



WOMEN IN DESIGN

They've shaped our homes, fashioned an authentically Australian aesthetic and enriched our design culture. From trailblazers to rising stars, we celebrate our design talent.

STORY BY KAREN MCCARTNEY

Some of the biggest names in the architecture and design world are women. Take Iraqi-born British 'starchitect' Zaha Hadid, for example, who in 2004 became the first woman to win the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize. Then there are furniture designers such as Patricia Urquiola and Hella Jongerius, who tap into craft cultures and reinterpret them in revolutionary ways. Magazine editor-turned-designer Ilse Crawford

recently produced a new range of furniture for Ikea, and numerous female/male design duos are driving the design agenda globally.

In order to get a handle on the prevailing mood I sent questions to 14 successful Australian designers whose work I have admired for many years. I worded my questions carefully, addressing their profession first, gender second. I tried to glean what it was they did differently from their male colleagues. More often than ►

TEXTILE DESIGNERS



Discover more about these women by scanning any page in this feature using the viewa app.

◀ not, I found it was a matter of perspective rather than gender. As interior designer Meryl Hare notes: “I love to cook and entertain, so that is intrinsic to the way I approach kitchen design. I think that each designer, irrespective of gender, brings their own aesthetic to their work. But perhaps there is a more nurturing approach from women, which manifests in warm and comfortable interiors”.

Product designer Rina Bernabei of Bernabeifreeman, concurs, pointing out that many of her design concepts come from an “emotional perspective”. Although this is not necessarily a female-only

THERE IS NO LONGER FEAR ATTACHED TO ADMITTING A CONNECTEDNESS WITH NURTURING.

approach, Bernabei suggests that female designers “connect with some things more because we have a feminine history, such as memories of home and domesticity”.

Architect Hannah Tribe’s ‘emotional perspective’ manifests in an obsession with laundry design. “I loathe housework so I apply myself with rigour and fiendish dedication to designing pretty and easy-to-use laundries,” she says. “I see it as a kind of relationship insurance; if our clients can do as little housework as possible, and what they simply must do is pleasurable, then they will have more time for spending together doing fun things’.

What is interesting to note is the confidence that these creative women have in claiming their territory. There is no longer fear attached to admitting a ▶

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Jacqui Fink Little Dandelion

As if staging a one-woman protest against mass production, Jacqui knits the Little Dandelion oversized textiles herself. She is an advocate for all things handcrafted, collaborating with Temple & Webster to curate the online retailer’s Handmade Market series.

Pepa Martin & Karen Davis Shibori

Pepa (seated) and Karen’s company takes its name from the traditional Japanese craft of *shibori*. The duo is constantly pushing the limits of the technique, applying it to everything from linen and leather to wallpaper and rugs.

Sally Campbell
Sally Campbell
Handmade Textiles

Combining her passions for fabrics and India, Sally spends several months a year on the subcontinent, overseeing the design and production of her eponymous range of handmade textiles.

Chrissie Jeffery
No Chintz

With more than 30 years in the industry, Chrissie is an authority on textiles. Her exquisite designs are brought to life as fabrics for her store No Chintz, which offers everything from craft workshops to interior-design services.

Helen Lennie
Signature Prints

Helen is an unmistakable figure on the Australian decorative-arts landscape. Her Sydney-based business was influential in introducing the ground-breaking designs of Florence Broadhurst to a new generation of fans.

Grace Garrett
Grace Garrett

With awards aplenty to her name, Grace is one of the leading lights in Australian textile design today. Her latest collection, A Sunburnt Country, features the bold designs and rich colours of the outback.



Rae Ganim

Colour, trend & product development consultant

She's best known as a textile designer and Rae's beautiful fabrics made a splash in fashion and furniture in the 1990s. Her latest venture is a line of Sunday Ganim blankets.

Tracie Ellis

Aura by Tracie Ellis

Tracie is the creative force behind Aura by Tracie Ellis, a soft furnishings brand that includes bedlinen, bath towels, cushions, throws, rugs and table linen, which are now sold all over the world.



Julie Paterson
ClothFabric

There's an art to creating a distinctive aesthetic and in this, Julie has excelled. Her gorgeous textiles are immediately recognisable: bold stylised botanicals in a palette of muted bush colours. Julie arrived in Australia from the UK in 1989 and soon afterwards launched textiles consultancy Print House Furnishings with her friend Penny Simons. In 1995, Julie launched ClothFabric, which focuses on Australian-inspired designs and natural materials. Her love of the Australian landscape combined with old-school techniques – she still designs and prints her textiles by hand using small-batch production methods – are the cornerstones of her business.

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◀ connectedness with nurturing, nor a feeling that domesticity is a trap that negates the ability to be taken seriously. The same is true when it comes to listening to clients and intuitively tuning into their desires. “To produce good architecture, architects must be highly skilled at reading people and situations,” says architect Kerstin Thompson. “In doing so, they can generate and deliver a building that is responsive to their needs and aspirations.”

