



## Australian House And Garden

December, 2017

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*Travel blogger Marina Amelchugova uses pieces from Sheridan's latest collection to create a gorgeous European-inspired outdoor space at her Sydney home.*

*From Europe, with love*

# THE FABRIC OF LIFE

Inspired by Sheridan / Styled by Marina Amelchugova

### STYLE NOTES

From beach to backyard and beyond, Sheridan's latest collection sets you up for a beautiful summer. There are gorgeous towels, baskets, vases, super-soft cushions and more to inspire you to embrace the great outdoors.



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### BRAND PROMOTION



#### Does travel inspire how you live?

Most definitely. To travel is to be inspired, in every aspect of life – and this is particularly true when it comes to interiors. The cities I've visited and the cultures I've experienced have very much influenced how I style my home. I forge strong personal attachments to pieces I've picked up on my journeys. They become more than just beautiful items; they're an extension of my memories. I love to mix quirky objects from overseas with the clean, modern Australian design of my home.

#### What are your favourite European trends of the moment?

My husband and I were married in Sicily last year, so the colour palette of the island will always have a special place in my heart. I've embraced the textures and tones of

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Lena Woven Basket from \$39.95, Cashmere Candle \$39.95, Eastport Beach Sarong \$59.95, Alena Throw in Carbon \$229.95, Haden Cushion in Burnt Orange \$59.95, Glenair Cushion in Pale Amber \$59.95, Townsend Throw in Eucalyptus \$149.95, Mia Antique Brass Platter from \$49.95, Stela Brushed Aluminium Planter from \$34.95. All from Sheridan.



Sicily – natural stone, rustic wood and gorgeous ceramics. When it comes to furnishings, I'm inspired most by light, airy fabrics that transport me straight back to Santorini. I adore accessories and furnishings in earthy, eye-catching tones, and this season's olive green and burnt orange pieces from Sheridan are my favourites. I've transformed my outdoor area with bold, textured cushions and, taking my cue from greenery-packed homes I saw in Greece, I've filled my Sydney courtyard with lots of pots and succulents. I also have an enduring passion for Turkish textiles, so I was thrilled to get my hands on some of Sheridan's gorgeous Turkish cotton towels – they're wonderfully soft.



#### How do you create a sense of home when you're away?

I pack light, but I do always take my Sheridan silk pillowcase with me. It helps me sleep easy wherever I am in the world. And when it comes to clothing, I won't get on the plane without my favourite Sheridan beach sarong, which occupies so little room in my suitcase but will take me from the beach or boat to the bar.

*"Linen and cotton are favourite fabrics of mine; I have fond memories of finding the most incredible, colourful beach towels at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar."*

Travel Blogger, Marina Amelchugova

**SHERIDAN**  
EST. 1967

**50**  
YEARS

Make your home as gorgeous as a European postcard with Sheridan's luxurious outdoor accessories, homewares and home décor. Shop this season's collection at [www.sheridan.com.au](http://www.sheridan.com.au)





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### NICOLA HART

*Ceramicist and painter*

Nicola's bright cottage on Sydney's lower north shore is a visual treat shared with her husband Grant, sons Luka, Will and Josh, ragdoll cat Chloe and Honey the cavoodle.

#### MY FAVOURITE THINGS

**Paintings** Both works of mine: *The Lightness of Spring* (on table) and *Pink Blooms*. **China** The Wedgwood teapot, milk jug and sugar bowl were special gifts from Grant. I team them with vintage teacups found in antique stores. **Table** Made by Grant for my studio space. **Chairs** From Early Settler. **Ceramics** Those are my own handmade wares on the shelves. **Jugs** The blue jug came from a secondhand store; I bought the pink one on a trip to Taupo.

New Zealand, as a memento of our time there. **Paint brushes** Collected from art stores over many years.

#### MY FAVOURITE HAUNTS

**Christmas shopping destination?**

The Lost and Found Department in Artarmon has a gorgeous selection of homewares and vintage finds, always displayed beautifully.

**What's your favourite Christmas tradition?** I always like to make a gingerbread house. My youngest, Josh, now helps me decorate it.

