

# THE BIG REVEAL

Meet the faces scooping firsts in the *Belle Fanuli* Interior Design Awards.

Words JUDY PASCOE

Arent & Pyke

JULIETTE ARENT &  
SARAH-JANE PYKE

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

WINNER

*Belle Fanuli* Interior  
Designer of the Year

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Residential Interior  
GARDEN HOUSE

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Residential  
Kitchen Design  
GARDEN HOUSE

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Residential Interior  
– Readers' Choice  
GARDEN HOUSE

Photography ALANA LANDSBERRY

**WITH ECCENTRICITY** and functionality in equal measure the Garden House by Arent&Pyke defies description except that it is a winning formula. Garnering first prizes for Best Residential Interior (sponsored by Luxaflex), Best Residential Kitchen Design (sponsored by Winning Appliances) and Best Residential Interior – Readers' Choice (sponsored by Fanuli) for Garden House as well as being named Interior Designers of the Year are fitting accolades for Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke's body of work. A certain magic happens in their projects – a heady concoction of glamour, humour, quirky touches and feminine embellishment. In fashioning the Garden House to comply with the clients' passion for art, colour and gardens, disparate elements combined to create a timeless scenario reminiscent of an Italian villa yet firmly ensconced in the Sydney landscape. Openness, connection to nature, esoteric furniture and artworks are hallmarks of the scheme. The almost monastic nature of the spaces promotes tranquillity, emphasised by rough-rendered walls and cool chequerboard terrazzo floor tiles, and offset by the voluptuous garden outside. [arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com)

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YSG

YASMINE GHONIEM

**FROM THE HIGH-OCTANE ACID** hues, flashy metals and grungy elements of a Sydney brewery to the soothing shades and myriad marbles of a coastal home, Yasmine Ghoniem plays with the colour spectrum, making her newly-minted YSG studio the standout for the Best Work with Colour award (sponsored by Ilve). Yasmine's electric combination of tangerine, salmon and plum in a waterfront apartment sizzles and pops but hard on its heels comes a musk, plum and lilac palette in an empty nesters' fantasy penthouse, spliced with lapis-blue granite, Calacatta Viola marble and accents of citrus and blueberry. Whether residential, commercial or hospitality, the excitement of her projects is palpable. She renders conventional corporate offices redundant and tired bars obsolete, instead igniting spaces with spritzes of unexpected hues and jolts of saturated drama. The studio marches to the beat of its own drum and "rocks a mood of anarchy" – clearly attracting a slew of like-minded devotees. *ysg.studio*

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Work with Colour

Photography JEM CRESSWELL

YASMINE WAS PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE FOUR PILLARS GIN LABORATORY IN SURRY HILLS, SYDNEY.



**A COMMUNITY LANDMARK FOR** nearly a century, the Harbord Hotel has welcomed a brilliant makeover that has brought a casual elegance to its pervading retro surf-shack vibe and netted the Best Hospitality Interior award for Alexander & Co. Principal Jeremy Bull, a serial Hospitality Interior winner and a former Interior Designer of the Year, employed a mix of original masonry with spotted-gum ceilings, stone-flagged floors and pops of terrazzo and green marble to reference the hotel's Art Deco origins. With longboards and potted cactus providing decorative interest the look is spirited but laidback, truly capturing the essence of an Aussie beach pub. An equal triumph in the eyes of the judges was Alexander House, Alexander & Co's entry for Best Commercial Interior (sponsored by Signorino). As a paradigm for a contemporary creative workspace the Sydney headquarters for the design practice had to be all things to all people – "an architectural residential showcase and purpose-built live/work set-up". Alexander House is all that and more. Not only does it afford the designers an inspirational space in which to practice their craft it also offers the facility to interact with colleagues, meet with clients and even stay over if needed. The small terrace footprint was maximised over four levels with indoor and outdoor areas, private workstations, meeting rooms, sleeping quarters, bathrooms, a steam room, pool and a cafe/kitchen that can accommodate the entire team of 24. And in keeping with the firm's ethos Alexander House is a prototype for carbon sequestration, environmental innovation and sustainability. *alexanderand.co*

Photography ALANA LANDSBERRY

Alexander & Co

JE REMY BULL

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Hospitality Interior  
HARBORD  
HOTEL

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Commercial Interior  
ALEXANDER  
HOUSE



**WITH A YOUTHFUL PRACTICE** just five years old Carole Whiting has already made her mark with a range of residential and commercial properties defined by a pared-back aesthetic. Her work on two outstanding boutique retreats north of Sydney for Wild Luxury Co, Calabash Bay Lodge and Crane Lodge, is subtle and refined and both properties enjoy a symbiotic connection to their natural surroundings. Carole’s artisan approach to furnishings and finishes allows for warmth and texture while her preferred palette of neutral tones fosters a feeling of calm. With an emphasis on ‘authentic design’ and a sense of place, the setting always informs Carole’s response, whether it is a sensitive upscale and integration of a new extension to an inner-city Edwardian home or the reinvention of a simple, informal country property. [carolewhiting.com](http://carolewhiting.com)

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS  
—  
**WINNER**  
Emerging Design Star



Carole Whiting  
Studio  
—  
CAROLE WHITING



Photography **TIM O’CONNOR**



ARTWORKS BY BETTY MBITUJANA, EMMA WALKER AND SUSAN BAIRD.

Photography **JEM CRESSWELL**

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS  
—  
**WINNER**  
Best Residential  
Bathroom Design  
**LENA**



Smart Design Studio  
—  
WILLIAM SMART

**THE EPITOME OF ELEGANCE**, the marble-swathed ensuite at Lena, a heritage-listed home in Sydney, has taken out the award for Best Residential Bathroom Design (sponsored by CDK Stone) for William Smart of Smart Design Studio. While the significant heritage features of the home were retained and enhanced during a major upgrade there was also an injection of contemporary elements, not least in the bathrooms, satisfying the owners’ wish for space, light and sun. To that wishlist the architect added a generous dash of drama, setting the entrance to the ensuite through a stone portal that alludes to the doorways in ancient buildings. Beyond, a series of freestanding marble boxes sit like furniture within the heritage space and provide light and enclosure to different areas, separating the bath, shower and toilet. The perimeter heritage walls are lined in DuPont Corian or painted white for a soft and elegant finish. Aged-iron tapware, art and sculpture by Bruce Armstrong customise the space, totalling a fine example of the studio’s aim of delivering “bold yet highly resolved and sustainable works”. [smartdesignstudio.com](http://smartdesignstudio.com)



Photography **JEM CRESSWELL**

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

—  
**WINNER**

Hall of Fame

Hare + Klein

MERYL HARE

**WITH A LAUDED** interior-design practice and longevity in the industry Meryl Hare is a fitting Hall of Fame inductee. Her projects, both residential and commercial, span the decades since she established her studio in 1989, and the schemes she devised then look as fresh and on point today. Favouring a subtle, sophisticated aesthetic, Meryl's facility in combining a rich palette of furnishings, finishes, artwork and decorative items with simple, beautiful detailing is renowned. Recent projects such as the Edge House, the Harbourside Residence and the Beach House illustrate the multi-award-winning studio's ethos of enhancing life through good design, and providing "layers of texture, warmth, refined comfort and a sense of the client's personality". Graciousness and an appropriate sense of permanence is at the heart of all Hare + Klein's projects. [hareklein.com.au](http://hareklein.com.au)