

AUSTRALIAN

HOUSE & GARDEN

SPECIAL
renovation
ISSUE!

WEEKEND DECORATOR

Fun with
fabric & paint
projects

SMART SHOPPING

Tables, towels
& audio buys

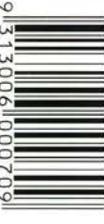
OUR TOP 20 ROSES

Best-ever
chocolate
recipes!

renovate + revamp

Tried and tested ways to add value to your home

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100%
Australian
HOMES

Stargazing



There's nothing like trawling through halls full of furniture, homewares, flooring and lighting stalls to unleash the decorating bug. Throw in a couple of celebrity designers and suddenly my home is a blank canvas... give or take a couple of children and the trappings of 20-odd years of cohabitation.

The Australian International Furniture Fair (AIFF), held in Sydney last month, was great fun, not least because, as sponsors of the International Industry Seminar Series, we got to rub shoulders with an exuberant Hollywood interior designer to the stars, Martyn Lawrence Bullard (aka MLB). Fun, fabulous and generous with his

time, the star of TV's *Million Dollar Decorators* wowed the crowd and left a legion of fans in his wake. (When was the last time a designer found a mob of acolytes in his hotel foyer?)

Things we learnt from MLB... ✨ Find new uses for great old things (the gargoyled mantelpiece he placed in supermodel icon Cheryl Tiegs' bedroom was an exterior windowsill from a demolished bank). ✨ Make the spaces you spend most time in *really* special (hang art in the kitchen, which he did for Ellen Pompeo). ✨ Entertain in the rooms you love most (in Cher's case, her boudoir; she hasn't used her kitchen in two years).

✨ It is possible to 'tattoo' a piano (Kid Rock's baby grand bears the same stamp as his shoulders). ✨ Don't lay down rugs or carpets if your dogs aren't house-trained (Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, who own 26 dogs, have bare floors: bleached, painted or stencilled). And who knew that the Prince of Darkness sleeps in a lilac bedroom with matching canopy?!

Things MLB learnt from us... ✨ That there are few things prettier than the Australian eucalyptus blossom he spotted at the *H&G Lounge* and promptly tweeted about.

Meanwhile, back at the office, the hardworking *H&G* team was compiling this special renovating issue and gleaning terrific insights from homeowners and industry experts as to the improvements that deliver the most bang for your buck, a million of them or otherwise. Their tips for value-adding make great reading. Enjoy.

Lisa

Editor in chief

Next month, we'll reveal the winner of our Garden of the Year competition, sponsored by Lindeman's. Who'll be heading off to the Chelsea Flower Show?



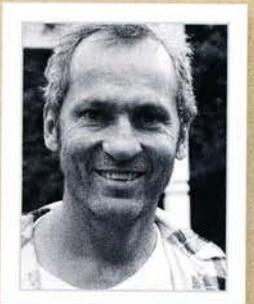
Martyn Lawrence Bullard (left) with his new discovery, the 'Summer Beauty' eucalyptus blossom, at the *H&G Lounge*. Our lounge (right) was the place to be at the AIFF, thanks to *H&G Style Director* Janet James and the teams at Orson & Blake, Publisher Textiles, Flowers by Teresa, Cadrys Handwoven Rug Specialists and Porter's Paints.

Meet our contributors



SUNNY DE BRUYN WRITER

Sunny has been writing about interiors and beautiful homes for almost a decade and loves to surround herself with gorgeous things. This issue, she writes about the sensitive restoration and renovation of a Sydney semi (*Kindred Spirits*, page 106) and wraps up all that's new in towels (page 195).



MARK WHITTAKER WRITER

H&G sent this Walkley Award winner to explore the Kimberley in style (page 160). "I've been there before and it's amazing," says Mark, "but looking at it from a luxury bus and sleeping in a comfortable bed lets you see it in a new way. Activities such as crabbing with an indigenous elder are what elevates the experience to a new level."