In a talk on women in architecture (reproduced for industry website, Parlour), Thompson goes further: “The best response to a potential critic is to be good at what

‘I LOVE IT WHEN SOMEONE TELLS ME A PIECE IN THEIR HOUSE [THAT I’VE CREATED] MAKES THEM HAPPY.’ LOUISE OLSEN

you do. You don’t have to be exceptional, but being competent is hard to undermine [and will] eventually command respect from even the most reluctant colleague”. She also cautioned against gender roles. “Girls do interiors, boys do technical – so it goes... Actually girls do towers too and boys select curtains.” All good fodder for women studying architecture – 44 per cent of the total architectural student population in 2010. That’s a significant leap from the 1970s, when only 3.3 per cent of registered architects in Australia were women.

Jewellery and homewares designer Louise Olsen combines influences from nature with inspiration from artists such as Hans Arp and Henry Moore in the resin works she produces for her business, Dinosaur

Designs. She has worked with her partner, Steven Ormandy, for 30 years, and it is interesting to observe their approaches to the same material. Ormandy’s latest pieces are large, assertive forms that exploit the energy of strong colour combinations and a new moulding process. Olsen’s pieces reference flowers with a delicate fluted edge and a predominance of pale shades and softer fluid forms. As different as they are, Ormandy and Olsen’s ranges complement each other beautifully.

Melbourne interior designer Fiona Lynch credits family life for giving her a better understanding of materials and how they perform. “I recently met someone who had visited our restaurant project, Prix Fixe,” says Lynch. “She said she knew it was a woman who had designed the space through the colour palette and use of materials. She also said it was one of her most memorable dining experiences.”

For both Lynch and Olsen, there is tremendous joy in creating emotional connections and imparting pleasure to others through their work. “I love it when someone tells me that a piece of jewellery I’ve created makes them feel beautiful or a piece in their house makes them feel happy,” says Olsen. “If I can help someone feel more confident, more beautiful, or more loved, then I feel I have done something worthwhile.”

An extension of this is the role social media is playing in networking and developing creative communities especially for women. Jacqui Fink’s Little Dandelion brand, known for its impossibly large-scale knits, is only three years old but has admirers far beyond her geography would traditionally allow. “Instagram has ▶

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**Michelle Nazarri
Fonzarelli**

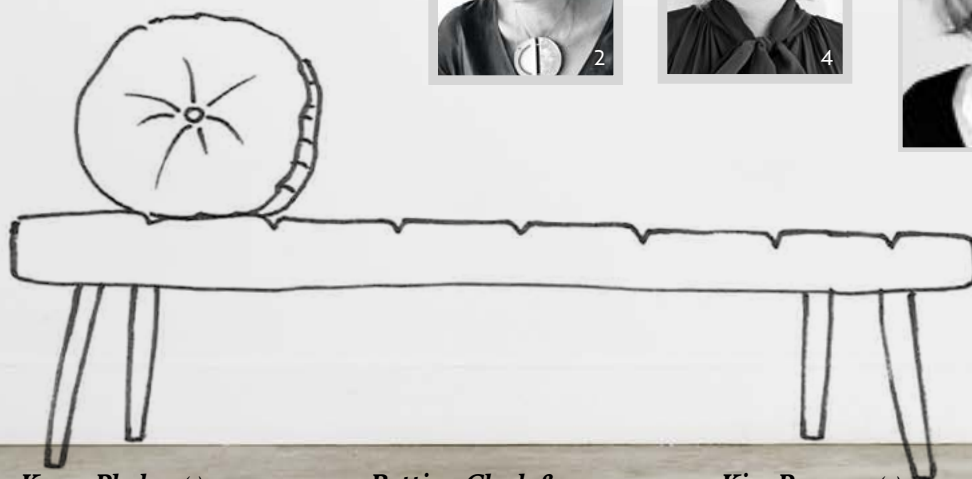
Environmental concerns inspired Michelle to design and develop Australia’s first electric scooter, the Fonzarelli 125. Drawing on years of industry experience, she’s created a vehicle that’s eco-friendly and great-looking to boot.



**Kirsty Lindsay
GM Australia Design**

At the very top of her field, Kirsty is the mind behind the interior specs for Holden’s vehicles, including its iconic Commodore. She also played a key role in developing GM’s recently unveiled battery-electric vehicle concept car.

INTERIOR DESIGNERS



Kerry Phelan (1) **KPDO**

With numerous accolades over her 20-year career and some of the world's most beautiful and creative design projects in her portfolio, Kerry commands the respect of the entire design industry.

