced homeowners are realising that they can cost-effectively redefine their homes' exteriors by re-cladding or with cladding features.

Homes lacking architectural shape can be enhanced by varying lines, textures and colours. This can be achieved by incorporating a larger range of materials, providing literally endless design possibilities. This is perfect for people who have rediscovered their creative sides during lockdowns.

With lockdowns continually threatening our lifestyles, it is clear the home space is deemed increasingly important. Considerations such as fitness solutions for home, home entertainment, working-from-home business spaces and study-at-home education solutions are now paramount.



Lessons from lockdown

LESSONS FROM MELBOURNIAN DESIGNER +
THE DESIGN JOURNAL EDITOR, MELISSA LUNARDON

"No one fully foresaw the extent of the COVID-19 crisis, but as we emerge from our latest lockdown in Melbourne there are many lessons I have learned which apply to me personally, to design as an industry, and to our society as a whole.

Like my fellow Victorians and much of the world, I have been confined to barracks for a while now, and used that time to rethink my business and the ideal interior for my clients.

The lesson to me is clear: the pandemic and lockdown is devastating, but it is creating new needs and new trends in design we must be aware of and responsive to.

Ultimately, the success of designers and enjoyment of the home for our clients relies on how well we can reinvent activities and designs to adapt to the "new normal" across Australia and worldwide."



Innovate the home office

COVID-19 lockdowns presented the opportunity for innovative solutions. It became apparent that no study nook can cut it as a home office if the acoustics are sub-par.

The considerations of sound quality, echo and separation from noises made by pets, children, partners, neighbours and traffic became real and urgent concerns.

The inclusion of this important criteria presents an opportunity to really meet form with function.

Home configuraton

Our configuration needs have altered as our homes suddenly became a place for more than just rest. They instantly became schools, corporate offices, gyms and more!

Moving forward, I think this means we'll see a trend towards closable rooms as opposed to open-plan configurations. This includes hallways, which can serve as a valuable vestibule as well as a subtle but effective transition from outside to inside.

Bring the outside in

With some of the strictest lockdown regulations worldwide inflicted upon Melbournians, we quickly learnt the appeal of the outdoors as our ability to leave home was restricted in both frequency and duration.

From a design perspective, that means that now more than ever we should seek to configure ways to bring the outside in. Balconies are a great way to achieve this, especially for those in apartment or unit blocks without access to a private rooftop.

Lessons from lockdown (continued)



Get a garden

For Aussies with a little more space and a ground-hugging home, I suggest designers help clients optimise a sense of egress by landscaping the pockets of garden that sit immediately outside doors and windows.

In the past our industry has often tried to maximise internal space by building out to the boundary, but with even a small garden you benefit from light infiltration. In normal times that's a nice-to-have, but in these days of confinement it's a blessing and it's something I'll be advising clients to incorporate into their homes.

A move towards subtlety

From an aesthetic perspective, I expect the inevitable economic crisis will see the end of many clients desire to make a splash by conspicuously dropping cash.

Instead, I predict that quiet, nuanced gestures and subtle surface textures are going to become increasingly important as people move away from "processed" finishes.

Light, colour, textures and intelligence of custom joinery will become increasingly important in our work going forward.



Greatest lesson for designers

Given the above, what is my greatest lesson from confinement? Try your hardest to create gym space in every home and have a heightened empathy for four-legged friends! People are needing fitness, work and dedicated pet spaces inside their homes. It's a challenge but I love the way design can shape itself to the emerging needs of a culture, and as a designers this is a great opportunity to reinvent ourselves and our work to adapt to the disruption of a worldwide pandemic.

Lessons from lockdown authored by Melissa Lunardon Interior Design.



Home workplaces and spaces

CULTIVATING PRODUCTIVITY AT HOME

Working from home is now a longer-term proposition, meaning home offices are increasingly a consideration for homes.

Getting it right will help make a stylish work space while enabling productivity.

