

KERB APPEAL:  
**FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

MAKE YOUR HOME FOREVER MEMORABLE WITH A FRONT DOOR THAT REFLECTS YOUR OWN PERSONAL STYLE

WORDS VANESSA KEYS



THE FRONT DOOR is the very first thing visitors see, not to mention the one part of the home that, without fail, we interact with every day. Yet, it's often the last thing we think about when buying or renovating our homes. "The front door creates a first impression aesthetically about the home and the people who live inside it," says architect and managing director Matt Riley of Tonic Design. Choosing an entrance door is a delicate balance of style and practicality. Here are the materials and styles guaranteed to turn heads - plus the ideas and innovations to pay attention to in 2019.

**TREND WATCH**  
OUR DESIGN EXPERTS PICK THE FRONT-RUNNING LOOKS FOR 2019

**OUTDOOR FRONT DOORS:** "In subtropical homes, we're exploring the notion of no front door by moving it to the front gate with the use of gatehouses as dominant features," explains Matt Riley of Tonic Design.  
**CUSTOM CLADDING:** "By continuing the cladding that runs next to the front door onto the door, you get a really nice transition and instant impact," suggests director Frank Tarulli of Thomas Arches.  
**EAST COAST CHEG:** The Hampton's trend is only getting bigger. "We're using lots of deep jewel tones, like inky navy and emerald green, plus pastel favourites like mint and soft pink," says Frank.  
**SLEEK SIMPLICITY:** "There's new interest in minimal designs that are flat or have straight lines, mainly in bright colours to enhance neutral exterior schemes," says marketing manager Carver Broomhall of Parkwood Doors.  
**COTTAGE CHARM:** "Barn-style doors in solid timber fitted with black iron hardware are big right now," says Carver.



Create a cohesive front entry scene by matching your door with the architectural features of your home's facade.



Flank your front door with pots containing tightly pruned plants for a regal welcome.



"We're seeing more customers willing to take risks with the style and colour of their front door. They want it to stand out" - Daniel Mazzei, Mazzei Homes

**Material choices**

While solid timber remains the most popular type of front door, take a look at these other contenders on the market - particularly if your front door is exposed to the elements. Powder-coated aluminium: A budget-friendly, low-maintenance choice, aluminium won't absorb moisture or bow in the heat. However, you are limited in choice to the predetermined powder coat colours available on the market. Steel: "Superior in strength and insulating value, a steel door is a clever way to give your home's exterior an industrial look," says director Daniel Mazzei of Mazzei Homes. Be mindful that steel will rust over a long period

of time as its protective coating wears away. Fibreglass: A hard-wearing surface, fibreglass resists dents and scratches and, unlike timber or steel, is impervious to rot and rust. It can be painted or stained to create a woodgrain or smooth-skin look. These doors are usually manufactured with the frame attached, so if your doorway isn't a standard size, you may need the help of a fibreglass specialist. Timber: "A solid timber door lends a classic, timeless look and can be easily customised," says Daniel. "It also has great insulation and soundproofing. But these can be expensive to maintain, so avoid [timber] if your entrance isn't covered by a verandah or portico." >





Brightly patterned timber door and spacious glass, as seen in this home designed by Alisa And Miller, will boost your curb appeal.

PHOTOGRAPHY: THE IMAGE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: GREG COHEN/REAR; ANNETTE DUBIN; CORTY; JERRY PENCE PHOTOGRAPHY/ALISA AND MILLER

### PAINT COLOURS OUR TOP HUES TO GIVE YOUR FRONT DOOR A REFRESH

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**Wink & Nod in Sea Blue, 2452/LL, Dulux**

For a Hampton's style, choose deep jewel tones, such as navy, sage and emerald green, and offset against cool white.
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**Wink & Nod in Domino, 4483/LL, Dulux**

Near-black is green or emerald green, beautifully with rough textures like brick, wood or stone. Pair with white or grey for an elegant scheme.
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**All Weather in After Shave, 215/LL, Taubmans**

Natural-looking such as greens, dark egg blue and oranges are ideal for rural homes, as they complement their surroundings.
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**Wink & Nod in Old Money, 2473/LL, Dulux**

Rich, glossy shades, including Oxford Blue, emerald and forest green, and work well on period homes with a classic palette.
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**All Weather in Sea Blue, 2452/LL, Taubmans**

Bold, happy shades, as well as yellow, lemon, lime and terracotta oranges, add instant warmth to any home's exterior.



Oversized and decorative, carved timber double doors create a sense of grandeur at the threshold.



Think glossy and bright with sunshine yellow to bring a cheery feel to a period-style home.

**Which style is right for you?**  
 "The most common mistake I see is people choosing off-the-shelf front doors that don't reflect the style of their home or neighbourhood," says Matt Riley of Toxic Design. "You want the style of your front door to blend in with the home's design and boost its appeal, not detract from it." His advice is to pick a style that reflects the exterior, and make a statement with colour. Here are the top design options. **Solid panel:** Characterised by raised or flat panels, usually in pairs of two, four or six, this style came of age in England during the Georgian era. It's best suited to heritage homes, such as Victorian terraces and Art Deco and Federation-style homes. These doors offer good insulation and soundproofing so are well suited to homes on busy streets. **Glazed panel:** Even the slightest window in your front door can work wonders, as it allows natural light into the hallway,

especially useful if your entryway tends to get dark. Choose from clear, frosted or tinted glass – just make sure that it's well-insulated and double-paned with good UV protection. EcoStar has a wide range of double-glazed doors. **Tongue and groove:** Less ornate than a panel door, this design is ideal for newer homes built in the Hampton's style, plus weatherboards and cottages. "These are available in any material to suit your environment," says Carver of Parkwood Doors. "They're timeless yet modern, so will last the distance." **Flush:** Commonly used as interior doors, flush front doors have become increasingly popular in the last decade. Their smooth surface makes them ideal for contemporary homes with sleek architectural designs. Personalise this door type with statement hardware – angular metal handles or oversized door knobs are popular, or create contrast with something surprisingly ornate. **10**