Caecilia Potter (2) **Atticus & Milo**

Founder and design director of her award-winning architecture and interior design consultancy, Caecilia's work is well known and loved for its warmth and eclecticism. She is also a member of the Program Advisory Committee at RMIT's School of Design.

Bettina Clark & Angela Antelme (3) **Ascot Living**

Bettina (left) and Angela say their country childhoods informed their love of comfortable, liveable interiors. Designers at Ascot Living for 20 and 15 years respectively, they create friendly, interesting and practical family homes.

Fiona Lynch (4) **Fiona Lynch**

Recognised for her artistic approach to interiors and inventive use of space and materials, Fiona's eye for creating beautiful rooms and objects now extends to a rug collection with Tretford.

Kim Pearson (5) **Kim Pearson**

Madly in love with beauty and exploring it in all its guises, Kim has a healthy respect for marrying the fabulous with the practical, and "never falling into the formulaic".

Tina Engelen (6) **CO-AP**

Her designer's eye was honed in the family business, furniture importers Dedece, and Tina shot to fame in the late 90s as one half of architectural practice Engelen Moore. She formed CO-AP with Will Fung in 2005 and successes since include an AIA award for the Oakes Apartment.

Leigh Boswell (7) **Highgate House**

Growing up with both mother and father in the interiors and building industries, Leigh polished her skills in London before opening her award-winning business, Highgate House, in partnership with her mother more than 20 years ago.

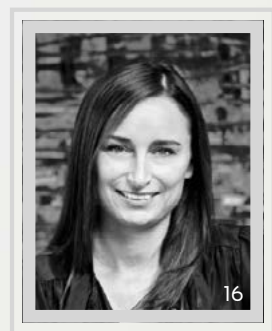
Louise Bell (8) **Interni**

Named a trailblazer by her contemporaries, Louise worked in London and Paris before establishing Interni, a Sydney firm known for high-quality residential, retail and commercial interior design projects.

Adelaide Bragg (9)

Adelaide Bragg & Associates

A start with textile company Colefax and Fowler sparked Adelaide's love of timeless interiors. She launched her own business in 1989 and now creates old-new harmony in urban and rural projects nationally.



Juliette Arent & Sarah-Jane Pyke (17) Arent&Pyke

Sarah-Jane (left) and Juliette launched their practice in 2007 and quickly built a reputation for beautiful residential interiors. The living room of their Pavilion House took out the Room of the Year in *H&G's* Top 50 Rooms showcase in 2014.



Shareen Joel (18) Shareen Joel Design

A design all-rounder, Shareen is known for a balanced and elegant style that has guided the aesthetic of key brands, her residential projects and renowned design website, Share Design.

HONOUR ROLL

A nod to the many women in interiors who've set the bar high and continue to inspire.

Trailblazers

Rosemary Kirkby
Marion Hall Best
Margaret Lord
Florence Broadhurst
Mary Featherston
Janne Faulkner
Sue Carr
Pamela Brown
Briony Fitzgerald
Ann Gynell
Robyn Lindsey
Geraldine Maher
Pia Francesca

Ones to watch

Amy Pacewicz
Tamsin Johnson
Chelsea Hing
Natasha Levak
Pipkorn & Kilpatrick
Vokaberg Design
Louise Spicer
Allison Pye
We Are Huntly
Caroline Choker
Beatrix Rowe
Charlotte Coote
Alexandra Ponting
Simone Haag

Mardi Doherty (10) Doherty Design Studio

Producing residential and commercial projects from concept to completion, Mardi and her team use intuitive, holistic design principles and bespoke finishes to express individuality in interiors.

Anna Spiro (11) Black & Spiro

With her flair for layering colourful fabrics and textiles with antiques and special one-off pieces, Anna, now also a blogger and author, has been a decorator's darling since she established her Brisbane shop and interiors practice in 2001.

Sarah Davison (12) Sarah Davison Interior Design

"I've always been inspired by beautiful residential architecture and interiors and the way they influence our lives," says Sarah. Quality materials and harmony are hallmarks of her interior style.

Sonia Simpfendorfer (13) Nexus Designs

Sonia grew up in a creative, music-loving household in rural SA. As a director and creative director of Melbourne firm Nexus Designs, she has continued the ground-breaking design approach championed by founder Janne Faulkner in 1967.

Susanna Bilardo (14) Enoki

The director of SA studio Enoki since 2004, Susanna creates spaces that are enjoyable to live and work in, and loves to excite and challenge people with thoughtful, beautiful and functional interiors.

Meryl Hare (15) Hare+Klein

Regarded as a trailblazer in the field, Meryl is a Design Institute of Australia Hall of Famer. Her nurturing, collaborative approach ensures her Sydney firm produces stellar interiors and talented young designers.