**What are some other Christmas activities in your family?** One of my favourite parts of the season is decorating the house and the Christmas tree. I purchase new ornaments for it every year.  
[hartstudios.com.au](http://hartstudios.com.au) ▶





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### H&G INSIDER

#### RETAIL NEWS

##### HATCHES, MATCHES...

**1** In-house designers and stylists at **Domo** handpicked each product in the company's new homewares collection, from mirrors to soft furnishings. Shown below is the chic 'Studio Green' vase, \$65. [domo.com.au](http://domo.com.au)



**2** Danish design house **Hay** has collaborated with **Ikea** to produce the 'Ypperlig' range. Directional design pieces starting at \$25. [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au)

**3** The founders of **L&M Home and Tribe** have joined forces in **Fjord+Co**, a new retail destination for furniture, rugs, textiles and accessories. 913 High Street, Armadale, Victoria. [@fjordandco](https://www.facebook.com/fjordandco)

**5** Australian firm **Arkie** makes custom fronts and tops that can easily be applied to Ikea's 'Metod' cabinets, a designer solution at very reasonable prices. Each piece is handmade from durable birch ply, with the option of linoleum finishes to resist fingerprints and dust. Available in versatile, neutral colours plus a choice of handle options. Pictured below is a cabinet with natural plywood front and top in laminated ply, from \$1400. [arkiedesigns.com.au](http://arkiedesigns.com.au)



**6** Star designer **Tom Dixon** has rescaled and made over a classic for today's smaller homes. His 'Micro Wingback' chair (above) is customisable in a range of fabrics and leg options, from \$3278. [dedece.com](http://dedece.com)



#### MUUTO ADMIRATION

Danish furniture manufacturer **Muuto** produces finely crafted, enduring designs that are both functional and innovative. Although its practices are rooted in traditional Scandinavian techniques, Muuto's philosophy translates well to our own lifestyle. "Australia's informal culture is similar to our own; Australians like functionality, honesty and craftsmanship," said CEO **Anders Cleemann** on a recent visit here. "Scandinavian designs are understated and subtle, a concept that fits well with the Australian mentality."

Muuto is available from various suppliers, including Living Edge. "Living Edge really has a passion for our brand," says Anders. "The company has invested a lot of time and resources in understanding our brand, visiting us in Copenhagen and at international design fairs."

Previously, Anders worked for one of northern Europe's largest fashion companies. It wasn't until Muuto founders Kristian Byrge and Peter Bonnen convinced him to join their start-up in 2007 that Anders entered the world of interiors. "I like the time dimension in furniture design," he says. "Fashion produces new products every season, whereas design is slower. I like the time to do a good job. Muuto doesn't release a product until it is ready. We make products that have lasting design expression and quality."

'Nerd' stools, from \$775 each, and 'Grain' pendant lights, \$210 each, Living Edge. [livingedge.com.au](http://livingedge.com.au) ▶

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Taking its name and inspiration from a great-grandmother of the company founders, **Linen House's** new **Grace** brand offers classically elegant bedding and homewares. Silver-thread detailing elevates this cotton quilt cover set, from \$270. [linenhouse.com.au](http://linenhouse.com.au)



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### H&G INSIDER

#### Australian story PLANETARY SYSTEM

The desire to create unique expressions in timber inspired furniture brand **Planet**.



**Ross Longmuir** is the founder of furniture manufacturer Planet, a brand he started after noticing that most furniture and interior design in Australia followed a very European style, a state of affairs that he aimed to rectify.

"I wanted to do things differently and create a truly Australian aesthetic that made sense of our materials, climate and lifestyle," says Ross (pictured below). "In 1991 I began working as a designer and maker of furniture. In 1998 Planet opened as a retail showroom in Sydney."

From that original showcase – just 35m<sup>2</sup> – Planet has grown into a leading brand of timber furniture and homewares, crafted from sustainably grown, solid Australian hardwood. Its stock in trade is simple and well-proportioned design that responds directly to the chosen materials.

"It's so important to be true to yourself, to have a philosophical framework that fits with your ideals and core beliefs, and to stick to it," Ross explains. The payoff is well worth it. "Nothing beats the feeling of standing with a thrilled client who's seeing your design for the first time – and knowing that it's completely original."

'Dalsace' desk, \$8900, 'Slim' chair, \$1195, 'Twisted' coffee table, \$1900, and 'Twisted' side table, \$890, Planet; planetfurniture.com.au.



