Di Henshall's

INSPIRED

Land of Fire & Ice

A LOOK INTO

DI'S TRIP TO

ICELAND

Fabulous Transformations

AMAZING RENOVATIONS THAT WILL MAKE YOU SWOON

Tasmania

A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA'S HIDDEN GEM

Queenstown

OUR AWARD WINNING PROJECT

IN NEW ZEALAND

dihenshall



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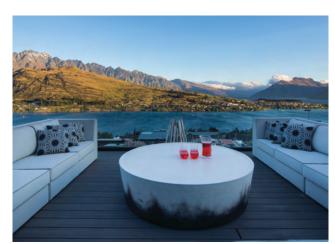
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A journey through Australia's hidden gem.



Velkomin to Iceland! See Di's adventures on page 26.

About the Cover



The winter issue could only feature our beautiful Queenstown project on its cover. The green and blue hues of the New Zealand landscape and this fabulous custom table that represents fire and ice couldn't be more appropriate for this issue. See page 12.

EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to the winter edition of our newly named magazine, "Di Henshall's Inspired". And I am constantly! As interior designers, we are collaborators. Our first and foremost collaborators are our clients. Our role is to to work together with our clients to achieve the ultimate design solution and without that partnership our work could be inconsequential and improvident, without much joy. There is real joy in seeing the end result of these alliances and it is one thing to work successfully with a client, but it is another step to have clients kindly and generously allow us to share the project with the outside world. I am sincerely grateful and very thankful to our clients who give us permission to show off.

As interior designers we need to rely on other collaborators, engineers, suppliers and architects. We have been lucky enough to work with some brilliant architectural firms and I am constantly inspired by their work, along with the historical greats of architecture, such as Mies van der Rohe (see page 32). I also find many interior designers' work inspiring, no more so than a beautiful person and legend in his own lifetime, Martyn Lawrence Bullard (see page 19).

When a supplier comes up with a new product or range, it inspires us to look at the possibilities of using such products and introducing our clients to new and exciting applications that they may not have ever considered. We collaborate with many suppliers, with strong bonds built over a long period of time, such as Resene, a paint company that is constantly innovative, well-disposed, collaborative and inspiring!

See page 42 for their latest article. Rockcote, another innovative company that has grown from a backyard experiment to a leading brand of external renderings is showcased on page 20.

Combi-steam cooking is somewhat of an enigma to a few people and in this edition we asked Swiss innovative appliance company, V-Zug, to introduce us to this method of cooking to encourage more people to use such an amazing way of cooking; one of the greatest inventions for culinary arts in the last few decades.

We loved putting this magazine together and we think you will find some inspiration in these pages.

Di Henshall, Design Director



After Cyclone Debbie left a trail of devastation,
Hamilton Island took the opportunity to fully
reinvent itself. This project reflects that rebirth
combining modern minimalism with the incredible Hamilton Island backdrop.



Before

These are just a couple of visual examples of the devastation left by the cyclone. We wanted the focus of the renovation to be durability and to bring the outdoors in. Keeping the space neutral and simple allows the landscape to be the main character. If you frame the outdoors with minimal window frames, you have free artwork!









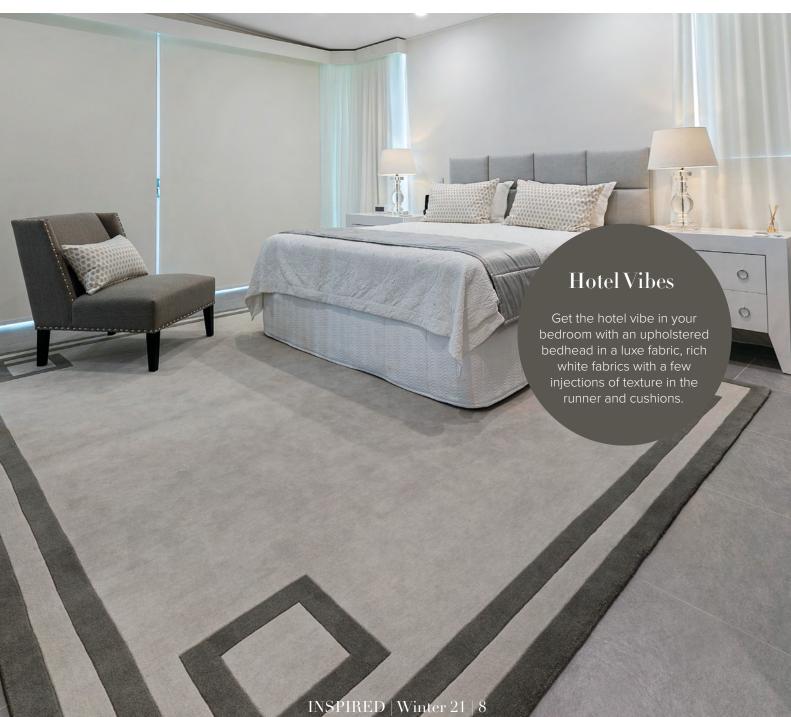
Details, details, details

The use of colour is crucial when designing a home, especially if the palette is muted and neutral, such as this project. Mixing gold and warmer hues always balances the energy in the space, making it more inviting and cosy.











Awesome Women in Construction

Why networking is like mortar for building women's construction careers.

Contributed by AWIC



orking in a male dominated industry makes construction a challenging sector for women, particularly when the media often misrepresents the roles women hold, whether it's being on the tools or in the office. Networking with other women in the building industry helps overcome the sense of isolation – and helps women grow their careers too.

Jo Kirley, Recruitment Manager at Aussie Painters Network and Educational Committee member of Awesome Women in Construction (AWIC) says networking has been essential for her. Her work within the VET system would be *impossible* without the network of contacts she has developed in the building industry, she says. "I call on my contacts all the time to get things done".

Jo became involved with AWIC because in her other role as the partner of a tradie, doing all the office side of the business, she needed to be able to talk to other women experiencing the same difficulties.

One of the major positives of networking for women is understanding they are not, in fact, alone, according to Rebecca Paech, AWIC Events Coordinator and Customer Service Manager at PGH Bricks and Pavers.

"Sharing stories has enormous benefits", Rebecca says, "It lets you know that what you are seeing and experiencing on site and in the office is real."

Some of these experiences involve behaviours from male colleagues that show a level of internalised sexism. The perception is that we [women in the workplace] will unpack the dishwasher, for example, Rebecca says. It is present on all levels of a business. Networking is a way to help overcome this, through sharing strategies, reality-checking and supporting other female colleagues.

The contacts in the industry gained through an organisation like AWIC are also one of the most valuable assets a woman in construction can have.

If you are looking to progress your career or move out of the role you are currently working in, contacts help. There are so many stories of people connecting through AWIC and that helping them move to another role, for example, Rebecca says. A lot of people [in AWIC] know a lot of other people, and if you are not in that kind of loop, you can be left behind. It's a very

interconnected industry... so networking helps you get in the game.

Rebecca has found networking has helped build her own confidence in career in the industry – and this is something she has also been able to pass on to her daughter, who is looking at carpentry as a postschool career choice.

Jo says that when she is working with female apprentices who are facing challenges, connecting them with a female employer really helps.

"Female apprentices often feel more comfortable talking about what is going on for them to a female employer", she explains.

"For female apprentices and tradies who have a male boss, AWIC can provide a space to simply be heard", Jo says. "I feel it's important for all employers to encourage their female employees to be part of AWIC. The support that is there is so valuable.

Sometimes you just need to vent to a female person who understands how stressful your job is, somebody on the same level, who can offer advice if you want it. Sometimes you don't need advice, you just need someone to listen."

Rebecca has found the events organised by AWIC have also provided some excellent tools for her work and helped grow her capabilities.

The social aspect can also be extremely important. We are social beings. Humans like to talk; we like to communicate. It is good to be able to talk about having an [awful] week or the juggle of kids and getting them to soccer, or finding time to cook, that kind of thing. With AWIC, there is no judgement, it's the sisterhood. The network makes you feel like you are being supported, the struggle is acknowledged.

