

light

HOME



*the way
we love
to live*

the **spring** issue

celebrate spring with earthy homewares see how steep sites can yield spectacular structures learn how modern materials are making arranged marriages between old buildings work check out contemporary re-imaginings of the (no longer humble) granny flat steer clear of rookie reno mistakes



08



18



28



40

08 wishlist

Spring has sprung and it is the season to be filling your home with green and gorgeous products. Check out our suggestions.

14 despatches

While a successful reno is a thing of joy, one that runs off the rails is sure to be a nightmare. So take the opportunity to learn from the pros.

18 get the look

Whether you're rebooting a suburban house, sprucing up a bungalow or going retro, Scyon™ Stria™ cladding can provide that X factor.

28 in profile

Meet the Queensland power couple who relish difficult sites and delight in creating delightfully eco-conscious homes for a discerning clientele.

40 design spotlight

Faced with two dated, neighbouring buildings architect Shane Denman facilitated an arranged marriage that ended happily for all involved.

50 light home weekly

Hungry for even more top-shelf building advice? You can get extra green design info in between issues by subscribing to Light Home Weekly.

52 Trend report: granny thrillers

After falling out of favour the granny flat is now back in a big way with Aussies across the land knocking up secondary structures to house aged parents, adult children and rent-paying lodgers. We've consulted with the experts and produced a guide covering everything from the wide range of granny flat options now available through to the steps you'll need to go through to build one.

on the cover Kelso House by Kaha Homes. managing editor Amanda Falconer. editor Nigel Bowen. art director Elinor McDonald. editorial co-ordinator Erin Waddell. contributors Richard Mote, Aysha Leo. multimedia producer Aysha Leo. letters to editor@lighthouse.com.au. published by lighthouse.com.au. sponsored by Scyon™. All reasonable efforts have been undertaken to make sure that information presented in this issue of *Light Home* is accurate at the time of release. In some of the projects in this magazine, James Hardie® products may have been used outside the scope of James Hardie's technical literature. It is the specifier's responsibility to undertake specific design and detailing to ensure construction complies with relevant codes and regulations.

wishlist

Words: Nigel Bowen

earthy delights

With the natural world coming into full bloom, what better season than spring to stock up on green products? Here are 10 items that tread lightly on the planet while still packing a powerful aesthetic punch.

Fancy some mango tree?

KUUB specialises in eco friendly, wall mountable and stackable modular shelving. All its products are made from reclaimed mango wood finished with water-based paint and for every shelf produced a tree is planted, via a reforestation scheme the business supports. What's more, customers can design their own piece, choosing the colour, shape and backing print. Shelves range from \$55 up to \$165 and are available online from KUUB.

wishlist

Words: Nigel Bowen



go to the mat

Yoga has gone mainstream and it's not just the outfits that are now getting a serious style makeover. The Luxe Project creates bags designed with textiles ethically sourced from groups such as the Hmong and Miao hill tribes of Thailand and China. Not only do these bags have serious fair trade chops, they're also works of art in their own right. If you want to be the envy of your yoga class, they're \$195 to \$265 and available from [The Luxe Project](#).



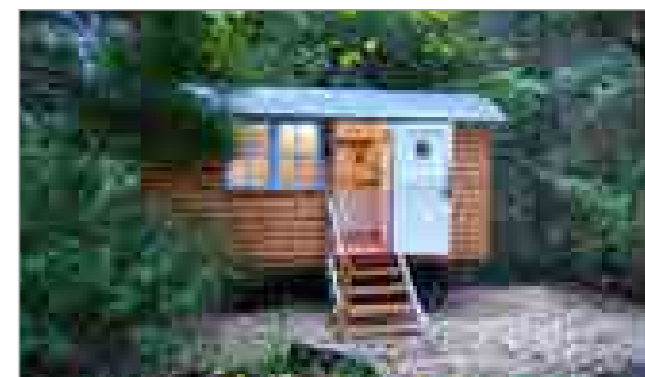
ink on a stone

Everything from your treasured family portraits to holiday snaps can now, quite literally, be set in stone. The "carbon-conscious" team at OnStone in Melbourne use a new generation UV-cured ink to print images – photographic and otherwise – onto stone panels that will not fade, age or tear. The panels, available in a range of shapes and sizes, are then framed with reclaimed timber. From \$70-\$150 from [OnStone](#).



steely hues

After a sturdy, taste-taint free and ecologically sound alternative to plastic cups? Aussie drinkware company Ecococoon provides a modern take on the anodised aluminium cups those of a certain age will remember fondly from childhood. Their Retro Ocean range features four stainless steel cups in bright ocean colours, as well as a sapphire-hued 'cup cuddler' to cart them around in. They're \$44.95 from [Ecococoon](#).



feeling shepherdish? After a backyard getaway that combines retro design with 21st century eco-consciousness? The good folk at Blackdown Shepherd Huts can provide you with a contemporary version of the mobile agricultural outbuildings of yesteryear, crafted using traditional techniques and made out of sustainable timber. You can even have a hand in designing it, if you like. From \$25,950, see [Blackdown Shepherd Huts](#) for more information.