In 2020 when COVID-19 began, most people thought they might be working from home for a few weeks. But as the pandemic continues, it's increasingly apparent a well designed work station is needed at home to adapt to new ways of living and working.

One of the benefits of working from home is the fact you can design your space a lot more stylishly than most corporate spaces. However the same practicalities apply, such as storage and ergonomics. Having the right space to productive when working from home is important, which means the natural tendency to use the dining table is not ideal. Try to set up a work space which is quiet and away from disruptions or high traffic areas of the home. You'll find you are more productive and cultivate a healthier work life separation.

Measurements are important. Decide at the outset the size of the space or nook, considering how many people will use it and how often. The desk, built in or not, should be at least 600mm deep, and you should have ample storage. Aim for a combination of shelving for books and decor, and cupboards or drawers for unsightly items.



Once the basics are covered, selected finishing decorative touches add character and personalisation to your work space. Typically this includes indoor plants, wallpaper, personal photographs, mementoes and, of course, a lamp. While natural light is the ideal, you'll often still need a task light to work by.

In terms of storage, options exist in everything from professional custom joinery to storage cubes and baskets, depending on budget and needs.



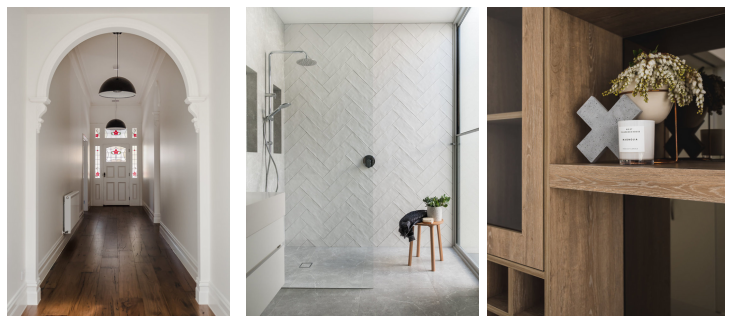
Project in the limelight

RENOVATION OF WILLIAMSTOWN HOUSE



This month we feature one of our favourite renovation projects, the stunning Williamstown House, located in the historic beach-side suburb of Williamstown, Victoria, Australia.

This project was styled by Melissa Lunardon in collaboration with renowned inner west Melbourne architects, Basset Lobaza and builder Truform Construction.



The clients, a Brazilian couple with two older sons, purchased the property in a state most accurately described as a 'bad 90's hangover'.

The facade was brought back to its former glory and heritage features remained throughout with detailed ceiling roses, architraves and skirting boards as well as generous high ceilings.





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The stunning shower wall tile used in this project shows how Herringbone is versatile and classic, all at the same time. This image has become iconic, demonstrating how Herringbone tiles can instantly transform any space, creating a beautiful and practical feature.

*Planning a renovation or new build and need guidance on colour and finishes?
Book in a Design Call to discuss how Melissa Lunardon Design can help you.*

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Inside the August issue:

SPRINGTIME AND
DESIGN

TRENDS TO EMBRACE
THIS SPRING

STYLING WITH
INDOOR PLANTS

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LIMELIGHT

Thank you for reading

Melissa Lunardon Interior Design is an experienced and friendly team of professional designers working to help client dreams come to life. Driven by a deep passion for design and style, the team work closely with clients to articulate their unique vision and a stylish point of view where art, form and function co-exist in a true reflection of the client's needs, lifestyle and personality.

Founded in 2011, the Melbourne-based company has evolved into an interdisciplinary brand that is leading the contemporary design conversation with expert residential, hospitality, commercial and retail projects across an expansive portfolio of designs and brand collaborations. From conception to install, the team can assist every step of the way to make the design of your home a journey abounding with ease, joy and fulfilment.

For more information, or to contribute to The Design Journal, please visit: <https://www.melissalunardon.com> or email: studio@melissalunardon.com.