In Queensland residential construction, for example, supply shortages are currently affecting many builders and subcontractors. Fabricated metal components, PVC pipe and structural timber framing, for example, have been hard to come by due to COVID-19 impacts on international shipping. That has affected the ability of builders to get projects to lock-up stage.

The general conversations are an effective way to be aware of what is happening more broadly in the industry, outside of one's own company or trade.

For more information about Awesome Women in Construction (AWIC) visit www.awic.org.au or email hello@awic.org.au

who have a male boss,

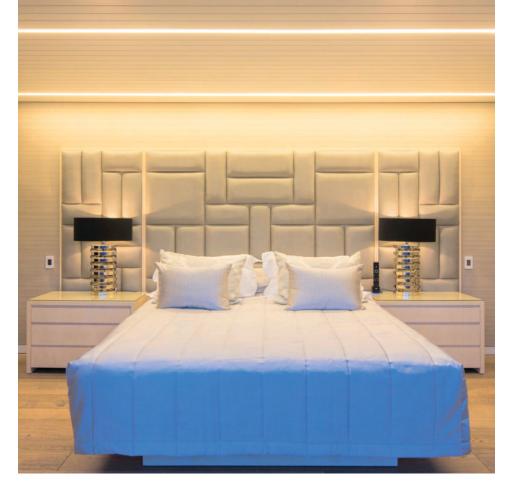
AWIC can provide a

space to simply be









"The impact of lighting in a room is often underrated. Lighting is a key element in all our projects and an inherent part of our design philosophy.", says Di.





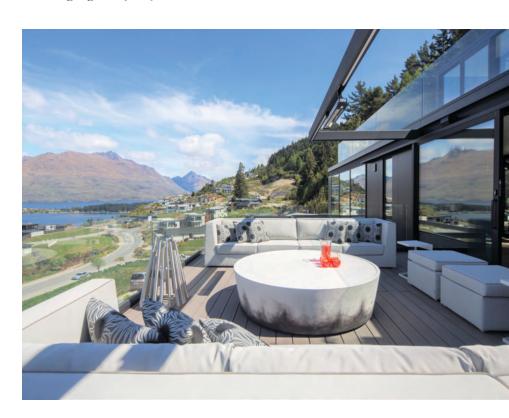




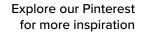




Careful attention was given to all materials for the vast exterior spaces. New Zealand is known for its weather extremes so it is crucial to create a space that will endure those extremes and even age gracefully.









Take a Seat



MR10 by Mies Van Der Rohe



Taliesin 1 by Frank Lloyd Wright

he twentieth century was a prolific time for design and architecture with many architects designing their own furniture including chairs to integrate with and enhance their structural creations.

Frank Lloyd Wright, Saarinen, Breuer, Thonet, Aalto, Eames, Mies Van Der Rohe, these are hallowed names in architecture and design, responsible for not only staggeringly beautiful and enlightened buildings but also chairs that are to this day regarded as contemporary icons.

Yet most of these are close to one hundred years old and in the case of the universally beloved Thonet (pronounced Toe-Net) bentwood chair which was designed over 150 years ago.

More than fifty million cafe chairs have been produced, still today recognised as the epitome of cafe society.



Vitra Lounge Chair by Eames



Bentwood No18 by Thonet



406 Armchair by Aalto



Long Chair by Breuer



Tulip Chair by Saarinen

Million Dollar Decorator

It could be said that luck has everything to do with success. A concept that doesn't go unnoticed by designer, Martyn Lawrence Bullard. He first moved to Los Angeles from his native UK with the intent of becoming an actor. He did in fact get some gigs in a couple of movies, with the producer of one of them visiting Martyn's home, so impressed by what he saw he asked Martyn to decorate his offices.

This led to Martyn decorating a record executive's home and in turn her wedding decoration. At the wedding Martyn just happened to sit next to original supermodel Cheryl Tiegs, who asked Martyn to design and decorate her LA home. Television followed, with Bullard starring in the Million Dollar Decorators show, which helped his stratospheric worldwide rise to become decorator to the stars, with clients including the Kardashians, Cher and Elton John.

Luck does not guarantee long-term success and it is talent, hard work and creativity that are needed to create the sort of success that Bullard has achieved. I have met Martyn three times, in Sydney, London and LA, where I met his husband, Michael, and their beloved doggy. He has a natural ability to put people at ease, with a cheeky smile and a seductive English drawl (yes, there is a drawl!). He is witty and charming.

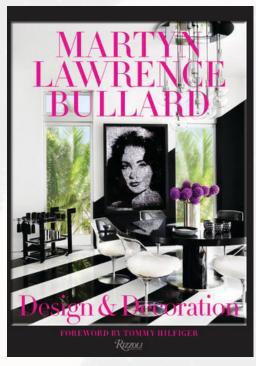
Martyn understands celebrities, their fragility and celebrities' desires and aspirations. He creates what he has described as sanctuaries for his clients, recognising that they need complete relaxation and privacy in their own homes. Martyn has been quoted as saying, "I'm here to be their enabler and make these fantasies into decorative reality". He has an innate sense of style with an easy-going manner. His attention to detail is well-known and it is this, coupled with his adventurous, risk-taking style, that has enamoured him to countless clients spanning a wide range of design genres, including designing his own range of wallpapers, rugs, furniture and fabrics.

His first book was a best-seller with his second book, Design and Decoration, first published in 2016, featuring about ten separate projects. When legendary Tommy Hilfiger writes the foreword to your book, you can comfortably say you have made it. His style is undoubtedly glamourous and exotic, with a message that underlines his work: be bold, be daring and above-all be authentic.

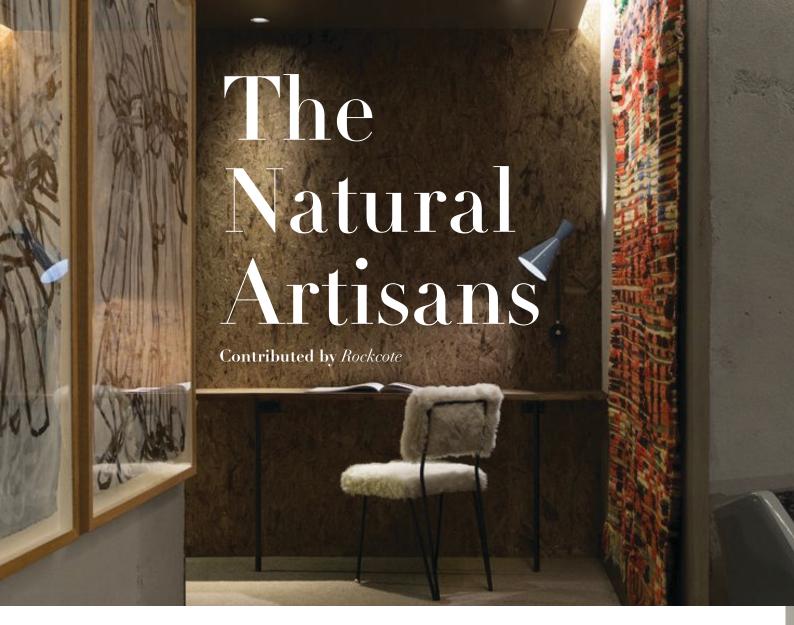
This might sound like a love letter from a crazed fan, but given his unorthodox entry into such a demanding, competitive industry to become a multi-award-winning designer, one cannot be anything other than in awe of his achievements. Lucky him?



Martyn & Di in Los Angeles



Martyn's book Design & Decoration



t might seem natural to assume that one of our nation's leading companies, devoted for more than 40 years to creating and manufacturing industry-changing building materials and coatings, must be a major multinational entity. Yet Queensland's own ROCKCOTE has always been unique.

Proudly Australian and family owned and operated, the ROCKCOTE factory and its founders, Bob and Chris Cameron, call the Sunshine Coast home. From this idyllic regional area, renowned for its native forests and scenic coastline, the company has grown to become a household name and is repeatedly recognised as one of Australia's most trusted brands. Over the years the team has also collected an impressive array of awards and accolades of every level for environmental sustainability, innovation, excellence, manufacturing, and business performance.

From its very beginnings, Bob and Chris Cameron were committed to developing high quality cement and coloured render products, textures, paints and natural materials that would be inspiring and ideal for any application for residential and commercial projects.

