



NSW DESIGNER PROFILE: HELEN BAUMANN

From TV production sets to home interiors, design has been Helen's passion for as long as she can remember

Helen Baumann of Helen Baumann Design discovered the real joy of designing interesting spaces while working as a Set Designer at the ABC in the '90s, but had been involved in the field since completing her BA in interior design a few years earlier.

During her time at the ABC, Helen was expected and encouraged to offer up original set design ideas while considering the director's brief. She now applies those principles and methodology to her interior design projects and acknowledges her set design experience is a big part of why her current designs are so original and creative.

"I am currently designing a laundry and bathroom combo that will work beautifully as both a guest bathroom and laundry," Helen reveals. "One of my goals is to design the ultimate French provincial kitchen on a large country property with the vegetable garden waiting outside."

Having been raised by a Swiss family who immigrated to Australia in the '50s, Helen has a healthy appreciation of the European lifestyle and aesthetic. "I was brought up with beautiful home-cooked meals made from fresh produce grown from our father's

vegetable garden. I was also made aware of how fortunate we are in Australia with our open spaces and indoor/outdoor lifestyle," she adds. Helen enjoys travelling back to Europe for design inspiration, and always comes home with myriad new project ideas.

"I am very excited about exploring more organic shapes such as curves in bathroom products, including cabinetry, tiles, mirrors and vanities," Helen says when discussing fashions for the year ahead. "I am very aware of global trends and the renewed interest in a natural palette of materials such as timber laminates

and thin porcelain benchtops. I enjoy presenting new ideas to my clients, even if it's just a starting point for them.

"I work so closely with my clients that it often becomes a new treasured friendship," continues Helen. "I do believe successful design outcomes are the result of very close collaboration between the client, designer and the building team. My goal for my clients is to provide an enjoyable design process and avoid the stress of last-minute decision making."