Miriam Fanning (16) Mim Design

She launched Mim Design in 2000 when she had a family, with the aim of "being continually inspired". Today, the busy studio has expanded to 19 and tackles interiors, architecture, styling and brand direction. ▶

TRAILBLAZER

Babette Hayes, OAM

After establishing her name as a designer/stylist in interiors magazines in the 1960s, Babette launched Babette Hayes Design in 1972, taking on projects from large residential jobs to helping empty-nesters downsize to restaurants and display homes. She carried on writing, publishing 14 books and articles for *Belle*, *Australian House & Garden* and *Vogue Living*, inspiring legions of home decorators and future designers. Babette believes passionately that a home should be a true reflection of its owners, always uplifting, beautiful, peaceful and exciting – all qualities that come with a coherent design approach. "Designing a home is about enjoying and exploring possibilities and especially having fun".

ONES TO WATCH

Katy Svalbe & Yasmine Ghoniem Amber Road

Born and educated on opposite sides of the globe, sisters Katy (left) and Yasmine reunited in Sydney in 2011 to collaborate on a major design project. Amber Road was launched a year later and draws on their backgrounds in landscape architecture, interior design, music and art to create practical, intelligent and playful design solutions. The community-minded duo are driven to create holistic, cost-effective shared living spaces that singles, couples, friends and family like to call home. ►



'A home should be uplifting, beautiful, peaceful and exciting – all qualities that come with a coherent design approach.' Babette Hayes

Text by Lisa Green. Styling by Janet James. Photograph by Prue Ruscoe.

'Passion and tenacity drive every woman who thrives in retail.' Jill Ordish



**Sasha Titchkosky
Koskela**

Their belief that great design can be used to effect social change saw Sasha and her husband Russel set up Koskela in 2000. Collaborations with indigenous artists are included in their homeware collections.

**Mandy Heimann
Orson & Blake**

Orson & Blake's outstanding reputation has been built on the back of owner Mandy's keen eye for design. She scours the globe for new items, sourcing them directly from artists and designers.

**Jill Ordish
Macleay on Manning**

A stream of devoted customers keeps returning to Macleay on Manning, Jill's homewares store in Sydney's Potts Point. The reason? Jill is an exceptional curator of intriguing and beautiful pieces.

**Terri Winter
Top3 by Design**

Applying exacting parameters of quality, innovation and style, Terri stocks her stores with only the 'top three' designs in any category. She regularly appears on expert judging panels for design competitions.

Text by Sarah Pickette. Styling by Janet James (this page) & Toni Briggs (opposite). Photography by Prue Ruscoe (this page) & Amanda Austin (opposite).



Margot Spalding
Jimmy Possum

Lauded for her energy, enthusiasm and flair for colour and design, Margot is the driving force behind Jimmy Possum, a family business that proudly produces its wares at its Bendigo base.

Barbara Hermon
Hermon & Hermon

Homewares doyenne Barbara set up Hermon & Hermon with her husband John in 1990. The business' retail arm is now closed, but Barbara's legacy lives on through the designers whose work she fostered.

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◀ enabled me to create a running storyboard of my creative process and output. I am also able to communicate directly with an engaged and appreciative audience," says Fink. "It has made the journey far more enjoyable."

Similarly, textile designer and author of *ClothBound*, Julie Paterson, credits Instagram with supporting her love of the exchange of ideas. "I am really comfortable asking people's opinions of my unfinished ideas," she says. It seems that embracing the fact that they might not have all the answers and seeking and responding to others' opinions is a natural instinct for these creative women.

**'NOW THERE IS CONFIDENCE
IN AUSTRALIAN CREATIVITY
AND IT'S GOING FROM
STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.'
JULIE PATERSON**

Paterson acknowledges that there has been a shift in focus for design in Australia. "Although there was good design being made here in the 1990s, there wasn't a strong design culture and it didn't explicitly celebrate Australia," she says. "Now, there is confidence in Australian creativity and it's going from strength to strength."

Designer Helen Kontouris, whose extensive furniture and product range, Softscape, sells through Stylecraft, supports this viewpoint. "Australians have become more interested in local designers and are now seeking out authentic original design, which is really what the rest of the world does," she says. "It's great to finally see it happening here." There is undoubtedly a readiness to look at what we have – our history, landscape and culture as an ▶

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TRAILBLAZERS

Erica Stewart & Trudi Jenkins Hardtofind

Parlaying a love of shopping into a thriving business is the stuff of dreams for many, but Erica (left) and Trudi did exactly that when they launched Australia's first curated online marketplace of lovely things, Hardtofind. The website started as a hobby in 2008, with the duo "personally curating the types of things we would want to buy for ourselves", says Erica. It was a winning formula, striking a chord with shoppers. "It was the first site where you could find all sorts of gorgeous products in the one place and buy from several different designers with only one checkout," says Trudi. It's a success story recognised by the recent SmartCompany Smart 50 awards.

