

VOGUE AUSTRALIA LIVING

THE VERY BEST OF
AUSTRALIAN DESIGN

VL50 THE TOP CREATIVE TALENT OF 2025

The VL50 is the last word on the AUSTRALIAN design industry's top talent. This year's list honours, the MAESTROS of their METIER alongside enterprising innovators and rapidly rising stars selected for their CREATIVITY, dedication to craft and contribution to community. Once again, an awards ceremony presented by Mobilia will mark the occasion.

WLF50

Compiled by THE VOGUE LIVING TEAM *Written by* LINDYL ZANBAKA

HANDELSMANN + KHAW

On the subject of design's potential to inspire hope, Tania Handelsmann and Gillian Khaw believe "an interior with colour and playfulness can lift the spirits, but on a deeper level, surrounding oneself with beauty does do something for the soul." **2024 HIGHLIGHT** Projects that "allowed us to create the best version of H+K's style," the founders share. "We're really enjoying this stage of being comfortable in our own 'design' skin. There's something liberating about not needing to prove oneself."

UP NEXT A lighting range with Dunlin — the studio's first foray into product — and they're branching out with a retail fit-out, too.



DECUS

The sky's the limit for managing director Alexandra Donohoe Church, whose residential projects are known for their elevated scale and atmospheres. She views design as an invitation to pause and reconnect, and regards beauty as a "powerful antidote" to negativity. **2024 HIGHLIGHT** Donohoe Church says she felt most rewarded by new commissions and collaborations with long-time clients, a sourcing trip in France, and "bumping into my design hero, Pierre Yovanovitch, at PAD London!" **UP NEXT** As well as projects in North Bondi, Cottesloe and Sydney's east, the team will embark on their next chapter and passion project: the restoration of a new Decus studio.



K.P.D.O.

"We're looking for the best possible solution for each project. The best quality of light and space, the most logical plan and the most beautiful materials. The best solution is a synthesis of all of these simple elements," state K.P.D.O.'s director of interiors Kerry Phelan and director of architecture Stephen Javens, who agree that "it's an incredibly liberating time to be part of the wider design community". **2024 HIGHLIGHT**

One particular residential project proved especially rewarding. "Our challenge was to keep the soul of a 1930s English Revival home set in an Edna Walling garden." **UP NEXT** The reveal of the Mobilia Sydney showroom's Special Exhibitions Space.