Today the company works closely with Di Henshall Interior Design and trades specialists to meet their diverse technical, budgetary and architectural specifications.

The company's philosophy, Reseek and Develop, defines ROCKCOTE's culture. It reflects five tenets of embracing ancient knowledge and traditional skills, mimicking nature, balancing science and technology, reviving the use of natural materials and helping people to create naturally beautiful buildings that don't cost the earth, literally.

Bob Cameron can tell you that it was not an easy thing to carve out a niche in an industry dominated by large, established (and mostly foreign owned) competitors, but he and Chris could see that customers of all kinds were ready for and willing to invest in genuinely environmentally safe, and yet still breathtakingly beautiful products and finishes.

"We simply began with a vision for doing things differently, then before long people began approaching us for "what if" ideas; that's when we knew we were emerging as ground breakers," Bob Cameron says.

"These days we have become a benchmark, that's the amusing and also the fulfilling part. But it does not stop us from always seeking a better way."

The newest addition to the extensive ROCKCOTE portfolio is the unparallelled Natural Materials range, drawing upon nature's beauty, versatility and resilience. From polished glass-like plaster to on-trend textured, earthen render, every product in the range has natural origins. They are low impact and entirely free of toxic chemicals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Each paint, render and texture require minimal energy in their making and are fully recyclable, so can be returned to the planet safely.

Another sought after innovation by ROCKCOTE is the EcoStyle range of non-toxic, pure paints for interior use that can improve indoor air quality without compromising on their designer appearance, performance and long-life warranty. They contain very low VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds), are GECA certified and contribute to Green Star points. Understandably, they are often chosen for use in schools, childcare centres,

health care, and office and commercial buildings, as well as family homes.

Chris Cameron believes that customers have become more discerning over the past decade, about the look and feel but also the liveability of the décor that surrounds and defines them. "We have always delighted in the enormous and tangible difference that using a high-quality product like ours can make to any space or feature. Now we see that same desire and focus from our clients and they also intimately understand that the whole life cycle of a building product counts, for people and our planet," Chris muses.

"From the outset we wanted to be creative yet also accountable and at ROCKCOTE we all strive to achieve the greatest outcomes, yet with the lightest touch. It is always an honour to be chosen to provide our products and services to businesses and clients who share our passion for sustainable, clever, and conscious design. We absolutely believe that people live best when they live in harmony with nature."

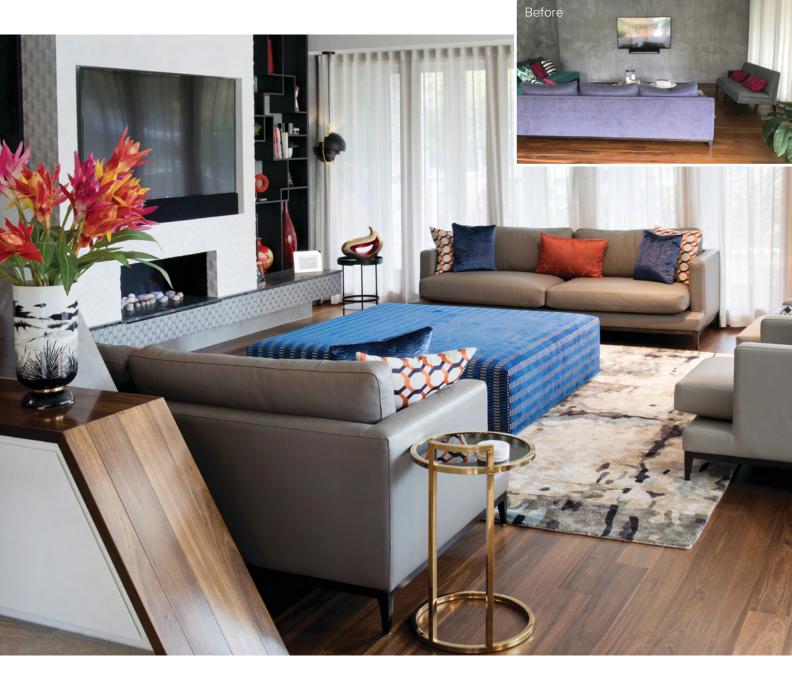


Discover more Rockcote



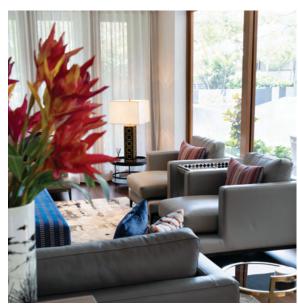


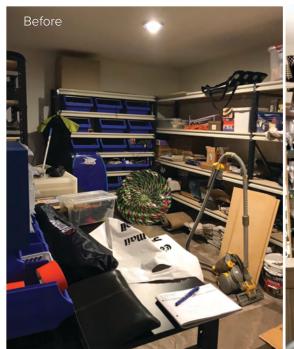






An entire feature wall was designed to house beautiful sculptural pieces, a fireplace and television recess - totally transforming the room and creating a brilliant focal point.





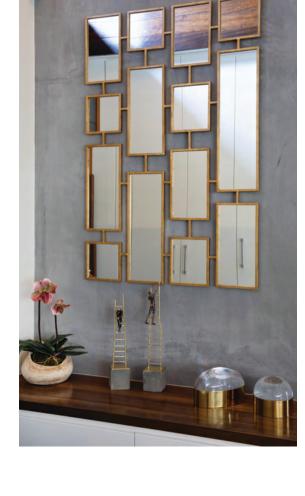
From a dismal storage room to a sumptuous wine cellar that would be right at home in a top-class restaurant.





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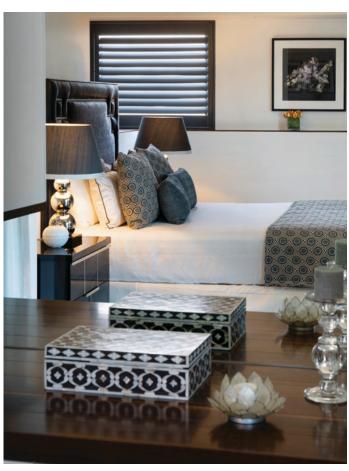


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The tranquil master bedroom.





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The Blue Lagoon, Norðurljósavegur

If you believe in magic, Iceland is the place for you.

his tiny nation in the North Atlantic Ocean is a unique place, unlike any other European country in every way. It is enchanting, complicated, beautiful and stark. It is known as the land of fire and ice (like the first chapter of a book written by my ex-boyfriend, but that is another story), and arriving at Keflavik Airport, about 48 kilometres from the city centre of Reykjavik, one wonders what all the fuss is about. It is a bleak, windy wasteland, surrounded by rocky outcrops of lava and the cold sea beyond. What the heck have we come to?

This is indeed a land of fire and ice, volcanoes are still very active, with one erupting this year (Geldingadalir-after 800 years of being quiet) and as we travel along the almost desolate road towards the capital city of Reykjavik steam can be seen rising out of the ground.

The first interesting fact about Iceland is that it isn't that cold – it has what is described as a temperate climate with far warmer weather than a lot of northern Europe and definitely much warmer than Canada.

Another interesting fact about Iceland that I wasn't prepared for is how vibrant, fun and youthful Reykjavik is. It is a university city, which always helps, everyone is incredibly friendly and everyone speaks perfect English – always a plus!

With only a population of less than 400,000 people, there is no need for high rise buildings, in fact the highest structure, or at least the most imposing, is the beautiful cathedral,

Hallgrimskirkja, or Cathedral of Christ the King. This is one of the many staggering examples of brilliant architecture that we are here to experience and the neo-gothic marvel in concrete took 41 years to build, starting in 1945, at the end of the World War.

The main attraction, if you could single one out (which is very difficult to do), is the magnificent Reykjavik Concert Hall, called Harpa. It is only ten years old and the building features distinctive coloured glass "tubes" constructed over the whole façade imitating the basalt landscape of Iceland. I was beside myself when I met one of the architects of the Harpa who looked exactly what one would like a Viking to look like. Incredibly huge in stature, very gentle and patient in nature, but with hands that could crush a mere mortal like a dried leaf.

