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DESIGNER INTERIORS MEETS
**INNER-CITY
LIVING**

*Award-winning interior design trio, Chloe Matters, Jade Nottage and
Cushla McFadden of TomMarkHenry, talk about redesigning inner-city
abodes to enhance the busy lifestyle of inner-city dwellers.*



Design Tip

Original architectural features like fireplaces, ceiling roses and cornices can work harmoniously with contemporary lighting, new timber flooring and furniture.



Photography
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Design
TomMarkHenry
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HOW ARE INTERIORS CHANGING TO REFLECT BUSY LIFESTYLES?

The busier we become the more we desire efficiency and ease in our homes. Open-plan living is not a new idea, but it is becoming an essential element of busy people's homes.

Open-plan living means that people can easily spend time with each other and communicate, whilst having the space to get other tasks done at the same time.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CONVENIENCES AND LUXURIES THAT PEOPLE ARE INTRODUCING INTO THEIR SPACE?

As technology improves, many more luxurious and convenient items are becoming available for the home. A great example of this is the Zip Hydro Tap which, has instant boiling and cold water, with the option for sparkling water. Once a product found in office breakout spaces, the tap is now a residential item and comes in a contemporary matte black finish, making it a luxurious, (and convenient) statement item for the kitchen.

Another convenience (some may say luxury) that we are using more now is keyless entry into a home; it makes things easier when you are carrying a million things inside and have no hands free to locate keys.

HOW DO YOU DRAW ON THE EXTERIOR WHEN DESIGNING INTERIOR SPACES?

Bringing the beauty of the natural environment into interior spaces is so important. Decorating rooms to maximise the natural light is critical, but it is important to design with the seasons in mind. Natural materials should always be used when designing interiors, particularly in homes that have minimal or no outdoor space.

Timber floors, natural linen fabrics and marble are some materials to consider using in these spaces. We also love the use of plants – the more the merrier. Indoor plants are so important to how a space feels and are particularly useful in apartments and terraces.

WHAT COLOURS AND TEXTURES DO YOU USE TO HELP MAKE A SMALL HOME FEEL BIGGER AND MORE OPEN?

We love creating depth through subtle tonal shifts, rather than big, bold colours that can make a space feel smaller than it is. The colours we often use are soft greys, crisp whites and gentle blue/greens – they all work so well together. Harmonising layered, natural textures and these tones ensures that the home feels light, allowing the eye to pass easily over each element to help create a feeling of space.

WHAT IS A MUST HAVE IN EVERY HOME THAT YOU WORK ON?

Beautiful timber flooring. It is so important to get flooring right – it can really make or break a space. It is such a large visual percentage of the home and therefore needs priority. For us, a timber floor, be it engineered or otherwise, adds a depth and warmth that is hard to go past. It is very hard to say that something will be in every home we work on, but we definitely try and do a timber floor in as many projects as possible.●

