

THE DESIGN JOURNAL

INTERIOR DESIGN INSIGHT + INSPIRATION



ISSUE 04 • OCTOBER 2021 • VICTORIAN HOUSE RENOVATION SPECIAL

Welcome to The Design Journal

YOUR MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR NEWS AND INSPIRATION

Welcome to the October issue of The Design Journal, a publication that aims to provide insight and inspiration into interior design on both an industry and individual level. We are elated and grateful to bring you this issue as states around Australia open up and ease out of lockdown, facilitating the world of construction, renovation and design with far more ease (not to mention our social lives, schooling and lifestyle!).

With the end of 2021 rapidly approaching, this is the perfect opportunity to think about the home design you want and need to take you into 2022 and beyond.

For us, it's all about identifying what is true and authentic to each and every home, as well as each and every person within it. From mood boards through to renovation completion and styling new builds, we love embarking on the journey with our clients.

This month we walk you through the process of establishing an individual style to guide your selections in terms of colour, flooring, cabinetry, furnishings, artwork and more.

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The resulting product - a carefully curated mood board - will ensure your vision comes to fruition at project completion with ease and finesse.

We also address the growing issue of 'Fast Furniture' and help guide you through the selection of quality furnishings before focussing attention on one of our favourite topics: the restoration of period homes.

If you have an historical home you would like to maximise the value of, this is a must-read! Our tips for restoration in a manner that is sympathetic to history and features of the home will be invaluable in helping you maximise the outcome of your upcoming renovation project.

Thank you for reading and see you next month!

Melissa Lunardon.
Editor, The Design Journal



Melissa Lunardon

INTERIOR DESIGN



Fast Furniture

HOW MUCH IT
REALLY COSTS TO
FURNISH A ROOM

We've heard of fast food and most likely fast fashion, but what about fast furniture? It's a thing!

Remember when furniture was made to last and passed down through the generations? Not so much anymore, as most of today's fast furniture isn't made to last and uses low quality materials – and labour.

Buying copycat pieces from mass produced retail stores may be cheap at the time of purchase, but it will cost in the long run financially, ethically and environmentally. In fact, furniture is one of the fastest growing landfill categories.

These factors should be considered when budgeting for furniture and evaluating what long lasting, quality furniture really costs. A good designer will encourage clients to create spaces that are authentic to the individual or family, rather than pieces that reflects the current trends – or cheap, mass produced furniture retailers.

So let us consider a budget breakdown for a living room furnished with quality pieces that are built to last.

Fast Furniture (continued)

LIVING ROOM BUDGET BREAKDOWN

ALL PRICES ARE IN RRP

ENTRY LEVEL		MID RANGE		HIGH END	
3 seat sofa	\$2,500	3 seat sofa	\$4,500	3 seat sofa	\$8,000
x2 armchairs	\$3,000	x2 armchairs	\$6,000	x2 armchairs	\$9,000
4mx3m rug	\$1,500	4mx3m rug	\$3,500	4mx3m rug	\$6,000
Coffee table	\$1,000	Coffee table	\$3,500	Coffee table	\$5,000
Side table	\$500	Side table	\$850	Side table	\$1,500
TV unit	\$1,500	TV unit	\$5,000	TV unit	\$7,000
Console	\$1,200	Console	\$3,000	Console	\$4,000
Artwork	\$1,200	Artwork	\$3,500	Artwork	\$5,500
Mirror	\$750	Mirror	\$1,200	Mirror	\$2,000
Floor lamp	\$550	Floor lamp	\$1,200	Floor lamp	\$2,000
Table lamp	\$350	Table lamp	\$800	Table lamp	\$1,000
Homewares	\$600	Homewares	\$1,500	Homewares	\$2,000
TOTAL:	\$14,650	TOTAL:	\$34,550	TOTAL:	\$53,00

This table from Melissa Lunardon provides a budget comparison for a living room furnished with quality pieces. An overall cost difference is provided comparing furnishings at an entry level, mid range or high-end price bracket. Each item's price has enough wiggle room to go over budget, which experience shows most clients do.

Note that it's perfectly fine to mix pieces from different price points, but be sure to invest in quality pieces that will last ten years or more. This is particularly the case for dining tables, beds and sofas. It is important to select the right mix of furniture that will give lasting enjoyment rather than a temporary fix.

A wooden shelf is shown against a white wall. On the shelf, there is a potted plant with green leaves in a light-colored pot, and a small ceramic donkey figurine with colorful polka dots and a blue and orange face. A large, dark grey circular graphic is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

**“THE HOME
SHOULD BE THE
TREASURE CHEST
OF LIVING”**

LE CORBUSIER

Uncovering Individual Style

STYLE DISCOVERY + CREATING MOOD BOARDS

The first step after deciding to renovate and determining a budget is to consider how a space should look and feel.

Contrary to popular opinion, the style of a newly renovated space may not have a name! That's right, it may not be Hamptons, Hygge, contemporary, industrial, or any other popular 'style'. Every home and every family's style is personal and unique.