Moving out of Reykajik, the more landscape that is seen makes it more enticing to spend at least a month on this amazing island of soaring volcanic pyramids, fjords, lakes, northern lights and farmland. Fascinating cultural stories and folk tales are retold by everyone we meet, most of which centre around elves, trolls and The Hidden Folk.

All Icelanders are deeply respectful of the elves and The Hidden Folk, who are tiny creatures that live in the hills. Woe betides anyone who gets on the wrong side of the elves, so many stories abound about what ill fate befalls the disrespectful people who dare to take away a rock or try to build a structure without the permission of the elves.

Most people have heard of the famous Blue Lagoon, situated between Reykjavik and the airport. I thought it was a natural phenomenon but it is manmade, founded in 1992, to expose and take advantage of the natural geothermal seawater that lies beneath the power plant adjoining the lagoon. The healing powers of the water are well-known and it is now regarded as one of the 25 wonders of the world by National Geographic. Sinking into the silky warm waters of the lagoon (with a cocktail in hand), it is easy to believe all the stories of magical powers of the silica and algae waters, the elves and the powerful supernatural beings that live within the rocks and mountains of such an amazing place.

They say that Iceland is one place everyone should see before they die and I truly endorse that concept. It is a place where you can believe anything is possible, inhabited by people who are still slightly bewildered by the almost fanatical attraction of visitors from all over the world.



The interior of Hallgrimskirkja, Reykjavik



Di with one of the architects of the Blue Lagoon Hotel



Hallgrimskirkja, Reykjavik's cathedral



RugUp

beautiful rug in any space can tie an entire room together perfectly. A rug not only anchors the furniture it also gives the room structure and a defined nucleus.

Rug making began many centuries ago, with weavers in Asia creating heavy rugs, mainly for practical purposes, like protecting themselves from the elements when travelling, keeping dirt off the floors of their tents and dwellings, keeping warm and also providing somewhere to rest. Rug making is an art form and now rugs are used all over the world mainly for decoration, many with spectacular results.

In Australia we often have houses that have acres of tiles everywhere, which is cool and very practical, but sometimes this falls short of finishing off a room, particularly living rooms, which need a central focus when placing furniture. People often get a bit nervous about putting rugs under dining tables, where food can be spilled, but a rug under a dining table can completely frame the area. I often say to clients that they shouldn't worry so much about food being spilt on the rug, because most good quality rugs are made in Asia, often using NZ wool or alpaca or goat hair, all of which are fairly forgiving and can quite easily be cleaned. It is wise to be mindful of pattern and colour - just to be as practical as possible!

We may use neutral-coloured furniture pieces, such as a lounge suite, so a rug can either blend with the furniture or become the main feature of the room, depending on style and colour. Modern Australian houses don't have too many walls with vast window expanses so a rug can be the artwork for the room, setting off the entire look. When it comes to choosing a rug, look at everything else you have in the room and then decide - do you want drama, colour, texture? Traditional rugs usually are Asian in influence (Turkish, Pakistani, Persian, and Chinese) and most traditional rugs look brilliant when married up with contemporary furnishings and surroundings. Modern, abstract rugs are actually harder to place in some instances, because they can be bold and dominant. Textured rugs are created by changing the weave and also the thread, sometimes combining silk (both artificial and real) with wools. The appearance of the weave changes by either cutting the pile (carving) or looping the threads.

If you are contemplating getting a rug or rugs for your home, if chosen well, these rugs can outlast all of us and can be handed down from generation to generation, which is often the case in many families, so choose wisely and be amazed at the effect it has on your home, you'll be thrilled with the transformation.









Way to Go, Mies Van der Rohe

good architect is creative and responds in accordance with his client's brief. A great architect is a visionary. Mies van der Rohe was a great architect. Like so many other visionaries, his vision did not always match those of his clients, nor his contemporaries.

Picture this for a moment, the turn of the twentieth century, just out of the Victorian era, entering the Edwardian era, modern in their day, but still sticking to traditional methods, traditional processes, traditional thinking.

Then along comes a new movement that flew in the face of all that had been before. Founded by Walter Gropius the Bauhaus was an influential art and design movement, that began in 1919 in Germany and sprouted, through its school, many famous artists, designers and architects. These true trendsetters created a revolution in art and architecture, some of which was later called the International Style, coined by Philip Johnson (another controversial, yet highly successful architect of the 20th century).

Amazingly only lasting for 14 years (closed by the Nazis), the Bauhaus has had a profound influence on modern architecture as we know it. Out the door went convention, and the birth of modernism came in the form of horizontal and vertical planes, stark white buildings, huge expanses of glass and steel, rejecting all art and architecture that came before it.

Mies van der Rohe, born in Germany, was part of this movement and part of the Bauhaus, even trying to keep it afloat in the face of rising political adversity in the German 30s. Many of the Bauhaus practitioners brought the movement to the US, with Chicago being one of main cities experimenting with this new world of architecture. Chicago is still at the forefront of great architecture, art and design. Like Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies abandoned his family in Europe to seek a new life in the US.

He could hardly speak English, but almost by chance, he met who was to become his most famous client, Edith Farnsworth, a doctor, at a dinner party in Chicago. Although he hadn't yet proved himself in America, Farnsworth asked him to design her a weekender, to be built on a tiny lakefront holding about an hour out of Chicago. What ensued has been the subject of countless articles, books and documentaries, about how a request for an inexpensive, simple getaway cottage could take six years to build, cost ten times the amount of a family home at the time and end up in a protracted acrimonious court case that left everyone feeling defeated.







The house itself, as a sculpture, is beautiful and as I sat on the steps of the house, contemplating what had taken place, I found myself siding with Farnsworth, indignant that the brief was so misrepresented in its form, yet I marvelled at the genius of a bolshy, foreign architect who was determined to see his vision come to light, regardless of how much it cost; financially, mentally and emotionally, for almost everyone that was involved, including the hapless client, builder, neighbours, countless architectural associates and tradesmen.

It is now visited by thousands of devotees from all over the world, flocking like fanatical pilgrims to experience the work of the master, whose famous phrase was "Less is more".

Although some of you may not know his architectural work, including Farnsworth House (his only private residence built in the US), almost all of you will know his furniture, still made and revered today for its simplistic, timeless elegance, such as the Barcelona chair, Brno tubular chair and the chaise longue. Like many 20th century architects, such as LeCorbusier, Arne Jacobsen, Eero Saarinen, Marcel Breuer, Ray and Charles Eames, Florence Knoll and many others, all of whom designed furniture that has had a resurgence in popularity thanks in part to the so-called retro revival and fascination with mid-century modern, which funnily enough encompasses many furniture pieces from well before the mid-century.

Mies van der Rohe was an enigmatic, forthright, stubborn, obstinate genius, who is regarded as one of the most influential architects of all time, even though, like Frank Lloyd Wright and LeCorborsier, never actually made it into architectural school!



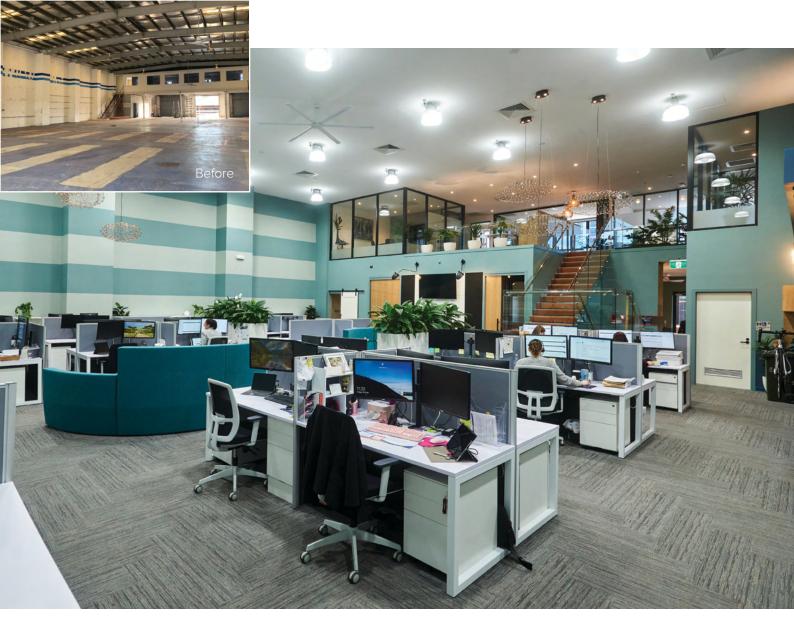




A place to gather, relax and escape work for a while. The cafe and kitchen are crucial spaces for employees to get out of the zone. Soothing colours, low lights and greenery do the trick.







