



04 Jun 2017

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Adelaide

Section: Home • Article type : News Item • Audience : 190,789 • Page: 20
Printed Size: 634.00cm² • Market: SA • Country: Australia • ASR: AUD 14,119
Words: 541 • Item ID: 782688117

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Steal the style of NZ homes

When you're looking to build or renovate your next home, thinking outside the square can often be a good starting point. Taking inspiration from homes built in other parts of the world is a way to uncover new and different ways of thinking and ways of living.

Donna Hole, head of Trade Services at hipages, the go-to app for Aussies to find and hire a tradie, says gauging ideas from our neighbouring Kiwis and their styles of homes is a good source of inspiration. "Our neighbours across the pond have continued to evolve their housing styles since the 1880s. Draw inspiration and style tips from the progressive trends New Zealand has on offer with these different housing trends," she says.

The early villa

Villas are typically made from timber or brick with a metal roof, similar to the style of Australia's Federation homes. Villas are a renovator's dream as they can be restored easily to bring old architecture into a new era. The original features, such as detailed fretwork and pressed-metal ceilings can be restored freely as they've usually been preserved quite well over time. Good for those who like structure.

Art Deco

The 1930s and 1940s saw the Art Deco style sweep through New Zealand. Art Deco is a very distinctive trend and while it is an old architecture style, it is still very popular and slick today. To bring the Art Deco look into your home consider geometric patterns, bright colours, exotic styles and themes, and decadent detail work.

The English cottage

Emulating the design of old-English dwellings, English cottages are popular home choices in New Zealand. The main design of the cottage stemmed from Britain's 'art and craft movement', which

favoured craftsmanship and hand-made furniture. The cottages are usually two-storey with a steep double-pitched roof, veranda and natural timber balustrades. To get this look in your home, adopt unique furniture pieces and one of a kind antiques.

Californian bungalow

The late 1800s saw the influx of American design and culture in New Zealand. Affordable Californian style bungalows were a huge hit, not to mention a refreshing contrast to the more detailed cottages and villas ever present in the suburbs. Many bungalows had porches instead of fences and inside the home, unique timber panels were typical. Consider corrugated iron roofing and wood interiors to get the feel of a Californian bungalow at your place.

The modern Kiwi home

Kiwi homes are continually evolving and while there are still older style homes on offer, New Zealand has now entered a new era of individual design and architecture. Homes are being designed to suit the climate; bigger windows, great ventilation, indoor areas that transition outdoors, better insulation and weatherproof designs. There is also a push for homes to be built with energy efficiency in mind with more building designers working with passive construction and sustainable materials.

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