

AUSTRALIAN

HOUSE & GARDEN

Modern Australian Style

INSIDER
KNOW-HOW

STYLE TIPS
FROM THE
EXPERTS

*where to buy their
go-to pieces*

*When
to spend*
WHERE TO
SAVE

Designers share their signature looks

- STEVE CORDONY • MERYL HARE • MELISSA PENFOLD & ISABELLA WALKER-SMITH
- THOMAS HAMEL • HUGH-JONES MACKINTOSH • GREG NATALE • NEALE WHITAKER
- KATE NIXON • CHARLOTTE COOTE • JEAN WRIGHT • SOPHIE WILSON

HUGH-JONES MACKINTOSH

PORTRAIT/PHOTOGRAPHY Prue Ruscoe



Guided by the principles of holistic design, Hugh-Jones Mackintosh works intimately with homeowners to ideate then execute aesthetically stunning yet effortlessly functional interiors. With renowned designers Katrina Mackintosh (pictured, left) and Justine Hugh-Jones at the helm, each project encapsulates extraordinary attention to detail in making their clients feel truly at home.

Sum up your signature style. Is there an aesthetic or approach that runs through all your work?

Justine: We create individual interiors that look beyond aesthetics and pursue a philosophy of reclaiming and re-integrating an element of humanity and soul into a home so it feels nostalgic and contemporary. Our style is distinguished by an immense level of comfort, combining clean lines and a beautiful palette of colours with luxurious and natural finishes. Our work is authentic and forward thinking, craft-focused, with a whimsical mind and soul. **Katrina:** We believe in delivering beautiful, bespoke solutions to our clients who value a personalised interior enriched by art, vintage furniture and objects, and the character considered curation brings. Each project is different as it is a response to the client, architecture of the home and the brief.

Did where you grew up or your family home have an impact on your work in the design industry?

Justine: I grew up in England and spent most of my 20s living, studying and working in Europe, which had a huge impact on my design work. My childhood years were spent in a very rural part of Northumberland and this attraction to nature and wild open spaces still influences who I am today. **Katrina:** I grew up on the Northern Beaches of Sydney and the influences of coastal colours - blues, greens and earthy terracottas - are ingrained in my psyche. After university I travelled to Europe and worked in London, where I was introduced to pattern, colour and a layered approach to interiors.

Who have been your style mentors - whether people you worked with or admired from afar? **Katrina:** Pamela Shamshiri of Studio Shamshiri and Kelly Wearstler, who both weave vintage furniture into contemporary spaces effortlessly. Architect and designer India Madhavi for her use of colour and form. And architect, furniture and product designer Patricia Urquiola, who finds unexpected connections between the familiar and the unexplored.

What advice can you recommend for achieving grand results on a limited budget? **Justine:** Colour and fabric are elements easily injected into a room without a full-blown renovation. A graphic or organic print on colourful fabric adds energy and interest that takes your space in wonderful new directions. Floor and table lamps in surprising shapes add layers of visual interest, and their glow in the evening creates a warm atmosphere that can never be created by overhead lighting. Failing that, candlelight. Lastly, art injects an element of individualism, giving rooms interest and personality.

Which homewares can you save on to get a luxe look for less? **Katrina:** Scatter cushions on sofas and beds. Great table settings for 'tablescaping'. Coloured napery, plates, glasses and ceramic objects don't have to be expensive, though, when styled and grouped together they create interest and colour.

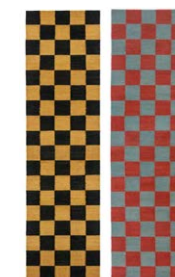
What are five things you would buy right now, from high to low? **Justine:** A checkerboard runner from Vanderhurd and Dinosaur Designs servers. **Katrina:** Some 1stDibs finds - a Paola Navone pinecone lamp and a 60s French mirror - and a print by Julie Blackmon. @hughjonesmackintosh



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1 Julie Blackmon art print, Ezra, 2019, Jackson Fine Art. 2 Pinecone large table lamp by Paola Navone for FontanaArte, approx. \$6360, 1stDibs. 3 Vanderhurd 'Checkerboard' runners (288 x 80cm) in Queen (left) and Rook, approx. \$1870 each, 8 Holland Street. 4 French 1960s ceramic wall mirror, approx. \$3750, 1stDibs. 5 'Short Stone' servers in Coral Swirl, \$110, Dinosaur Designs.