This derelict building was completely transformed into a fabulous, functional workspace, with meeting rooms, board room, private offices, a cafe for the team - and even a space for the director's bike!





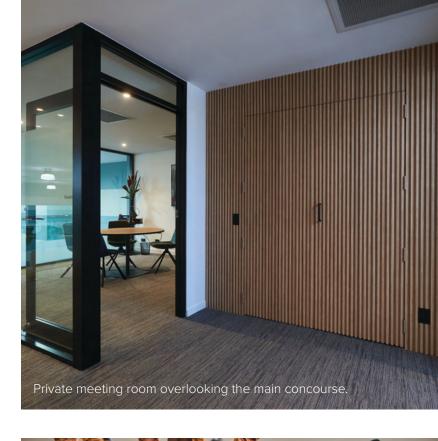
Boardroom

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Fabulous lighting is a constant in our designs.



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Full Steam Ahead

Contributed by VZUG

Combi Steam cooking at home is, in Australia, still a relatively new concept. Many home cooks may still be unfamiliar with the term Combi Steam and what it actually means. This is completely understandable when we consider that research would suggest that the lifetime of most kitchens, before an update or renovation, is around 15 years.

That's quite a long time, especially when it comes to advancements in technology, research and development and changes in the appliance choices available. So, whilst it's not surprising that Combi Steam cooking may be new to you, it's important that we help you to understand it, as it truly can change your life.

The V-Zug Combi-Steam XSL oven is the jewel in the company's crown and the flagship model in their premium range. It is complemented by a full suite of luxury appliances including cooktops, dishwashers, extraction solutions, traditional ovens and Supreme Cooling refrigeration. V-ZUG has a long history with steam technology and has spent decades, alongside their focus on Swiss made precision and quality, perfecting it. V-Zug's first Combi-Steam oven came into the domestic market in 2001.

To break down and truly explain what a Combi Steam oven is, the first thing to share is the most important. Essentially a Combi Steam is an oven that you can use in three different ways. Firstly, you can use it to cook, bake or warm with traditional fan forced or convection style heat. Just like you are most likely doing now with your current oven. Secondly, you can use it to cook with steam – instead of placing food into or above a pot of hot water. Finally, and perhaps most excitingly, the Combi Steam can cook using a combination of fan forced heat and steam – hence the name Combi Steam.

Fan forced heat at V-ZUG is known as Hot Air and you can use these functions in your Combi-Steam XSL to bake biscuits and cakes, roast meats, slow cook braises and casseroles and do all of those usual oven-based dishes. Steam on its own is perfect for vegetables (harnessing much more of their colour, flavour and nutritional content), as well as grains like rice and proteins such as eggs and seafood.

The combination of Hot Air and Steam is amazing for roasting lean meats and poultry or cooking dense layered dishes like lasagne, ensuring efficient and even cooking and the perfect balance between browning and crispiness while keeping the moist texture inside and preventing drying. It also works beautifully for roasted or baked veggies. Think jacket potatoes. Crispy skin from the fan forced heat, and fluffy steamy centres from the steam that are just begging for your favourite toppings. The combination of Hot Air and Steam is for perfect re-heating to give a freshly cooked finish.

Discover more VZUG



The unique and innovative technology in the V-ZUG Combi-Steam controls the moisture and steam levels, through a series of sensors that work in unison with the external boiler and temperature thermostat. It is called the Climate Control System.

From a cooking point of view it makes everything incredibly easy to use. It is also efficient, highlighting V-ZUG's focus on future thinking and sustainability. Combine these points of difference with the exceptional design and stunning looks and you have everything you need in both form and function.

Incorporating a Combi-Steam, especially with the features and benefits of the V-ZUG Combi-Steam XSL, into your home is an investment in your lifestyle and your kitchen design.

It will change the way you use your kitchen whether you are a reluctant home cook or a pro chef in the making, providing the ability to save time, achieve better results, reduce food waste and improve your health.



















Explore our Pinterest for more inspiration

Home Comforts

Leave stress at the front door by creating a calming home that puts mental wellbeing at the fore.

Contributed by Resene

ood, water, warmth and shelter - these are our basic human needs. But as our pace of life becomes faster, and our world becomes more complex, we require more than just shelter from the roof above our head. Modern interiors need to be calming, cosy sanctuaries that not only protect us from the outside world but rejuvenate us. There are many events we can't control, but one thing we can change is our home's interior. Dr Fiona Crichton, a health psychology specialist for Mentemia, the mental health app launched by Sir John Kirwan, says having a comfortable home space can help ease stress and promote positive mental wellbeing.

"Now, more than ever, it's important that we embrace the idea of home as a refuge – a place where we can replenish, where we can kick back and have some fun, where we can just be," says Fiona.

"It's a real challenge right now in our hyperconnected and technology-driven world to switch off. It's common to feel like the mind is running on overdrive. Spaces that were traditionally used for unwinding, like the commute home, are now used for virtual work meetings or emails."

The good news is that with a little DIY using Resene paint and colour, it's easy to create home spaces which feel rejuvenating.

Healing colours

Colour can have a powerful effect on our mood. If you're feeling overstimulated or anxious, choose colours which calm the mind. With its associations with sea and sky, blue has a serene quality evoking the infinite possibilities of the wide blue yonder. Drinking water is essential for our physical health. A study published in Psychology Today found that proximity to the sea, lakes or other bodies of water is also good for mental health promoting "calm, focus, creativity, sleep quality and overall happiness". The colour blue can have a similar effect. To create an easy, breezy blue space, try soft, dusty shades such as Resene Frozen and Resene Nepal.

Green has similar peaceful qualities, reminding us of forests and botanical beauty. Create a gentle green environment using refreshing grey-mint such as Resene Norway or bluey-green like Resene Thor.

Stoke the home fires

Perhaps it stems back to our caveman days where a fire and shelter meant a happy life, but a warm fire is immensely satisfying. Fireplaces spark conversation, and even when they are unlit, they are a striking room feature. Decorate with an ornamental pile of branches or pinecones. Transform an old fireplace mantel using Resene Lustacryl waterborne semi-gloss enamel. Try a bold cosy look with Resene Midnight Moss or Resene Merlot.

 $\overline{Top\ Tip}$ You really can't beat a screen. They create decorative interest, hide clutter and create curves that soften a room. We created this striking screen, inspired by the stained glass art of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, by painting the main panels in Resene Teguila with 'leading' in Resene Midnight Moss and coloured 'stained glass' in Resene Bandicoot, Resene Rob Roy and Resene Lightning Yellow.



Puttin' on the Ritz

Ever wondered why you sleep better when you're on holiday? Hotel spaces are designed by experts to help rejuvenate tired travellers, often battling jetlag, travel stress and 'did-I-leave-the-iron-on?' anxiety. Light, bright and fresh interiors of hotels and resorts are like hitting the reset button on a tired, worried mind. While there's no place like home, create a holiday-like feeling by clearing away clutter that might remind you of work or your to-do list. Go neutral on walls with restful whites such as Resene Bianca and Resene Rice Cake. Little details such as light-blocking curtains, linens with sky-high thread counts and soft-yet-firm pillows that Goldilocks would declare "just right" add up to extra hours of 'zzz'. Channel the stately glamour of grand old hotels in North America such as Le Château Frontenac, Quebec or the Waldorf-Astoria, New York by painting walls a bold blue, such as Resene Atomic, with a deco headboard design in



Create zones

Finding it hard to switch off? Get in the zone. Create separate areas in your home for work and play using colour to demarcate areas for each activity. An unused corner can become a serene reading nook using an arched screen painted in a tranquil blue such as Resene Pattens Blue. When working from home, claim space for a mini office in a hallway or corner of a room by painting a grid in Resene Thor and Resene Paris White to prevent papers and documents from taking over other areas.