go west The independently owned and operated Brisbane business West End prides itself as being the antithesis of soulless, mass-production-focused furniture corporations. The staff rescue old furniture destined for landfill and upcycle it to make beautiful, one-of-a-kind items that somehow manage to look simultaneously distressed and elegant. This cupboard is \$749 and available from [West End Co.](#)

wishlist

Words: Nigel Bowen



concrete thrall

Granted, concrete isn't the first material that comes to mind when thinking about either homewares or environmentally friendly products. But that just makes the industrial but vibrant items, such as this vase, sustainably produced in Zin + Bert's small Melbourne studio, all the more unexpectedly delightful. The 'Yellow + Lime Green Concrete Vessel' is available from Zin + Bert for \$60.

grist from the mill

Timbermill has a growing reputation in the field of recycled timber products. After liaising with a potential customer, Timbermill will provide some designs and a price guide and once a final order is placed, the piece will be lovingly handcrafted in an inner Sydney workshop. Timbermill's trestle tables are particularly popular. They cost \$605 and can be ordered from **Timbermill**.



hip joints


Studio Hip produces furniture that pleases the eye while respecting the environment. Using local materials, particularly timbers and fabrics, all of which are certified as sustainable and 'E-zero' emission free, they create innovative designs such as the Drop Bar Lamp, a striking sculptural piece guaranteed to light up any room. Studio Hip is also happy to customise its pieces for customers. Available for \$397 from **Studio Hip**.

be bamboozled As you'd expect from the name, Tree Hugga specialises organic, recycled, sustainable and fair-trade home décor items with an earthy edge. While we love their bamboo clocks and surfboard racks, it's the three-piece dinner set that's won our hearts. Made of non-toxic, biodegradable and high quality bamboo, this plate, bowl and cup with aquatic adornments is sure to be a hit with the kids (and their parents). It's \$29.95 from **Tree Hugga**.



despatches

What you need to know to have your house grow with you – and in value



If we told you we've got three great articles on how to make your home more livable, you might wonder just what the big deal is. After all, how difficult can it be to make your home comfortable? But when we say livable, what we really mean is a set of design principles that help your home suit you now – and into the future. The fact is that as we age, and perhaps our ageing and even partially disabled parents come to live with us, our home needs to be designed to accommodate those changes.

Here, we explain how to design for today AND tomorrow, and make more on resale into the bargain.

What is **Livable Design?**

In *Livable Design – Part 1* we explain the fundamentals of livable design and why they're important for you, your family and any future purchasers of your home. You're sure to have a whole new appreciation for ground-floor toilets, handrails and step-free paths after seeing this!

Livable Design **Guidelines**

It's all very well to throw the 'livability' word around but exactly what do industry experts mean when they use it? In *Livable Design – Part 2* we detail how Livable Housing Australia provides silver, gold or platinum ratings to properties based on how many and what sort of livable housing features they possess.

How livability translates **to saleability**

Did you know that incorporating livable design elements in your home could raise its resale value by up to 30 per cent? Watch *Livable Design – Part 3, Part 4* and *Part 5* to find out which core livable design elements (for example, easy access, a nearby and user-friendly parking space, reinforced toilet walls) will boost the Livable Housing Australia rating, and hence the asking price, of your house.

despatches

Five ways to avoid common reno mistakes

Are you a first-time renovator who doesn't know where to start? After all, undertaking a renovation can be daunting. To help, we spoke to an architect, real estate agent, property valuer and some sustainability experts to get their insights on the mistakes inexperienced renovators make time after time. Learn from these mistakes and improve your chances of a renovation that goes smoothly and stays on budget.

1 Traps for **young players**

Watch [Avoiding Rookie Reno Errors: The most common renovation mistakes](#) to profit from the hard-won wisdom of the generations of renovators who have gone before you.

In this episode we explain how clarifying then communicating exactly what you want to your builder and architect can save huge amounts of time and money.

2 It can be easy **being green**

Missing out on opportunities to build sustainable features into your renovation could make it more difficult to rent and sell your home. Check out [Avoiding Rookie Reno Errors: Why incorporating sustainability in your reno matters](#) to discover how clever cross ventilation features and window design can minimise the need for expensive air conditioning.

3 Hold on to that **home value**

There are a lot of mistakes renovators unknowingly make that shave many thousands of dollars off the future resale value of their home. Steer clear of these pitfalls by watching [Avoiding Rookie Reno Errors: The mistakes that slash resale value](#). This episode explains how decisions around everything from what size deck to put on to whether to opt for tiles or carpet should be guided by the preferences of the type of buyer or renter you want to take an interest in your property.

4 Words from **the wise**

Watching [Pre-Renovation Must Have Tips](#) before you start your reno will ensure you understand just how much time, money and grief you can save by having your design and construction documentation in order and avoiding the temptation to overcomplicate your floor plan.

5 Be a **DIY doyen**

Have you decided to do it yourself? In that case you're really going to need to do your homework to avoid ending up in an expensive mess. A few minutes spent viewing [Expert Renovation DIY Tips](#) will make clear how you can avoid headaches by understanding your council's rules in relation to renos and allowing plenty of time to roll out your project.

