



DESIGN PROFILE: Clair Wayman, Curio & Curio

Curiosity may have killed the cat, but interior stylist Clair Wayman's inquisitiveness heralded her new adventure as a textiles designer

WORDS VANESSA KEYS

Clair's fresh designs for her label, Curio & Curio, combine her passion for retro chic with kooky patterns and sleek silhouettes, all hand-printed on linen using non-toxic inks. "Since studying textile design at college, I've had a longing to start my own screen-printed range; it was only after working as a stylist in the interiors industry for so many years that I felt ready to take the plunge," says Clair. "I also wanted to become more hands on – there's nothing more satisfying than lifting the screen on a freshly printed design." Cushions and bags are the heroes of Curio & Curio's range, but watch this space: Clair's notebook is brimming with sketches for homewares. For details, call 0417 252 852 or visit clairliviawayman.com, and check out Clair's new store, Curio & Curio, at Shop 4, 50 Cook St, Flinders, Victoria.

INSIDE STORY

"When decorating a room, I tend to choose one piece that has the wow factor, such as a gorgeous armchair, and work from there. I choose a palette of up to three colours and make sure most elements in the room have one of these tones, so the pieces tie in to create a story."



PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP LEFT) DAN MAGREE, (CENTRE RIGHT) JAMES GEER



ARTISAN TOUCH

"I love creating quality, handmade pieces using age-old screen-printing techniques. The world has become such a hectic, complicated place that it's nice to go back to simple crafts. All I need is a few silk screens and printing ink to produce the designs, though I do confess that my Apple Mac is my best friend when comes to creating patterns. I also love the chance to haul out my old Singer sewing machine and stitch together cushions and bags."

'Robin in the Roses' cushion in Purple & Crimson,
'Herringbone Horse' cushion in Turquoise & Magenta,
'Festival of the Cow' cushion in Lawn Green,
Purple & Sky Blue, all \$90 each.

A self-confessed bowerbird, Clair is both a hunter and curator of beautiful things. We peek into her Melbourne address book to steal her style secrets...

Best store to score a bargain: Lulu, Balaclava, lulustore.com.au. "The owner Sal does a brilliant job sourcing unusual pieces from new designers."

Favourite florist: Ocean Flowers, Beaumaris, (03) 9589 3279. "I always buy bundles of beautiful yellow Dancing Lady orchids, which last for weeks."

Cosiest book nook: Metropolis Bookshop, Melbourne, metropolisbookshop.com.au. "This hidden gem is a one-stop shop for designers and creative types."

Most soothing spot: Heide Museum, Bulleen, heide.com.au. "Walking around the beautiful house and grounds gives me instant inspiration."

Weekend getaway: Qdos, Lorne, qdosarts.com.

"Qdos is a Japanese-style treehouse set by the seaside. There's a gallery on site, sculptures around the garden and the most scrumptious breakfast menu."