Artwork (opposite) by Elliott Routledge

“Colour layered upon colour – no white-on-white or safe beige interiors, please.” Justine Hugh-Jones

What are your five essentials for ensuring a room is welcoming and hits the right note? Katrina: Colour – either on walls as a painted finish or in soft furnishings with patterned or textured fabrics. Artwork – wall art or sculptures add a depth and layer to blank walls around the perimeter of a room. Integrating indoor and outdoor spaces – connecting interiors to nature with views. Whimsy – we select whimsical pieces to create a sense of fun and the unexpected. We have done our job well if our clients and their friends say, ‘we would never have thought to do that!’ Indoor trees or plants – they add a sense of height, are sculptural and allow the eye to travel. Don’t be scared to overscale. Plants help reduce stress and tension, create tranquil environments, and improve air quality and wellbeing.

LIVING “Generous rugs are like artworks in their own right, framing a room and creating a floor canvas to arrange your furniture pieces,” says Justine. Abaca/Manzanilla handwoven rug, International Floorcoverings Australia. ‘Julep’ sofa, Stylecraft. ‘Pacha’ lounge chairs, Criteria. Giopato & Coombes ‘Gem Cluster 06’ pendant light, District. Artwork by Marisa Purcell from Olsen Gallery.

You embrace vintage and upcycle chic – what are some of your favourite pieces you have given new life to?

Justine: Re-upholstering an old vintage chair with an interesting shape and patina is an instant way to raise the look and feel of a room. My mother-in-law gifted us a miniature rolled antique armchair that my husband used to use as a child. It's now re-upholstered in a saffron-coloured linen and it's a new favourite seat for Betty the dog! I took an old battleship's huge glass light battery and turned it into a lamp base. An old set of decorative French doors have been integrated into my contemporary kitchen as an entrance through to the butler's pantry.



KITCHEN "The arrangement of furniture can improve the flow of a space," says Katrina. Tree table with Møller #78 chairs, all from Great Dane. Nicola Moss artwork from Arthouse Gallery.

Which timeless furniture pieces or homewares would you always invest in? Justine: Great dinnerware, cutlery, ceramics and glassware. I love cooking and entertaining and it makes me feel creative to be using beautiful pieces that have been passed on and sharing that love with family and friends. I drink my morning tea every day from my Austrian grandmother-in-law's silver tea set and the daily feeling of pleasure I receive is immense! I also love beautiful vintage side tables that can be easily moved around the home. And great lighting - I treat it as importantly as I do furniture, so it's worth investing in unusual and vintage pieces that never date.



BEDROOM "We design the indoor and outdoor space in one cohesive vision to bring each equally into the other by carefully selecting furniture and finishes that relate to each other," says Justine. In this bedroom, the Clara Adolphs artwork does exactly that.

"Be brave and see the effect that colour has on your mind and energy." Katrina Mackintosh