"For the home office, it's important to have a comfortable chair and a designated area to work. Try not to schlep

your work computer to the dinner table or the couch. Otherwise, you will find you are living at work rather than working from home," says Fiona.

"If you can, avoid working in your bedroom. You really want to separate work from sleep. And, if possible, work near a window where you can look outside onto greenery, which can instil a feeling of calm. Most of all, do not let your work seep into your non-work time. Switch off the computer at the end of the day.

"Take a slow breath. And - I recommend - turning up the music and having a dance to blow off the cobwebs and to remind the brain that it's 'home' time."

Get the Look

We created a dappled pattern in this blue lounge by painting the walls in two coats of Resene Frozen. Once dried, we used a tape measure, level and pencil to mark out an 80mm x 50mm grid. We applied high quality 24mm wide painter's masking tape, ensuring all of our lines were square. We then mixed a testpot of Resene Nepal into a tin of Resene FX Paint Effects medium and applied it with a paintbrush in a crisscross motion, gently wiping over the strokes with a dry rag as we went.

Once dry, we carefully removed the masking to reveal the 'grout' between the 'tiles'.

Discover more Resene

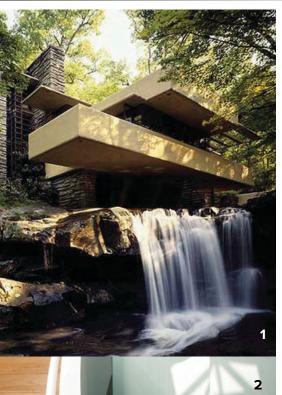








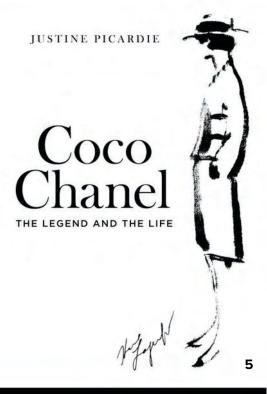
10 things Di loves



- Wright, as he is for so many other architects and designers. I was lucky enough to visit 10 of his most iconic buildings on a recent architectural tour of the United States, including his most famous building: Fallingwater in Pennsylvania.
- 2. I bought this original Harp chair designed by Jørgen Høvelskov and first shown in 1963 - when I was in Copenhagen a few years ago. There are a few replicas around, but none is as superb as the original, which I shipped back from Denmark.
- 3. Everyone loves New York City, and I can easily imagine living there, It's a melange of so many different countries all pooled together in one crazy, frenetic place. The food, the sounds, the buildings, the people, Central Park, theatre and music... It really has everything going for it.

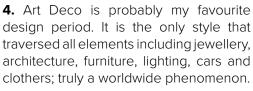


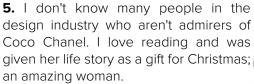


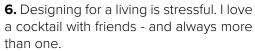












7. This won't come as a surprise to anyone: shoes! I have a 'modest' collection.

8. I love drinking tea and my team bought me the most beautiful teapot which I use at least twice a day with herbal brews.

9. The G'Day chair is made from recycled Coca-Cola cans by Australian artisan Brian Sayer. I am lucky enough to have one of the original chairs in my ensuite bathroom.

10. A few years ago, some clients of mine gave me this chair that was languishing in their attic, so I had it reupholstered in a black and white striped satten fabric. After the clients saw what I had done with the chair, they wanted it back!







Dinner Party

Di's selection of her favourite recipes for a night of hosting dear friends and creating memories.

Charred Tomatoes and Yoghurt

This is a recipe from the masterful Yotam Ottolenghi's book, Simple. It is incredibly easy, but a hit with everyone. The lemon and herbs are the real heroes. Serve with hot flat bread.

Ingredients

1 x punnet of cherry or grape tomatoes

3 x Tbsp. EVOO

3/4 tsp. cumin seeds

½ tsp. light brown sugar

3 x garlic cloves, thinly sliced

3 x sprigs of thyme

3 x sprigs fresh oregano

1 x lemon - half the zest shaved into 3 wide strips, the remainder of the zest grated.

Salt and black pepper

250g very cold extra-thick Greek yoghurt

1 teasp. chilli flakes.

Method:

Toss tomatoes in a small oven proof dish with the oil, cumin, sugar, garlic, thyme, oregano sprigs, lemon strips, salt and pepper. Roast for 20 minutes at 200 degrees C. They should be blistering and the liquid bubbling. Grill the dish of tomatoes under a hot grill for about 5 minutes until the tomatoes are blackened on top. Mix the yoghurt with the grated lemon zest and salt, returning to fridge to keep very cold. Once the tomatoes are ready, spoon them over the yoghurt mixture on a large serving platter and sprinkle with chilli flakes.

Serve with warm flatbreads or fresh sourdough.





Courgette and Feta Fritters

Another take on a dish that I ate in a long-forgotten local restaurant. Tried to work out what was in them, but came up with this recipe instead, which I think is almost as good as the original. Serve with a salad and some tzatziki (made with fresh Greek yoghurt and grated cucumber that has been squeezed to get the excess moisture out – add some crushed garlic and sea salt)

Ingredients:

3 or 4 medium sized zucchini (courgettes) – grated coarsely.

1 x generous handful (or two) of crushed macadamia nuts.

150g feta cheese (any firm type)

2 x spring onions chopped (including green parts)

1 x egg (beaten)

11/2 Tbsp. of besan flour (chick pea flour)

Method:

Mix all the ingredients together and chill for about half an hour in the fridge. Shape into patty size and shallow fry in hot olive oil. Dee-lish!

Hummus

I like to make my own, as I use yoghurt rather than oil. No reason, I just like the creaminess that yoghurt brings. I also soak and cook the chickpeas, rather than using tinned; they retain their nuttiness.

Ingredients:

2 x Tbsp. tahini

1x lemon - juiced

3 x Tbsp. Greek yoghurt

3 x cloves garlic.

1 x tsp. salt and black pepper

Whiz the whole lot together in a blender or Thermomix.



Turkish Cheese Cigars

When I was in Turkey, we were in a place called Pamukkale, famous for its thermal springs and white travertine terraces; absolutely spectacular. It was 38 degrees in the shade when we arrived at a beautiful bed and breakfast, run by a family, who gave us ice-cold beers and these he-made pastries as bar snacks. I never asked for the recipe, so this is my take on what we devoured under the apricot trees in the gardens, so far away.

Ingredients:

1 x packet of frozen spring roll pastry 500g (or two packs) of Greek feta cheese 1 x lemon – juice and grated zest 1 x egg Handful of chopped continental parsley

Method:

Mix together the crumbled cheese, egg, lemon juice, zest and parsley.

Spoon a tablespoon of the mixture into the corner of each sheet of spring roll pastry and shape into cigar length rolls. Shallow or deep fry in hot olive oil. That's it!



Chocolate Mousse

My sister in law gave me this recipe years ago and it is still my kids' favourite to this day.

Ingredients:

3 x cups of heavy fresh cream beaten until very thick. 200gr of Toblerone melted with 2 Tbsp. of hot water. 3 x egg whites beaten in a separate bowl until stiff.

Method:

Fold melted chocolate into thickened whipped cream. Gently fold the stiffened egg whites into the chocolate mixture, pour into small individual bowls and garnish. Serves 8.



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Tasmania.

You little Devil!

would imagine that many Australians have had the luck of visiting Tasmania at least once, but this was to be my first trip to the southernmost state of Australia for a week of adventure with a great mate of mine.

After a very late arrival into our hotel in the Tamar Valley, we awoke to the view of a beautiful river right in front of our apartment. Our first meal in Tasmania is a spectacular breakfast in a fabulous, revitalised mill house right on the water's edge in Launceston city, about twenty minutes down the road from our Tamar Valley digs (everything is Food, service, view so close!). - all fantastic at the Stillwater Restaurant. The Stillwater is also a hotel with gorgeous lodgings that I would happily stay in next time I visit Launceston, truly a great place.

