

The West Australian

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MATERIAL WORLD

Perth's top interior designers reveal their decorating tips and tricks of the trade



Contemporary fit-out: Most clients use an interior designer to assist with bringing their ideas into one cohesive look.

Interior designer Dominique Tiller's style is the embodiment of laid-back luxury. Evoking a refined Australian feel, her interiors favour natural materials and beautiful, layered textures, providing tactility, warmth and an effortless feel to classic or contemporary interiors.

Ms Tiller said creating a successful interior solution was all about connecting the space with its environment to create continuity and a sense of visual comfort.

It should also complement, not compete with, the external environment while reflecting the client's needs.

"We have become so work oriented, time poor and often disconnected that our living spaces should nurture us, provide comfort and help us reconnect with ourselves," she said.

"They need to be more heart than head.

"I thoroughly believe that our interior spaces and the environment we live in have a huge impact on our sense of well-being and happiness."

Ms Tiller, who recently returned to Perth from working in London, said interior designers, like architects, helped clients to visualise and enhance their ideas for a new home or renovation.

"Most clients use an interior designer to assist with bringing their ideas into one cohesive look," she said.

"It's not uncommon for clients to have too many different ideas and it is the job of the interior designer to coax them into one direction that works for them.

"Their expertise and product knowledge can really help the client achieve the look they desire and the bottom line is that they will save you time, money and frustration."

When a person was choosing an interior designer, Ms Tiller said they

A useful tool was to put together a scrapbook of colour swatches, fabric samples and magazine or catalogue pictures of furniture.

should first determine the style they wanted to achieve, then research similar styles and check the credentials of the person they planned to hire.

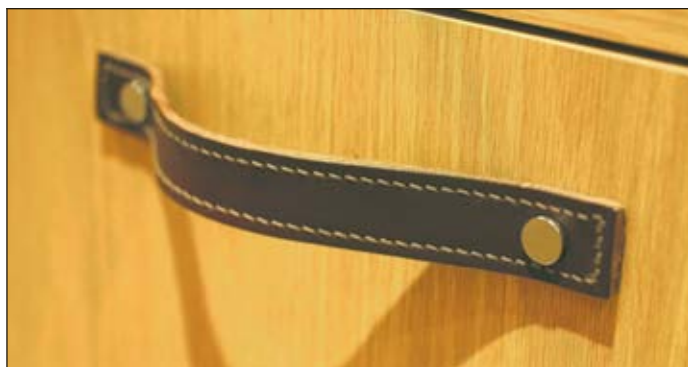
They should also discuss the project thoroughly with prospective candidates and choose the designer they felt most comfortable with.

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"The client must take responsibility for briefing the designer properly as this helps the designer get inside the client's head," she said.

Finally, when considering how to allocate the budget, it was important not to compromise on fittings and fixtures such as flooring, tap fittings, door hardware and lighting.

Amanda Lewis



Budget must: Don't compromise on fittings such as handles or taps.



Finishing touch: Designer tiles in the bathroom.



Interior designer: Dominique Tiller.



End detail: Powder room.

TOP 5 DESIGN TIPS

- Consider lighting in the early stages of the design process as it can have dramatic effects and provide mood if done properly.
- Assess the room for its best features and accentuate them. Bad features can be minimised through counter action.
- Have one or two major statement pieces to draw the eye in the room. This can be a striking artwork, fabulous piece of furniture or artefact collection. The remaining furniture and furnishings should complement these pieces.
- Provide textural differences in all components, from the walls to the fabrics.
- Keep referring to the overall design concept and theme in making all design selections.

DOMINIQUE TILLER INTERIORS: 9489 3503

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