

Listening to the news recently, I heard the words 'privilege of proximity' regarding international relations. While we're not talking foreign affairs here, it struck me that I have had the privilege of proximity in seeing the work of Australia's finest designers evolve over the last decade and a half. Working on *Belle and House & Garden* opens the doors to many stylish and clever compositions from our talented pool of Australian architects and interior designers. So I'm delighted to finally announce the 2021 *Belle Fanuli Interior Design Awards* winners (p43). Despite Covid disruptions and the inability to have a fabulous party, it is exciting to reveal our finest talent. Winners of the top accolade, *Belle Fanuli Interior Designers of the Year* Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke of Arent&Pyke, have been wowing interior-design lovers and clients for years. This duet and their team mesh their strengths to create decorating magic. Art and colourful soft furnishings sit with bespoke, new and unusual pieces from a plethora of sources and eras in spaces that exude warmth and love. And their inclusive commercial projects make guests feel at home – I am thinking of my stays at Perth's Alex Hotel, where the common areas are like visiting a glamorous, well-travelled friend's house. The duo proved a *quattro* threat this year by taking out four awards.

Yasmine Ghoniem of YSG has a truly individual style and it's impossible to guess what she will come up with next. Anyone who can elegantly rock a mullet with lime-green zebra-patterned pants and a sequinned jacket knows her way around a colour wheel. So it's no surprise that Yasmine won this year's Best Work with Colour for her edgy take on a gin house for Four Pillars Gin Distillery. Jeremy Bull of Alexander & Co injects classic looks with a contemporary sustainable ethos into his projects in an effortless, timeless style. His Alexander House – Alexander & Co's own creative workspace adjoining his family residence – is a fabulous example. This year, Jeremy and team won two awards – Best Hospitality Interior for Harbord Hotel and Best Commercial Interior for Alexander House. Carole Whiting's serene aesthetic infuses all her work, whether it's an inner-city heritage home or an exclusive property such as Calabash Bay Lodge, p126. While Carole has been designing interiors for years, she struck out with her own studio only recently, hence her award for Emerging Design Star. William Smart of Smart Design Studio won Best Residential Bathroom for heritage house Lena. He does such incredible global and local work, including the renowned Indigo Slam for philanthropist Judith Neilson, that it seems slightly incongruous that he is picking up a simple bathroom gong. In his sublime schemes, fixtures are crafted in beautiful, robust materials and float like monuments to daily rituals. Winner of our Hall of Fame award Meryl Hare has been creating impeccably tailored, yet casually sophisticated, interiors for dedicated clients for decades. Some clients have had multiple chic home interiors conjured with Meryl's magic, and her style is now making its way down to the children of those early devotees.

Congratulations to our brilliant winners, and thank you to the many design stars who entered, and our judges and sponsors: Fanuli, Winning Appliances, Signorino, CDK Stone, Luxaflex and Ilve – we are very appreciative to work with such highly regarded brands.

Take a couple of hours to enjoy this issue – I love the feeling when my eyes rest on an admirably resolved space, and there are plenty for your pleasure on the following pages.

Tanya Buchanan

Tanya Buchanan, *Editor-in-chief*



JULIETTE ARENT AND SARAH-JANE PYKE ARE THE BELLE FANULI INTERIOR DESIGNERS OF THE YEAR.



PHOTOGRAPHY ALANA LANDSBERRY (ARENTPYKE), KRISTINA SOLJO (TANYA BUCHANAN)



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THE BIG REVEAL

Meet the faces scooping firsts in the Belle Fanuli Interior Design Awards.

Words JUDY PASCOE



Arent & Pyke

JULIETTE ARENT & SARAH-JANE PYKE

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS

WINNER

Belle Fanuli Interior Designer of the Year

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS

WINNER

Best Residential Interior GARDEN HOUSE

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS

WINNER

Best Residential Kitchen Design GARDEN HOUSE

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS

WINNER

Best Residential Interior - Readers' Choice GARDEN HOUSE

Photography ALANA LANDSBERRY

WITH ECCENTRICITY and functionality in equal measure the Garden House by Arent&Pyke defies description except that it is a winning formula. Garnering first prizes for Best Residential Interior (sponsored by Luxaflex), Best Residential Kitchen Design (sponsored by Winning Appliances) and Best Residential Interior – Readers’ Choice (sponsored by Fanuli) for Garden House as well as being named Interior Designers of the Year are fitting accolades for Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke’s body of work. A certain magic happens in their projects – a heady concoction of glamour, humour, quirky touches and feminine embellishment. In fashioning the Garden House to comply with the clients’ passion for art, colour and gardens, disparate elements combined to create a timeless scenario reminiscent of an Italian villa yet firmly ensconced in the Sydney landscape. Openness, connection to nature, esoteric furniture and artworks are hallmarks of the scheme. The almost monastic nature of the spaces promotes tranquillity, emphasised by rough-rendered walls and cool chequerboard terrazzo floor tiles, and offset by the voluptuous garden outside. arentpyke.com

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