ONE TO WATCH

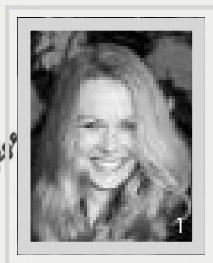
Manel Daetz Henry Corbett & Co

When designer and trend forecaster Manel returned to Sydney after working overseas she identified a business opportunity: a design company that took a holistic approach to interior design, decor and fashion. Henry Corbett & Co, her über elegant concept boutique in Sydney's Woollahra, made a triumphant arrival on the retail scene in early 2014. The graduate of Sydney's International School of Colour and Design (ISCD) says she's guided by the principle of combining organic elements and classic pieces: "My goal is to create bespoke pieces that stand the test of time and add value to our lives", says Manel.



FLORAL DESIGNERS

'Alison [Coates] always pushed the boundaries with her floral designs and is doing the same with her sculptures.' Tracey Deep



Saskia Havekes (1) **Grandiflora**

Working from the same tiny Sydney atelier for 20 years, Saskia has won international acclaim for her artful displays. Her aesthetic — a new way of looking at foliage, buds and branches — is adored by fashion, film and interior stylists.

Laura Jones (2)
A lifelong love of flowers informs the work of floral artist-turned-painter Laura, for whom flowers and foliage have become signature inclusions in her portraits and still-lives.

Shona Wilson (3)
Shona Wilson
Nature is the core and catalyst for Shona's work, which includes abstract and representational 2D and 3D assemblages. Her gift lies in the ability to work with a natural element and present it in a way that heightens its beauty.

Tracey Deep (4)
Floral Sculptures
Tracey uses natural, industrial, pre-loved and discontinued materials to create sustainable art. "My works are a poetic play of light and shade, earthy textures and sensual forms, inspired by the essence of nature."

Fleur McHarg (5)
Fleur
From cutting-edge conceptual designs to event styling, floral artist Fleur has collaborated with top creatives in fashion, art, and food and is celebrated for her inspiring creations.

Alison Coates (6)
Having shifted from arranging flowers to creating floral-inspired sculptures, Alison is now a master of avant-garde installations. "She always pushed the boundaries with her floral designs and is doing the same with her sculptures," says fellow floral artist, Tracey Deep.

Wona Bae (7)
Loose Leaf Plants & Flowers
Inspired by the cycles of nature and the beauty of organic materials, Melbourne master florist and sculptor Wona creates harmonious works of deceptive simplicity. She also teaches floral art, with a focus on seasonal foliage.

HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING

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◀ inspirational starting point for creative thinking. While this is not only applicable to women in the creative professions it is something they are readily able to harness and weave into their work.

Hannah Tribe reveals that she recently asked an influential private developer why he had approached her practice. His reply? He prefers female consultants because building and development is 'a bloke's game', and so inherently sexist, that for a woman to make it, she must be twice as smart, twice as talented and twice as tough as her male counterparts.

'I BELIEVE THAT DESIGN CULTURE IS NOW MORE CLEARLY VALUED FOR ITS IMPACT ON EVERYDAY LIFE.' PASCALE GOMES-McNABB

While relishing the female networks they have, my respondents were united in their appreciation for their male colleagues, partners, mentors, collaborators and clients. The focus for women in design is firmly on life experience, intuition, perspective and – in my view – sheer talent. Talent they have coaxed, shaped and nurtured. In tandem with graft and dedication, this ultimately manifests as a successful career.

Award-winning interior designer Pascale Gomes-McNabb is extremely positive about the state of affairs. "I believe that design culture, in its many forms, is now more clearly valued in the wider community for its impact on our everyday lives," she says. "There have always been women in this industry, however, there are now, pleasingly, many more, which is reshaping our design future."

H&G

Penny Hand

Head teacher – Landscape Design, Northern Sydney Institute TAFE NSW

After a career as a teacher, Penny studied horticulture and now combines her two passions by guiding young landscape designers into the world. "My greatest pleasure is seeing them build their technical skills and watching as their inner designer emerges."

Kate Low

Head teacher – Applied Environmental Management, Northern Sydney Institute TAFE NSW

Landscape architect and horticulturist Kate has been teaching at TAFE's Northern Sydney Institute, a premier centre for landscape-design education, for almost 20 years. Her mission is to instil sustainability principles in her students.





ONES TO WATCH

Fiona Ericsson & Julie Thomas **Sticks & Stones Landscape Design**

These recent graduates are attracting a lot of attention. Fiona (left) won a national student design award in 2014 for her innovative use of space. Shortly afterwards, the duo won a competition to design a show garden at the Grand Designs Live Expo.

Annie Wilkes (1) **Annie Wilkes Design**

Guided by her belief that gardens should be "green on green with interest created by different textures, shapes and massed colour", Annie has shaped residential landscapes across the country for more than 30 years.