In my recent trip to South Australia, I visited 29 wineries and 3 gin distilleries in the Clare Valley, Barossa and Eden Valleys, Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale and Kangaroo Island. I don't set out to meet up with that record, but we did have the most fantastic afternoon on a wine tour hosted by Terry of Tamar Valley Wine

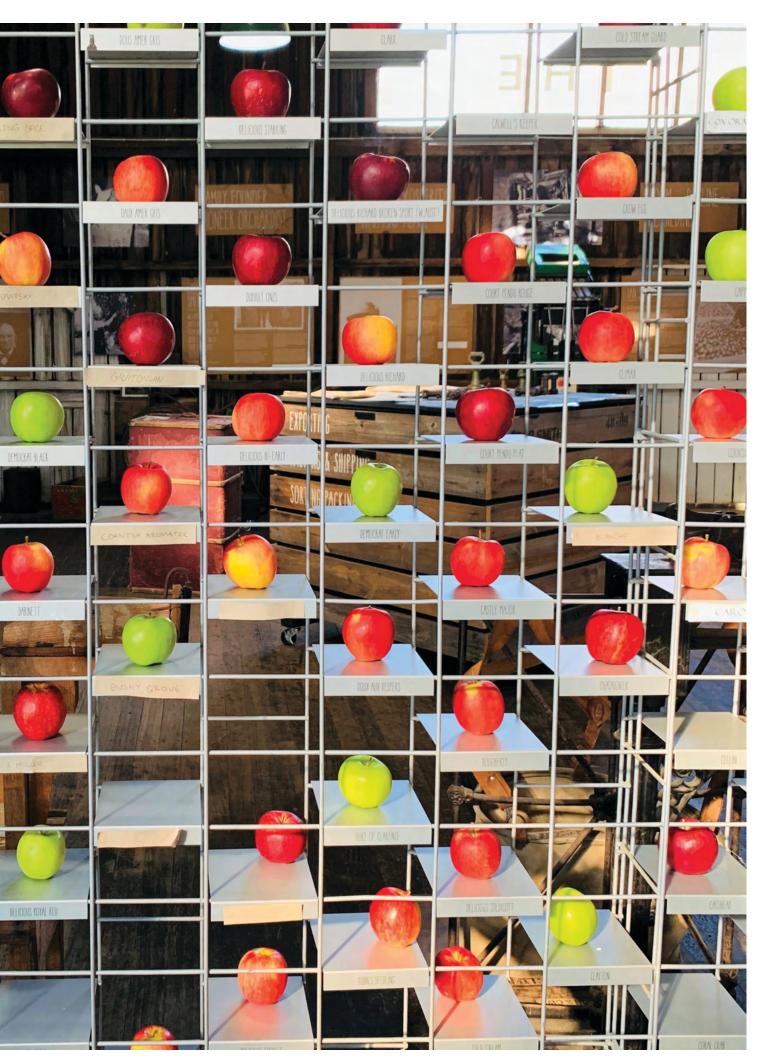
Tours, where we met five other tourists to visit five wineries and a gin distillery. Stand out was Velo, whose restaurant is called Timbre, where we had a mini banquet of shared food plates and any wines of our choice.

Vegos, vegans, nut allergies, you name it, no problem. Every dish was served to suit the quirky needs of us all — all with a smile (genuine) and an offer of more wine. The group was great, as were the wineries, our favourites being Loira Wines and the Swinging Gate Winery, neither not too far from our hotel. The tour finished an hour later than planned, probably because we were all having so much fun and so many laughs, so Terry (bless him) just let us go on.

Fantastic day.

Two degrees outside next morning, so what better temperature to go out for a city bike ride around the streets of Launceston. My buddy can't remember if she's ever been on a bike before and I can't remember when I last got on one, but undaunted by these concerns and the freezing weather we take off with our lovely tour guide, Alison.





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The immediate realisation on my part is that the faster I go the colder I get to the point that I am seriously concerned I am in the early stages of hypothermia and there seems to be no way of improving my core temperature. So we press on, now convincing myself that I am about to be snap-frozen to a metal bike in a foreign city. We stop for a cup of tea in a café and it takes a full ten minutes for any sensation to return to my hands.

The bike ride was great though and had it been fifteen degrees warmer I could've stayed on it for the whole day instead of only one and a half hours. It was wonderful to see the city (more like a big town), learning about its early history and when my brain thaws out I might remember more of the details about levies and things.

After our little bicycle tour, one of the motivating factors of deciding to go to Beaconsfield was that we could stay in the balmy warmth of the car

and not have to be outside again. Beaconsfield, the scene of a mining tragedy and miracle rescue is about 40km north of Launceston and it is sad to say that that the place is a sad little place.

Here we are on a Saturday morning, with brilliant albeit freezing sunshine, and there is little evidence of human activity, much less community spirit, which I am sure is there somewhere, but the haphazard little houses and mainly closed shops didn't give much away.

It's also sad to say that we only really ventured to Beaconsfield to fill in time until we are due at Josef Chromy Wines, just south of Launceston, closer to the airport, for a lunch experience, which, we find out upon arrival, includes a wine tasting and a two-course lunch in the cavernous restaurant overlooking the vines.

This is a classic example of a restaurant designed with attention

to all form and very little in the way of comfort for humans, which apparently are the beings that will dine here! Nevertheless, the service is efficient and the food is good.

We met a guy in the Rosevears pub last night, whose grandfather, Billy Field, met Josef Chromy back in the 50s when Chromy was a penniless refugee from a Czech village, whose only transferable talent was his butchering skill, bringing with him to Australia his set of boning knives.

Billy lent Josef five hundred pounds to start up his own business, only to be told by Josef several months later that the business had failed and that he couldn't pay Billy back.

Remarkably, Field gave him another five hundred pounds saying he believed in him. Josef went on to create a hugely successful smallgoods business, Blue Ribbon Meat Products, before plunging into the wine industry at the age of 76!















I just love hearing the back stories of winemakers and Josef Chromy's story is one of the best. I have huge admiration for the 91-year-old legend.

After three incredibly busy and diverse fantastic days in the West Tamar Valley, today we hit the road and went via the East Tamar Valley (fizzy country – Arras, Bay of Fires, Pipers Brook, Jantz and the like) to Scottsdale, onto St Helens on the east coast and then down Freycinet Lodge, just outside Coles Bay, past Bicheno.

A little over six hours of solid driving through very windy roads, with stunning alpine forests, deep valleys, farmland and lakes – truly beautiful country, with some very cute little villages thrown in and we arrive at Freycinet Lodge.

The accommodation is a series of detached chalet-style units, that are akin to a lakeside summer school in 1960s Colorado.

Timber clad everything, brown woolly curtains and a

table and chairs straight out of Goldilocks. An interesting experiment in human reactions, but not exactly the luxury accommodation we were expecting. The good news is the bar is open and the barman is adept at cocktails. It is sunny but freezing outside so we spend the rest of the afternoon and evening from bar to restaurant to bed in our rustic pad. The next morning is brilliant sunshine and freezing. Good day to go on a cruise!

Wineglass Bay, which I think is the bay by which our lodge is situated, is in fact on the eastern side of the peninsula, as the crow flies less than 2km away, but quite a distance by sea. The scenery is superb, coloured cliff faces and deep blue sea with a very gentle surf that slaps against the rocks and disappears into the caves at the bottom of the cliffs – it is an unreal sight. Wineglass Bay is a wide, white sandy beach, not dissimilar to Whitehaven in the Whitsundays, but far more dramatic with soaring cliffs on one side and little shallow pools of aqua water close to the shoreline.





We have been told a long time before actually seeing Wineglass Bay that it is so-called because it looks like the shape of a wine glass, so it comes as a cold slap when we are told that this was one of the many whaling stations in Tasmania and the water was deep red in the bay with the blood of these tragic creatures.

The cruise was fabulous but the seas were a little choppy on the way back to the lodge, so much so that my travelling buddy was violently ill when we got to our chalet. I'm sitting there thinking, What the heck are we doing staying another night in summer camp when we could be relaxing in a penthouse two bedroom, two bathroom apartment in Hobart, so as soon as she recovers, we scoop up our belongings and head south.

The scenery right throughout Tasmania is amazing and incredibly varied, very hilly with magnificent valleys and canyons with pine forests, glorious countryside and funky little towns.