To find inspiration, look at sources far and wide for colours, textures and images that appeal. Consider print magazines, catalogues, and online sources such as Pinterest, Houzz, Instagram and blogs. Then bring all of these images and ideas together to make sense of it all in a mood board.

If you love something, it will work. That's the only real rule.



Creating a Mood Board

There are two options to create a mood board: the old-fashioned 'on paper' method, or an online version. Either way is perfectly fine - it's as individual as personal style!

The 'On Paper' Method typically uses heavy A3 card stock and a glue stick. Images from hard-copy magazines are cut out and layed out (no gluing yet!), collating into themes.

In the Digital Method, digital images are saved to online boards, most often within apps such as Pinterest and Houzz. A great alternative is online digital mood board programs such as Style Sourcebook. This is easy to use and provides preloaded furnishings, colours, and finishes.

Once a physical or online mood board has been started, a pattern will become evident within the images. For example, there may be lots of images with whitewash furniture or antique pieces, or perhaps bathrooms and kitchens that are quite contemporary or earthy. The images that aren't working should be taken away and different pairings tried until a scheme evolves.

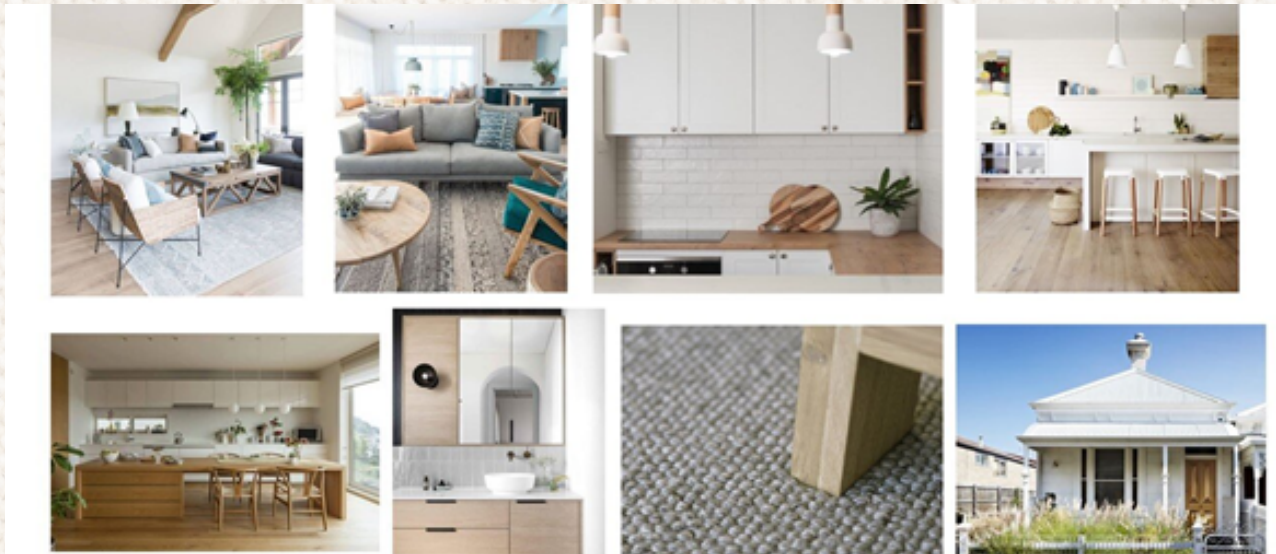
When a point is reached where the collection represents what the newly renovated space should look like, it's time to get out the glue stick (or create a new digital board) and to finalise the mood board!

Having a mood board is extremely helpful when shopping for tiles, benchtops or meeting with architects and designers. It is an essential 'go-to' when shopping for furnishing items too, and has been widely adopted as the most effective way to achieve style hopes and dreams of renovators and new builders alike,

Bring your own experience, history, influences, tastes, likes and loves into your rooms.

Uncovering Individual Style

STYLE DISCOVERY + CREATING MOOD BOARDS



*"When you break it down,
creating mood boards is
simple and incredibly fun!"*

- Melissa Lunardon -



FREE
Mood Board
Masterclass
now available!
CLICK HERE
TO ACCESS



Modern Coastal Mood

BRINGING A MODERN COASTAL STYLE TO LIFE

Modern design and coastal design may seem like an odd couple. After all, modern design is known for crisp lines, bold shapes and sleek minimalism. Coastal design—with its vibrant colours, beachy prints, and kitschy décor—is known for the opposite.

But, combine the two, and you end up with something truly special. It is a fresh, simplified take on traditional coastal décor that is growing in popularity. We love that it leans into the visceral experience of being in a coastal environment without being so literal. The result is typically a space filled with clean lines, coastal colours, and subtle nods to the beachy surroundings.