Peta Donaldson (2) **Natural Design**

A popular multiple-award winner at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, garden designer Peta has built a reputation for gardens based on strong architectural lines, lush planting and the elegant use of colour.

Kate Cullity (3)
Taylor Cullity Lethlean
Her company dominated at the 2014 AILA awards for landscape architecture excellence and Kate, who is an environmental artist as well as a landscape architect, is in demand here and overseas.

Nicola Cameron (4)
Pepo Botanic Design
With a focus on creating edible, functional gardens, Nicola has a strong commitment to supporting community projects, most recently a rooftop garden for refugees and a soup kitchen.

Fiona Brockoff (5)
Fiona Brockoff Design
Renowned for her uniquely Australian aesthetic, landscape designer Fiona's work celebrates indigenous flora, natural materials and sustainability principles. Her body of work is a natural inclusion in any survey of great local gardens.

Janine Mendel (6)
Cultivart
West Australian landscape designer Janine bases her designs on the philosophy that a house should look as if it has been planted in the garden. It's an ethos that has earned her many accolades.

Sue Barnsley (7)
Sue Barnsley Design
A landscape architect and horticulturist, Sue has a reputation for innovation across projects of all sizes. Her revamp of Sydney's Prince Alfred Park won the 2014 AILA NSW medal in Landscape Architecture. ▶

PRODUCT DESIGNERS



Rina Bernabei & Kelly Freeman Bernabeifreeman

Rina (with light) and Kelly (second from left) have been a team for 13 years. Best known for perforated-metal pieces, a new rug range showcases their skills with colour and texture.

Gillian Corban & Amanda Blair Corban & Blair

Cousins Gillian (with notebook) and Amanda (seated) joined forces in 1988 to produce handmade stationery for a market stall. The success of their quality designs lead a new wave of stationery products in Australia.

Lara Hutton LH Objects

A leading magazine stylist with a body of ethereal work, Lara has turned her talented hands to ceramics. Under her label LH Objects, you'll find an array of textural pieces that are suitable for tabletop use as well as display.

Ruth Levine Studio Levine

Through Studio Levine, interior designer Ruth shows another side of her creative personality. The gorgeous tactile vessels she produces are formed from her own photographic works printed on linen or cotton.

Coco Reynolds
Marz Designs

Inspired by raw materials and the nitty gritty of the design process, industrial designer Coco combines metal, stone and wood in furniture and lighting designs that bear her distinctive, minimalist style.

Lisa Vincitorio
Something Beginning With

Alessi picked up two of her designs in 2004 and launched Lisa's career into the stratosphere. Lisa, (seated) now produces furniture under the name Something Beginning With.

Text by Alaana Cobon. Styling by Toni Briggs (Bridget Bodenham, Lisa Vincitorio & Celina Clarke) & Janet James (Coco Reynolds, Rachel Castle & opposite). Photography by Ananda Austin (Bridget, Celina) & Prue Ruscoe (Rachel, Coco, opposite). Artwork by Rachel Castle.



Rachel Castle
Castle

Known for her fun and colourful designs, Sydney-based artist and designer Rachel has built up her own homewares label, Castle, making her feel-good graphics accessible to all via prints (pictured), pillowcases and more.

Bridget Bodenham
Bridget Bodenham

The raw and refined meet in Bridget's pottery. She adds delicate metallic accents, inky brushstrokes and illustrative etchings to her artfully shaped vessels, utensils and jewellery, producing works the market just can't get enough of.

Celina Clarke
ISM Objects

An industrial designer specialising in lighting, Celina (standing) is one of the directors of ISM Objects. A multi-award winner, she says her pieces are often the result of experimentation with materials and manufacturing techniques. ▶

'The shift from sketch to working drawing to lived-in space is a transformation that continues to inspire my wonder and delight.'

Kerstin Thompson

ONE TO WATCH

Melissa Bright, MAKE Architecture

Melissa (left) established MAKE Architecture in 2006, and hit the spotlight with striking and well-regarded projects such as Little Brick Studio and the Local House. Seeking to create liveable and sustainable spaces MAKE's approach to residential projects is to delight the client and please the neighbourhood. Melissa has also been teaching at RMIT since 2001 and does regular work for the Architects for Peace Pro Bono Service. Awards and accolades continue to come her way: late last year, she was awarded the 2014 Victorian Emerging Architect Prize for her "consistently original and crafted built work".

WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

Shelley Penn, Shelley Penn Architect

Her practice has centred on residential projects, with award-winning work published and exhibited nationally and overseas. Since 2000, Shelley has focused on improving outcomes in the built environment through various roles within state, local and federal government. These include Associate Victorian Government Architect and Deputy Chair of the Heritage Council of Victoria. In 2012 she was appointed National President of the Australian Institute of Architects. Inspiring all within her profession and wielding considerable clout beyond, she was named one of the *Australian Financial Review*/Westpac's 100 Women of Influence in 2014. ►



Join the conversation on Instagram (#hgwomenindesign), facebook.com/australianhouseandgarden, pinterest.com/HOUSEnGARDEN.