There is so much significant history in Tasmania, including the idyllic, self sufficient lifestyle of the indigenous tribes that fished and hunted peacefully for thousands of years before white settlers rocked up.

Abel Tasman arrived in the 1600s and Cook turned up in the 1700s, irrevocably changing and ultimately destroying the aboriginal race in Tasmania, wiping out a history that is so rich and sacred in so many ways, not the least the aboriginal understanding of

sustainability, forest health and management of wildfires.

Aboriginal women were expert divers, some holding their breath for up to fifteen minutes at a time whilst harvesting sea urchins and abalone. Walking along a deserted, pristine white sandy beach on Bruny Island, I genuinely felt the spiritual heartbeat of Tasmania, along with the heartbreak and catastrophic injustice of the white man.

In such a short space of time, white settlers were responsible for the annihilation of the whale population, deforestation of the land, the extinction of the Tasmanian tiger and the devastation of the indigenous people.

What a disgusting legacy – not restricted to Tasmania, but so poignantly evident on this beautiful little island.

Shoving all of this into the back of my mind, there is so much to learn about and enjoy. Some interesting facts for example, there are no koalas or foxes in Tasmania; Tasmania was part of the mainland of Gondwana until the end of the ice age, when the glaciers in the middle of Tasmania melted and the flooding waters eventually created the Bass Strait, forever separating the island from mainland Australia.

Hobart is the driest city in Australia, beating Adelaide for the title, with less than 400ml of rainfall last year. Some places in Queensland can get that much in one day. Hobart has the second deepest natural port in the world.

Not long ago Tasmania struggled to keep its economic viability and it lacked a "main attraction" to keep tourists interested in coming to Tassie, particularly during winter when there is precious little to do, other than trying to keep warm. Along came an antihero, sometimes called the Tasmanian devil, in the name of David Walsh, a 60 year old renegade who made his fortune illegally gambling.

He comes from Glenorchy, just outside Hobart, parents separated, asthmatic, self-confessed weirdo. I also just learned that he is a vegetarian. No, just because you're a vegetarian doesn't make you a weirdo, or vice versa.

David Walsh could quite literally be regarded as the saviour for the Tasmanian economy, by creating MONA, which suddenly made Tasmania hip. David is a mathematical genius and made a fortune with his skill. He is an art over and avid reader, seemingly fascinated with sex and death.

It isn't a stretch to say that he is solely responsible for a massive surge in tourism not only to Hobart but to the entire state. His own wages bill for the 500+ jobs that MONA sustains is more than \$30 million. He himself injects between \$8 million and \$18 million each year to prop up MONA, which has only shown a profit in two of its ten-year existence. Walsh and his wife bought Tesla cars and almost immediately, directly through him, there were 17 charging points around Tasmania.

Walsh has his own wine produced and sold through MONA and all other wineries in the region have prospered through the ever-increasing surge of tourists that are discovering how fantastic Tasmania actually is.

There are more people coming to (or coming back to) Tasmania than those leaving, with Kingston (a 'burb of Hobart) being the fastest growing suburb in Australia.

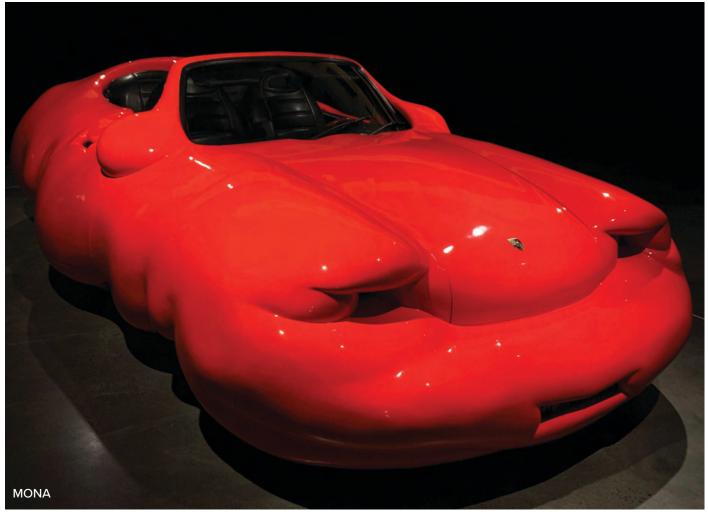
The food industry is alive and well with some superb examples of world-class

dining, including Walsh's own Source restaurant, where we were lucky enough to have the most spectacular vegetarian lunch right in the heart of MONA, surrounded by gardens and vineyards.

It was thrilling for me to see a menu that is largely vegetarian thanks to the genius owner of the most amazing place I have ever visited in Australia. A big call, but absolutely true.

architecture alone is gob-The smackingly ingenious, coupled with the brilliant, challenging, confronting artworks, installations and sculptures, with no fanfare whatsoever, you happen upon a Picasso, a Matisse, a Tim Olsen, a Brett Whitely - bloody fabulous.

It reminds me of Dali's museum in Figueres in Spain, because it isn't simply a visit to a museum, it is an allencompassing crazy adventure into an unreal universe of experimentation, sensory mini-explosions, joy, repulsion, amusement and disgust.





Brett Whitely

Be prepared for the unexpected when visiting MONA





This place is unique in every sense, including the best way to arrive, by private launch that drops visitors at the base of a 100-step corten steel stairway that leads up to the main concourse with its polished-mirror doorway into the top of the museum, which then spirals downwards into four floors that separate into eight platforms of undulating walkways, tunnels and atriums – totally mind-bending stuff.

As if my mind wasn't blown enough it then nearly had an aneurism when I quite literally almost fell on top of David Walsh himself at the bottom of the stairs of his restaurant, Source. I can't believe

I did this, but I gingerly asked if he was David and he broadly smiled and allowed me to have a photo taken with him. I haven't been that overwhelmed since I met Santa Claus in Finland!

What a spectacular end to a MONA experience. Of course, I had to buy a MONA beanie, a MONA sweatshirt and David's own autobiography as treasured memories of a truly brilliant moment in my life.

One thing I've noticed in Tasmania is how everyone we meet seems genuinely happy. Even our Uber driver from Pakistan (trained accountant) can't believe he could be happier anywhere else

other than Hobart.

Hobart itself is a glorious city with a smattering of high-rise but far more neoclassical, Georgian and Victorian buildings, with some superbly restored old wharf buildings where the restaurants and bars are pulsing with activity.

The fact that on any given day it was hard to get a table in a restaurant or even a bar table in a pub is testament to how healthy the Tassie economy is. They refer to the rest of Australia as the "north island" which I think is hilarious. We have spent nine days here, which have flown, but the delight that I feel about almost every minute of





FOOTNOTE

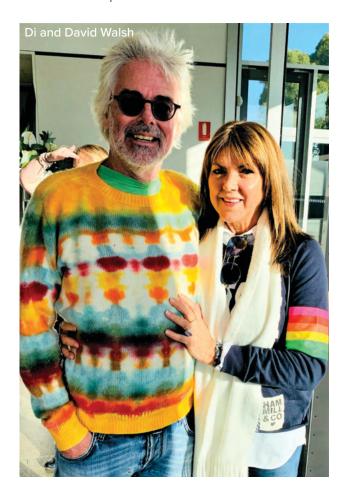
I've got to write a footnote that I think is important – and then I'll leave you alone.

I've often said that, having been to Dali's museum in Spain three times, that everyone in the world should visit it at least once to see and understand the pure genius of Dali and what a gift he has left for the world.

Having now experienced MONA I would say that every Tasmanian, followed by every other Australian, should visit MONA. If for no other reason than to show respect for a man who spent \$100 million on the building and a further \$100 million on the artworks within. Walsh has been responsible for turning around Tasmania's economy, which in turn has helped the rest of Australia's economy, putting Tasmania on the world stage for the first time in its history, creating thousands of direct employment and ongoing work for countless others throughout the state.

Walsh is very aware of the continual price he himself has to pay for his actions, never accepting that he has done anything close to being philanthropic and yet I have still heard people derisively commenting on his "dishonest" beginnings, his nutty philosophies and his self-indulgence.

Well, if this is remotely true, we need more nutcases in the world to help all of us.



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