Of course, balancing two conflicting aesthetics is always a challenge, but there's no need for overwhelm. Instead of getting intimidated, find some favourite images that evoke this vibe and bookmark the best of the bunch on a mood board.

Below is a Mood Board Melissa Lunardon put together for clients based on a brief seeking a home that feels warm and inviting while reflect a beach-side environment.

Tips To Create a Modern Coastal Interior

- Incorporate a mix of timber, rattan and linen to create a relaxed feel.
- Use pops of tan leather and navy. These are very popular at the moment and that's because these two tones work so beautifully together.
- Select furniture that is comfortable and relaxing. Think plush sofas in removable/washable covers.
- Introduce soft sheer curtains for your window treatments.
- Keep homewares to a minimum. The overall feel should be light and airy.

Melissa Lunardon

INTERIOR DESIGN



Victorian House Renovation

SYMPATHETICALLY RESTORING PERIOD GLORY

When bringing back a home's former period glory, it must be restored sympathetically. Whether it is an extension or simply sprucing up the place, the heritage of the building must be respected— even the most simple ones.

We are the first to admit that Victorian houses can be a nightmare to renovate! Small mistakes can cost thousands and many people fall into the trap of thinking "the cheapest option will do". Sadly, this can very efficiently serve to devalue a house quite significantly. When it comes to Victorian house renovation, do it once, do it right. Here are some tips to help.

Victorian Design

Victorian domestic architecture and design has an innate passion for ornamentation. Think ornaments on doorbells, windows and even gutters. Nowadays, these are the sought-after original features estate agents love.

Victorians digested classic styles, such as Classic and Gothic, and regurgitated some of the most charming buildings in Australia. A bit wacky, a bit eccentric and always flamboyant. The opportunity to restore these beauties and bring the Victorian era into the modern age is an absolute privilege.



Research

Take time to research and discover the history of the house. Once you know important details such as the year of construction or the architect, you can picture the house within its historical context. The Victorian era spans for over six decades, with design trends emerging and disappearing. So knowing the specific details will narrow down your options.



Respect The Period

If you have to replace architectural features always choose those that correspond to the right period. For example, the number of panels on a window, joinery details and fireplace style are all unique to their eras (Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian etc.) Don't spend thousands on new windows only to find later that they're the wrong style.



Let Go Of Perfection

Victorian houses are wonky. They always will be. You can re-plaster every wall for that sharp finish, but the windows are still different sizes and the rooms don't have square angles. But that is okay. Don't obliterate the weird and wonderful. Embrace it and make it a feature. A little crack in the ceiling is like a grey hair of wisdom.

Victorian House Renovation (continued)



Restore Original Features

Original features are closely linked to the value of the house so removing them may mean the value will decrease. Do your house a favour and repair or reinstate them. Keeping traditional architectural features is also a great way to maintain a home's distinctive character, giving huge personality and appeal. This will also help limit the scope of work in renovation projects and assist in keeping budget in line. Giving a classic building a facelift and adapting it to serve new purposes is better for the environment than destroying it to start anew, as well as respectful of history.

Think Long-Term

What is the aim of your Victorian house renovation? Maybe you plan to do up the house and sell. Or extend to accommodate a growing family. Regardless of the final goal, think beyond trends. Invest money where the real value is. It's all about finding a happy medium and harmoniously blending the old with the new. The most successful renovations are the ones where the old and the new speak to each other by way of elements, scale, colour and materials. For instance, you might choose new materials in a contemporary design but match the scale of the old design and use the same colours.



Looking For Help?

Melissa Lunardon Interior Design are experienced in sympathetically restoring period homes with a modern edge. We help you retain the character of your home with an individuality and all the added comforts of a modern century technology and design. Book a complimentary design call today for help restoring your home to its full potential and glory. Just head to: www.melissalunardon.com.



Project in the Limelight

VERA STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN, VICTORIA



This month we feature one of our favourite restoration projects, located in Williamstown, Victoria. The owners of this quaint Victorian cottage wanted to increase the homes size while retaining as many of the traditional elements of the building as possible. The brief was to create a warm and inviting family home that encompassed earthy tones and textures, yet was sympathetic to the original history.



The kitchen was revamped to perfectly suit entertainers, featuring solid timber spotted gum. A statement blue Esse stove complements SMEG appliances and a butler's pantry that free flows to create a continuous kitchen vibe. Italian aged brass tapware throughout shows off a stunning patina. This Victorian beauty was designed to suit family life and exemplifies sympathetic design to period homes in the most aesthetic of ways.



“

We sourced a soft blue and white patterned tile and used a plain gloss textured subway wall tile. This allowed the floor tiles to be the hero of the space. The owners original clawfoot cast iron freestanding bath was sprayed in a deep navy and takes pride of place in a stunning light filled ensuite.

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Inside the November issue:

VERTICAL GARDENS +
OUTDOOR SPACES

SELECTING KITCHEN
FINISHES

PERFECT POWDER
ROOMS

ENTRYWAY TO WOW

PROJECT IN THE
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.

