

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 ▶

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.