

# theage (melbourne) magazine



## Special homes issue

Frilled to bits: inside designer Alannah Hill's new pad

Hot suburbs: where to buy next

My little black book: decorating secrets from the experts

Plus Melbourne's king of bling

# my little black book

Ever wondered where the experts find that perfect lamp, chair or even bargain piece of marble? Seven design insiders reveal their sources.

**Matt Gibson** architect and designer

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#### Where do you shop?

Inlite (80 Balmain Street, Richmond, phone 1300 465 483) stocks simple and cost-effective lighting solutions as well as high-end designer styles. We bought three Nottie pendant lights for a contemporary house renovation we did in St Kilda West – they really defined the space. Hafele Design Centre (75-77 Flinders Lane, city, phone 9212 2000) is a supplier of technical, finely worked joinery for kitchens and soft-closing mechanisms for entertainment units, fold-down ironing boards and pull-out rubbish bins. This is the kind of place that most architects know (we all keep our Hafele bible in our libraries), but the public might not. Juliet at Juliet Horsley Design (88 Park Road, Middle Park, phone 9534 0633) recreates classic pieces – stools, lamps, side tables – using raw and rustic timber. I haven't used her for clients yet, but I like her design approach. Apex Stone (71 Doherty's Road, Laverton North, phone 9360 0133) sell a great selection of marble and stone. We often take clients to select their slab. The size and colour of veining

varies widely, so if you don't hand-pick the marble it can often be unsuitable for your needs. Innerspace (level 1, 464 High Street, Prahran, phone 9510 7946) for great Louis and Regency eras and contemporary furniture. My wife recently bought lamps with acrylic stems and bases and black shades. Lennox Furniture (55 Dover Street, Richmond, phone 0418 529 300) make furniture to your specifications. They made a dining table, chairs and coffee table for us. It's often more cost-effective designing your own.

#### What are you seeing a lot of?

Old and new pieces mixed together and a lot of merging of interior and exterior spaces. Houses are making use of private open space with creative use of tight inner-city sites.

#### What trend has had its day?

Anything neo. I love old, authentic architecture. Neo mansions have had their day. We're in a decoration period at the moment, but it is often not done well. It can be over-lavish, with copies of copies.

#### What's that you've got there?

The Murano Ball lamp from Innerspace. Matt Gibson is at Matt Gibson A+D

