

*'Passion and tenacity drive every woman who thrives in retail.'* Jill Ordish



Text by Sarah Pickette. Styling by Janet James (this page) & Toni Briggs (opposite). Photography by Prue Ruscoe (this page) & Amanda Austin (opposite).

**Sasha Titchkosky Koskela**

Their belief that great design can be used to effect social change saw Sasha and her husband Russel set up Koskela in 2000. Collaborations with indigenous artists are included in their homeware collections.

**Mandy Heimann Orson & Blake**

Orson & Blake's outstanding reputation has been built on the back of owner Mandy's keen eye for design. She scours the globe for new items, sourcing them directly from artists and designers.

**Jill Ordish Macleay on Manning**

A stream of devoted customers keeps returning to Macleay on Manning, Jill's homewares store in Sydney's Potts Point. The reason? Jill is an exceptional curator of intriguing and beautiful pieces.

**Terri Winter Top3 by Design**

Applying exacting parameters of quality, innovation and style, Terri stocks her stores with only the 'top three' designs in any category. She regularly appears on expert judging panels for design competitions.

**Margot Spalding Jimmy Possum**

Lauded for her energy, enthusiasm and flair for colour and design, Margot is the driving force behind Jimmy Possum, a family business that proudly produces its wares at its Bendigo base.

**Barbara Hermon Hermon & Hermon**

Homewares doyenne Barbara set up Hermon & Hermon with her husband John in 1990. The business' retail arm is now closed, but Barbara's legacy lives on through the designers whose work she fostered.

continued from page 45

◀ enabled me to create a running storyboard of my creative process and output. I am also able to communicate directly with an engaged and appreciative audience," says Fink. "It has made the journey far more enjoyable."

Similarly, textile designer and author of *ClothBound*, Julie Paterson, credits Instagram with supporting her love of the exchange of ideas. "I am really comfortable asking people's opinions of my unfinished ideas," she says. It seems that embracing the fact that they might not have all the answers and seeking and responding to others' opinions is a natural instinct for these creative women.

**'NOW THERE IS CONFIDENCE IN AUSTRALIAN CREATIVITY AND IT'S GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.'**  
JULIE PATERSON

Paterson acknowledges that there has been a shift in focus for design in Australia. "Although there was good design being made here in the 1990s, there wasn't a strong design culture and it didn't explicitly celebrate Australia," she says. "Now, there is confidence in Australian creativity and it's going from strength to strength."

Designer Helen Kontouris, whose extensive furniture and product range, Softscape, sells through Stylecraft, supports this viewpoint. "Australians have become more interested in local designers and are now seeking out authentic original design, which is really what the rest of the world does," she says. "It's great to finally see it happening here." There is undoubtedly a readiness to look at what we have – our history, landscape and culture as an ▶

continued on page 54