HONOUR ROLL

Florence Taylor was the first woman to qualify as an architect in Australia, doing so in 1907. Since then, the baton has been taken up by a stellar line-up of talent. Here, we acknowledge some of the many...

Trailblazers

Florence Taylor
Marion Mahony Griffin
Brit Andresen
Penelope Seidler
Wendy Lewin
Louise Cox
Jennifer Taylor
Annabelle Pegrum
Melinda Dodson
Sheila Hughes
Louise St John Kennedy

Ones to watch

Rachel Nolan
Bonnie Herring
Monique Woodward
Amelia Holliday
Isabelle Toland
Amy Muir
Felicity Stewart
Anna O'Gorman
Poppy Taylor
Monica Earl
Mary Ellen Hudson
Monique Brady Ward
Penny Fuller
Jenna Rowe

Women of influence

Bridget Smyth
Dr Maryam Gusheh
Elizabeth Farrelly
Kerstin Thompson



Discover more about these women by scanning any page in this feature using the viewa app.

ARCHITECTS

Ariane Prevost (1)

CREATE Agency

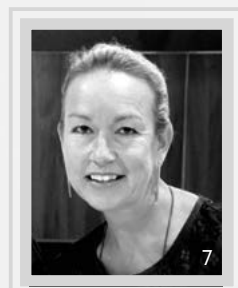
With a stellar career spanning 30 years, this award-winning WA architect is a creative dynamo, now focusing on affordable 'slow' architecture and "living well, living smart, living smaller and living happy".



Lindy Atkin (7)

Bark Design Architects

Now focused on the continued development of her small regional practice, with co-director Stephen Guthrie, Lindy has worked with some of architecture's biggest names in Australia and overseas.



Emma Williamson (9)

CODA Studio

Architect, interior designer, mum of three and co-director of her WA practice, Emma is a vocal proponent of the positive impact of design in all its forms. She's the current Chair of the National Equity Committee for the AIS.



Suzanne Hunt (2)

Suzanne Hunt Architect

"We want our homes to exude harmony, warmth and a sense of calm serenity," says Suzie, who is also a mum of four teenagers. She set up SHA in 2004 and has 30 years' experience in WA and overseas.

Chris Major (3)

Welsh + Major

Chris and her partner David Welsh opened their respected design studio in 2004, and have earned awards for private homes, public buildings and heritage jobs. Chris is also committed to teaching architecture.

Karen Davis (4)

CDA Architects

The only woman to have been president of the Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects, Karen is an aged-care design expert. She also enjoys the intimacy of residential design projects.

Stephanie Little (5)

Chen Chow Little Architects

As a founding partner of CLA, Stephanie has been involved in a string of award-winning projects including The Freshwater House, The Bell-Romero Houses and The Skylight House.

Virginia Kerridge (6)

Virginia Kerridge Architect

After working in New York and London, Virginia established her firm in 1995 and has received multiple awards for her architecture and interiors. Adaptive re-use and materiality are strengths in her work.

Susi Leeton (8)

Susi Leeton Architects + Interiors

Susi takes an holistic approach to integrating architecture and interiors, always with the utmost respect for budget. She wowed *H&G* readers with her winning Top 50 Room entry in 2011.

Rachel Neeson (10)

Neeson Murcutt Architects

A University Medal winner in 1993, Rachel formed her multi award-winning practice with her late partner Nicholas Murcutt in 2004. NMA pursues public and residential work in diverse settings across Australia.

Penny Collins (11)

Collins and Turner

After working for major international architects for a decade, Penny and her Bombala Farmhouse collaborator, Huw Turner, established their multi-award winning Sydney practice in 2001.

Brit Andresen (13)

With her late husband Peter O’Gorman, Norwegian-born Brit designed beautiful, relaxed homes in Brisbane. She was the first female recipient of the RAIA Gold Medal, in 2002, for her contribution to architecture, which continues today.



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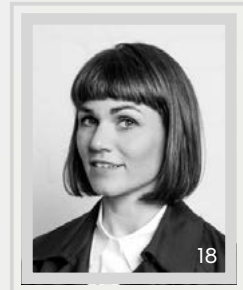
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Kerstin Thompson (12)
Kerstin Thompson Architects

An AIA Robin Boyd Award in 2014 for her House at Hanging Rock is the latest of many gongs for KTA. As a writer, lecturer, judge and advisor, she is a key influencer in her field.

Clare Cousins (14)
Clare Cousins Architects

Her projects blur the boundaries between architecture and interiors, always keeping site, context, program, materiality, affordability and sustainability in sight. Clare is a mentor, educator and industry spokeswoman.

