

light

HOME

*the way  
we love  
to live*



the winter issue

playing with fire this winter how the granny flat got its groove back a pioneering antipodean take on the southwestern style  
rebuilding in architecturally difficult locales renovation advice from hardened veterans what cladding can add to your pad





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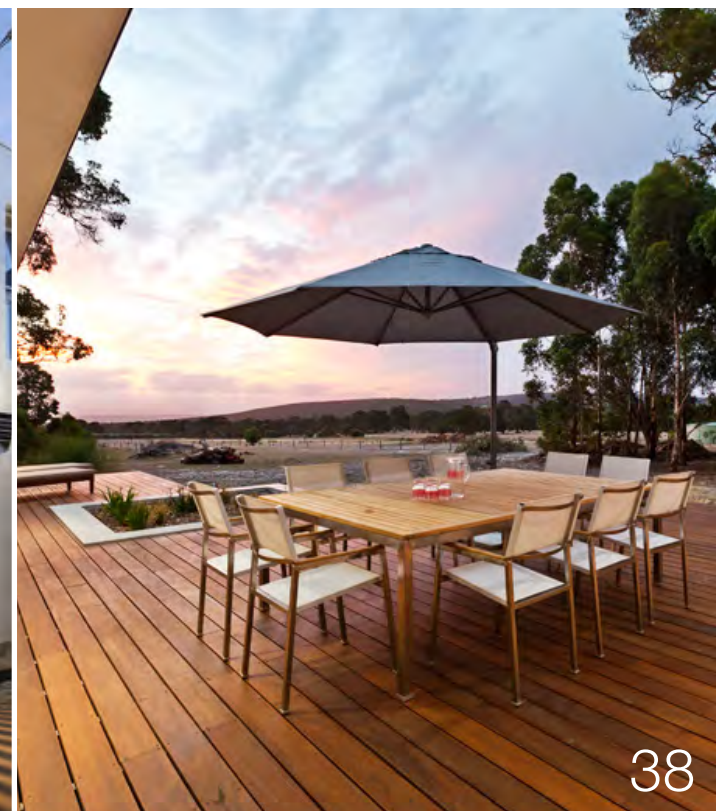
You told us to give you more: five top reasons to get extra green design info in between mags by subscribing to Light Home Weekly.

## 38 design spotlight

The 'Southwestern style', long popular in North America, is now making inroads down under. We examine a spectacular local specimen.



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## 54 Trend report: Renovators on renovating

We've cut out the middlemen (and self-appointed experts) to talk to four families who've recently risen to the challenge of knocking down their family home and starting from scratch. Our renovation veterans pass on their many hard-won insights on how to rebuild without ending up broke, bitter or batty.

on the cover The Rest House by Tim Spicer Architects. managing editor Amanda Falconer. editor Nigel Bowen. art director Elinor McDonald. contributors Barnaby Smith, Peta Newbold. videographer & editor Victor Rodriguez. letters to [editor@lighthouse.com.au](mailto:editor@lighthouse.com.au). published by [lighthouse.com.au](http://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.



A large, bright red, conical outdoor fire burner is the central focus. It sits on a bed of white pebbles. A fire is burning from a burner at the base, creating a 'stretched' flame. The burner is set in a garden with a bamboo fence, a wooden bench, and trees in the background. String lights are visible hanging from the trees.

wishlist

Words: Nigel Bowen

# hot stuff

After some winter warmers that will make you swoon as well as swelter?

Here are nine that are sure to fire up chilly spaces, dull tableaux and flagging dinner party conversations.

## get smart

Beloved by interior designers, builders and homeowners alike, the EcoSmart Fire XL stainless steel burner range (it comes in three sizes) can be used inside or out. The design creates an aesthetically pleasing 'stretched' flame, which can then act as a mesmerising centrepiece for walls, cabinets, media units and floating timber or stone benches. They range from \$2100-\$2995 and you can order them at [EcoSmart Fire](#).



## wishlist

Words: Nigel Bowen



## do the **twist**

There are few pleasures like diving under a warm quilt on a chilly night. Wind down and warm up in style at the end of a long day underneath this pale grey Twister quilt from Lazy Bones, an Australian company with a growing reputation for producing elegant bedding. Featuring 100 per cent jersey outer with non-allergenic Dacron filling, it's available in single (\$220), Queen (\$325) and King (\$355) from [Lazy Bones](#).



