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A place to call home

The trio behind Three Birds Renovations have released a new book designed to help everyday Australians bring their dream living spaces to life



Pictures: Maree Homer Photography Pty Ltd

JESSIE STOELWINDER

Picture your dream home: what does it look like?

Is it reminiscent of Santorini, with curving white walls, or Marrakesh, with colourful layered textiles?

Maybe it is a whitewashed country cottage or entertainer's paradise complete with a luxe pool and outdoor kitchen.

Whatever the answer is, one of Australia's best-known renovating teams has the secrets to making these wishes a reality.

Bonnie Hindmarsh, Erin Cayless and Lana Taylor from Three Birds Renovations this week debuted their second book, a follow-up to their self-titled 2019 debut.

As the name suggests, Dream Home How-To shares a glimpse at swoon-worthy builds and renos completed by the trio, plus before-and-afters from their community.

The concept of a dream home does not need to feel out of reach, Hindmarsh says. It's a feeling, rather than a pricepoint or block size.

"For me, a dream home is a space that when you walk into it, you feel amazing," she says.

"I think the way you feel in your home is important. Some people want to feel like they are on holidays in their home; they want to walk in and feel relaxed, chilled out and happy. Other people want their spaces to be a sanctuary or something moodier, so they feel safe and enclosed. A dream home is different for each person, but it starts with how they feel."

Hindmarsh personally gravitates towards a look that is fresh and coastal, so she can "sip a cocktail" and be transported to a faraway destination.

"I love really bright spaces; light, to me, is really important," she says. "I don't have curtains in my bedroom because I like to wake up to the sun."

The Birds' popularity on social media — which includes more

than 870,000 Instagram followers — and via their online Reno School and Styling School, has only grown in the time since their first book, despite the effects of the pandemic.

Hindmarsh believes there has been a spike in Australians tackling their own projects because they are looking for an escape.

"The appetite for renovation has grown because people are sitting in their lounge rooms and looking at their walls," she says.

"They have been thinking, 'how can I make the space I come home to and spend so much time in, somewhere that I love?'"

Not only have the trio helped inspire a new generation of home

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renovators, but they are also setting trends in the interiors world on a global level. Pictures of their breezy, inviting spaces have been liked, tagged and shared in the millions on social media and many have used the designs as inspiration for their decor.

While Hindmarsh enjoys participating in the trend cycle, she prefers to keep the bones of her builds more timeless.

"When I am renovating, I don't follow trends, but you can always bring them in through homewares," she says. "Soft furnishings are great if you want to get stuck into a certain trend because you can swap them out."

For those who can't put their personal style into words, Hindmarsh suggests collating reference pictures.

"Creating your vision board is really personal," she says. "What one person loves, the next doesn't like."

Three Birds Renovations: Dream Home How-To, published by Murdoch Books, \$39.99

FAMILY FOCUS

STYLE UP, NOT STYLE DOWN

"I have a 15-year-old son and I think I styled his room when he was 11," Bonnie Hindmarsh says. "There's a big age difference there, so originally he thought it was cool that he had a climbing frame in his room and a swing but it's not so cool now he's 15. The key when you're designing children's spaces is not to have them polarisingly young. Let them grow into the space."

WASH YOUR WHITES

"If you have young children and you want a light-coloured house with a white couch, just make sure they have washable covers. I have four boys and four dogs and a lot of white furniture, but man, I wash those covers when they get grubby. White isn't horrible to live with because you see it and you clean it. "Darker couches actually get a lot more dirty because you can't see it."

EVEN MORE

"In-built storage is the best and even the paint you choose, something you can just wipe over, is great."