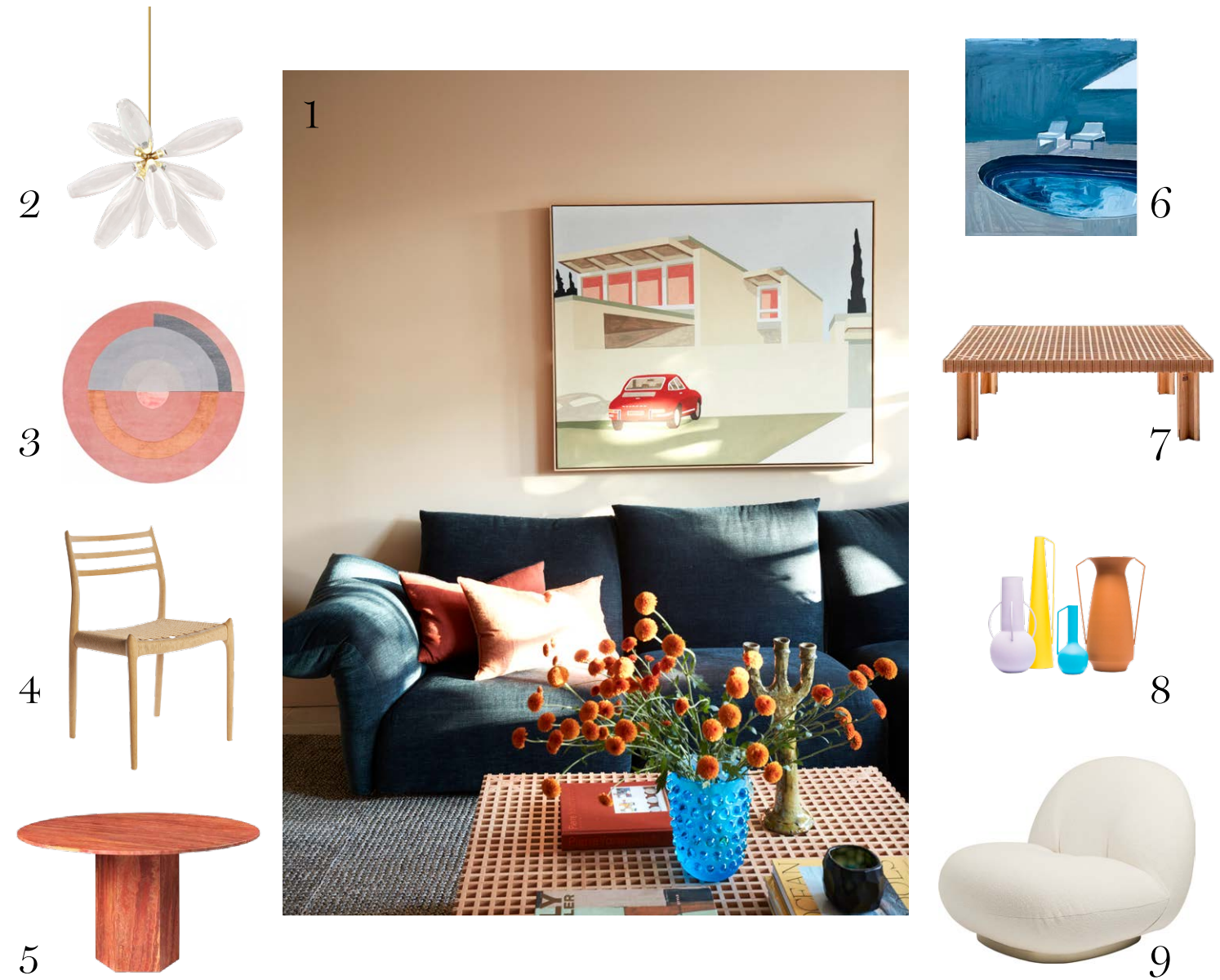
How did your decorating style evolve - was it through your early career? Katrina: Design is an ever-evolving career; no two jobs are the same, and on every job you learn or try something new. My style has evolved over the past 20-plus years in response to different clients and their briefs. You get better at interpreting their dreams.



ENTRY FOYER "It is vital that each project feels like a home from the word go, with an in-built sense of history," says Katrina. Matter Made 'Slon' table. Fratelli Boffi wingback chairs. Ceramic bowl by Katarina Wells. Dan Kyle artwork from Martin Browne Contemporary.

SHOP THE LOOK

Dynamic designs and shapes inject energy and personality.



1 LIVING ROOM The artwork by Eliza Goss brings a touch of whimsy and a shot of colour without overwhelming the restful scheme. Standard sofa by Edra from Space and Kyoto coffee table from Mobilia. **2** Giopato & Coombes 'Gem' cluster pendant light, POA, District. **3** cc-tapis 'Bliss' round rug in Pink, from \$19,192, Mobilia. **4** Møller 78 chair, from \$2295, Great Dane. **5** Gubi 'Epic' dining table, \$9999, Cult. **6** Clara Adolphs print artwork, *Blue Pool*, 2017, POA, Edwina Corlette Gallery. **7** Poltrona Frau 'Kyoto' coffee table by Gianfranco Frattini, from \$16,291, Mobilia. **8** Polspotten 'Roman' vases, \$221/set of four, Farfetch. **9** Gubi 'Pacha' sofa, POA, Cult.