

WORDS AND PICTURES

What to read: the latest books chosen by LEANNE WALSTOW



AUSTRALIAN DESIGNERS AT HOME

by Jenny Rose-Innes (Thames & Hudson, £29.95)

It is easy to think of Australian interiors as predominantly light, whitewashed, pared-back contemporary spaces with an abundance of glass, steel and timber (often accompanied by sweeping views of blue sky and sea). However, in her new book, South African author Jenny Rose-Innes (who now lives in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales) reveals that Antipodean decoration isn't always just about celebrating the new.

Here, she showcases the homes of 20 of Australia's most sought-after interior designers. In the mix are old-school decorators such as Michael Love and Ros Palmer; colour fanatics Briony Fitzgerald (the sister of Skye Gyngell and designer of her London restaurant, Spring) and Anna Spiro (whose guest cottage was in *House & Garden* in May 2019); modernists Christian Lyon and Iain Halliday; and the likes of American-born, Sydney-based Thomas Hamel and Blainey North

(who also has an office in London), known for mixing casual chic with contemporary glamour.

Jenny reveals how deeply the roots of Australian interior design are still tied to European and Far East Asian history, while providing inspiration for a British audience. Many of the rooms are intimate and inviting, proportionally in the same scale as the Victorian ones people inhabit in the UK. Eighteenth-century antiques and ceramics, exquisite silks and linens, bergère chairs and tapestries play a vital role in rooms, as much as the use of vibrant contemporary Australian artworks, bold colours and dynamic tribal prints. Most of all, the author – herself a passionate serial house renovator – loved spending time with the designers in their own homes. 'I was able to begin to understand the essence of their work and their whole way of thinking,' she writes enthusiastically. **Fiona McCarthy**

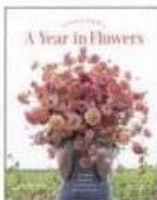


BEDTIME BY CELIA FORNER
(VENDOME PRESS, £50)

Celia Forner has distilled a broad history of a specific topic into a wonderful book that celebrates the bedroom.

She has been careful not to

get too bogged down in the details of design and function, ensuring the text is more anecdotal than academic. As well as visits to historic bedchambers, there is a sprinkle of celebrity, with many a Hollywood starlet populating a sumptuous boudoir. The later part of the book charts the rise of the professional decorator, with rooms by the likes of Alidad and Bunny Williams rounding off this amusing potted history. **LW**



**FLORET FARM'S
A YEAR IN FLOWERS**

BY ERIN BENZAKEIN
(CHRONICLE BOOKS, £21.99)

Essentially a recipe book for creating seasonal bouquets, this covers everything from

sourcing to arranging. Erin Benzakein founded Floret Farm in 2008 after relocating to Washington state and this book is imbued with a sense of the charmed life the author's family enjoys there. The section about tools and materials is a checklist of what is needed to take your arrangements to the next level, but those seeking advice on producing flowers from soil to vase be warned – the subject is touched upon only briefly. **LW**



A WANDERING EYE
BY MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA
(VENDOME PRESS, £30)

Gathering 250 iPhone snapshots into a book may seem an unusual choice in the age of Instagram. But for revered

Argentinian interiors photographer Miguel Flores-Vianna, the site offers an alternative mode of expression for his remarkable eye, and the images he posts there are worth treasuring. Struck by wanderlust at an early age, the *Haute Bohemians* author has travelled widely, smartphone in hand. Presented with few captions, the pictures speak for themselves: from patterned tiles to a shimmering reflection of the Taj Mahal. **Sophie Devlin** □