#### NEW COLLECTABLES

**Richard Munao**, founder and MD of furniture retailer **Cult**, nominates a designer piece to buy new and treasure forever. "The humble Panton 'Wire' cube, designed by Verner Pantan in 1971, recently re-emerged as a collectable after Danish storage company Montana took over production and released new additions of this versatile product.

Raw yet elegant and light yet industrial, the Pantan 'Wire' unit can be used individually or in combination, on the floor, hanging on the wall or stacked, or as room dividers in all types of spaces.

Sold with the hardware for joining and mounting, the units can easily be repurposed over time. They're also sturdy, made with 5mm chrome-plated steel that will last for decades.

The cubes are available in chrome or lacquered finishes in Black, Snow and Moulin Rouge [dark red], plus a limited-edition gold finish.

For added versatility, Montana has introduced a new cube depth of 20cm, and sizes can be combined for more interesting configurations. Don't miss the new range of shelves and tops that instantly convert this simple cube into a table, seating or functional storage."

Pantan 'Wire' cubes, from \$305, or with marble top (pictured above), \$585, Cult; cult.com.au. ►





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### H&G INSIDER

#### SWEDISH INNOVATION

*Since moving to Australia, Swedish-born founder and creative director Sara Lundgren has channelled a love of well-crafted and timeless design into her thriving homewares brand, Zakkia.*

"One day I just started sketching things and decided to find someone who could make them," says Sara (pictured below). "After a year of development and prototyping, we released the first Zakkia collection in 2014."

While Zakkia's simple but striking wares are designed in a Sydney studio, manufacturing takes place in Vietnam and India by local artisans. "Before we work with a new producer, we visit their workshops and meet the makers," says Sara. "We need to know that everyone who is a part of Zakkia is happy, healthy and well looked after."

Sara is currently focused on expanding the brand's reach in Europe after launching there last year, while Zakkia's aesthetic keeps growing along with its market. "In our 2017 Collection O2, inspired by winter in Sweden, we've experimented with new materials such as silver metal, painted ceramics and handblown glass," she says.

"Our aim is always to make high-quality, handcrafted design accessible to everyone."  
[zakkia.com.au](http://zakkia.com.au)



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The unveiling of the kitchens on the latest series of Nine Network's *The Block* revealed some key style directions. Here are our takeaways from the designs, overseen by Freedom Kitchens:

**Space mission** In Sarah and Jason's kitchen, the key design feature is the contrasting island benchtop in Caesarstone's Rugged Concrete (above left). The seamless integration of a raised shelf along the rear benchtop, in Caesarstone Statuario Maximus, provides additional put-down space and frees up the bench/cooktop area.

**Timeless black and white** A contrasting palette of light and dark creates a sophisticated look and feel in Hannah and Clint's kitchen (above, top right). Freedom's 'Charcoal Riven' cabinetry and Caesarstone's marble-look Calacatta Nuvo benchtops underpin the elegant, understated aesthetic, while a strip of overhead cupboards in Freedom's 'Pewter' is an unexpected highlight.

**High note** Warm details such as this timber cutlery drawer (above, centre) in Josh and Elyse's all-white kitchen provide balance in the design, which relies on Freedom's 'Sierra Cinder' and 'White' cabinetry. The result is a classic-contemporary aesthetic.

**Permission to vent** Ronnie and Georgia savvily positioned a Neff induction cooktop on their island bench to maintain views to the outdoors and living/dining zones (above, bottom right). This also promotes easier interaction while cooking or entertaining.

**Go with the flow** Josh and Elyse's island bench (right) is pivotal to good spatial flow and easy access to the butler's pantry. The orientation maximises floor space and provides visual connection to the living/dining zones and outdoor space. Wrapped in Caesarstone Noble Grey, the island offers a large separate work surface with generous proportions.

**Material matters** Concrete, mirror, marble and timber each define a zone in Sticks and Wombat's kitchen (below).

Full-length joinery in Freedom's 'Valetta' textured concrete conceals a Bosch fridge and freezer. Mirrored kickboards create a 'floating' effect. [freedomkitchens.com.au](http://freedomkitchens.com.au) **H&G**



Text by Toni Briggs (*The Block*) & Laura Barry.