Debbie-Lyn Ryan (15)
MCR

Principal of Melbourne-based MCR, Debbie’s intuitive design schemes have been widely published and awarded. She is a recognised public speaker and design critic.

Camilla Block (16)
Durbach Block Jagers Architects

A principal on all of the firm’s major projects, including the 2005 Wilkinson Award-winning House Holman, Camilla has taught, lectured and judged and been published locally and internationally.

Emili Fox (17)
Fox Johnston

Highly respected by her peers, Emili established her practice in 1999, two years after graduating. In 2004, she founded Fox Johnston with Conrad Johnston. In the decade since, the duo has earned many awards.

Hannah Tribe (18)
Tribe Studio

With first-class honours and a University Medal under her belt, Hannah established her thriving practice at the age of 26. She’s since won multiple awards and accolades for residential and urban design and interiors.

Eva-Marie Prineas (20)
Architect Prineas

Her Sydney practice specialises in residential work, including significant new homes and multi-residential projects. Eva-Marie is co-founder of DARCH, an committee established by the NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects’ to support graduates and emerging architects. ▶

'When you consider we touch, on average, over 700 products a day, it puts into perspective just how important design is.' Helen Kontouris



**Wilhelmina McCarroll (1)
Zuster**

Designer Wilhelmina leads the creative direction of Aussie furniture brand Zuster, a family business that champions local manufacturing and beautifully produced modern-classic designs.

**Tara Wilcox &
Nicola Grey (2)
Redfox & Wilcox**

Tara, a woodworker (left) and Nicola, an interior and product designer, conceive and construct their pieces in their bustling Melbourne studio. They produce furniture with a fresh, approachable style.

**Anne-Claire Petre (3)
Anaca Studio**

From consoles to coat stands, clean, crisp lines are a hallmark of Anne-Claire's designs. Quilted fabrics on rotund ottomans, leather patches on tailored floor cushions and soft oak timbers define her aesthetic.

**Christina Waterson (4)
Christina Waterson**

Trained as an architect, Christina brings her eye for construction to the drawing board when embarking on a new installation or product. Her Stellar Collection system of screens for Tait is just one recent example of her unique style.

**Caren Elliss (5)
Caren Elliss Design**

A furniture and object maker destined for dizzying heights, Caren undertook a Furniture Associateship with Adelaide's influential artists and designers' collective, JamFactory before striking out on her own.

**Katherine Norman &
Caroline Quaine (6)
Norman + Quaine**

Caroline (left) and Katherine have been a strong force in the local furniture industry for 25 years. Their well-crafted designs are made locally and with minimal environmental impact.

**Helen Kontouris (7)
Helen Kontouris Design**

'Tailored' and 'sculptural' are two adjectives that spring to mind when describing Helen's work. Her innovative, considered designs are in production with a number of international companies, and have garnered her many accolades. ▶

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

Wendy Rennie Haymes Paint

Wendy (second from left) says her love of colour began as a teenager. Today, the artist and colour expert spends her time deconstructing trends to create accessible palettes for homeowners to draw from.

Diane Bergeron

Diane Bergeron Interiors
Aptly described as a tastemaker, Diane has many strings to her design bow, including furniture, fabric, rug and wallpaper. She founded the Design for Mirabel project and Melbourne's Mercer School of Interior Design.

Suzie Attiwill RMIT School of Architecture & Design

An internationally renowned design academic, Suzie works tirelessly on research projects and runs her own practice, which specialises in curatorial and interdisciplinary work.

Genty Marshall New Black

Genty says an "endless fascination with people, product and place" informs her work as a design futurist. She produces an annual seminar series, which has been presented in six countries.

Andrea Lucena-Orr Dulux

A background in interiors and curiosity for global trends set Andrea up for the role of colour and communications manager at Dulux. She shares her findings with designers, architects and the media.

Megan Morton
The School

One of Australia's most well known and loved stylists, Megan has built a career from following her instinct and sharing her finds with others. She now offers classes at her "hobby business", The School.



Prue Royle
International School of Colour & Design (ISCD)
Under founder Prue's guidance, ISCD was the first design school to develop its own courses, textbooks and a new field of study, Colour Design. She is an authority on design trends.

Lucy Sutherland
ISCD
A background in marketing and trend forecasting in the paint and decorating industry led Lucy to her current role, GM of ISCD. She is renowned for her enthusiasm, energy and insight into the design industry.

Sibella Court
The Society Inc
From curating to styling, speaking to writing, consulting to collaborating and designing, Sibella does it all. She takes inspiration from all around the world, citing her study of history as a key influence.

Liane Rossler
Liane Rossler
Artist, designer, curator and advisor Liane is recognised as an ambassador for the Arts. After 25 years at Dinosaur Designs, she is now focused on projects that promote sustainable design practice.

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