## burn baby burn

There's something delightful about having a flame leaping out of what appears to be an oversized tissue box. Clean burning, Brasi Avani eco table top burners look and smell fantastic (they come with an aromatherapy feature). They are all the fun of a campfire without leaving your house. Available in four colours, the smaller model is \$149, the larger one \$339, and stockists can be found at [Beyond Cool](#).



## ethanol **cool**

The good people at Lump Sculpture Studio have joined forces with the clever folk at Agnews Fireplaces to create a fire bowl that runs on clean-burning ethanol fuel. The Lump Ethanol Fire Burner can be fitted into any of Lump's stainless steel, corten steel or copper bowls and dishes and the ultimate result is a smoke-free surfeit of style. It costs \$2720 to get one made, which can be arranged by going to [Lump](#).



## bonsai **BBQ**

Sure, it may be too frosty to fire up that 18-burner in the backyard but why not wax nostalgic about endless summer days while manning this ultra-portable mini BBQ by Contento in your kitchen? The chrome cooking grate is more than sufficient to accommodate a family sized serve of snags. It comes in four colours and you can even buy mini BBQ tools for it. RRP is \$119.95 and it can be ordered from [Optoco](#).



## wishlist

Words: Nigel Bowen



## the good oil

Staying warm doesn't have to involve a naked flame. If you are going to invest in an oil heater, it's hard to go past the energy-efficient, high-performance and good-looking Dragon 4 Oil Column Heater from DeLonghi. They feature an extra-large surface area to allow for greater radiant heat transfer and a chimney design to encourage greater airflow to warm up the room faster. It's \$379 and available from DeLonghi.



## a throw worth catching

Pack away that old parka because there's a far more stylish way to trap your body heat. The 1.4m x 1.9m Mackenzie throw is made from top quality New Zealand wool. It's super soft, light, breathable, warm and made using only biodegradable dyes. Plus, unlike a tatty old rug, it won't lower the tone if you leave it lying on the sofa. It's \$369 for the throw, another \$35 if you want your initials embroidered on and it's available at Coast New Zealand.

## the tribe has spoken

No matter how low the temperature this fire bowl from Doormat Designs is sure to keep friends and family toasty warm during your outdoor entertaining in the winter months. These weatherproof, cast-iron bowls, which come in diameters of 55cm or 80cm, allow you to safely and neatly corral backyard conflagrations. It's \$198 for the smaller model, \$319 for the larger and stockists can be found [here](#).



**drawing a blanc** If you want to kick it old-school when heating your home there are plenty of products that minimise the mess and pollution of traditional fireplaces while still providing the soothing spectacle of orange crackling logs. The MT Blanc 1270 mixes sturdy construction and elegant design with clean-combustion technology that maximises heat output while minimising emissions. It's \$7490 and available from Sydney Heaters.



## despatches

Three ways to: give your granny a makeover

With governments seeking to encourage medium-density living and individuals searching for ways to manage increasingly stratospheric mortgage repayments, the granny flat is enjoying a resurgence in popularity. If you're considering building or renovating one, here is our guide to everything you will need to know.



### What kind of granny is right for you?

Granny flats no longer have to be the drab and utilitarian structures you may remember from childhood. In *Granny Flats and Backyard Studios: Part 2* we chat with Sandra Hanna of Granny Flats Australia about what options may be architecturally feasible and economically viable for you.



### Making plans for granny

After decades of actively discouraging them, most councils are now inclined (or obliged) to give the green light to homeowners wanting to construct a 'secondary dwelling'. In *Granny Flats and Backyard Studios: Part 1* we chat with Nic Tedesco of NKT Architecture about exactly where you can build a granny flat and what's involved in the process.

### Renting granny out to strangers

Granny flats are often occupied by an aged parent or adult child but they can also be rented to non-family members and provide a handy revenue stream. In *Granny Flats and Backyard Studios: Part 3* we speak to Jo Chivers of Property Bloom about how granny flats can become a lucrative part of your investment portfolio.



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