



threebirds
RENOVATIONS®

DEFINING YOUR RENO VISION

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By Lana



Renovating without a clear vision is like plonking yourself down in the swivel chair of a new hairdresser and saying, 'Do whatever you want.' Chances are you'll spend a fortune, be forced to live with something you don't want (bangs, anyone?) and it will all end in tears.

So it makes sense that our first week together kicks off with an essential first step in any renovation: creating your reno vision.

Creating a vision may sound a bit scary, maybe even a bit fluffy, but our success in the reno game comes from our experience, and we know that when you spend quality time planning, you create solid building blocks for renos that run smoother, quicker and deliver better results.



WHERE TO START?

WE START EVERY RENOVATION BY CREATING A VISION BOARD.



A vision board is just a glorified mood board, right? Wrong! It's much more than that. A mood board (despite its name) usually depicts how you want something to LOOK rather than how you want it to FEEL. Our vision boards do both. They capture how you want your reno to look (the aesthetics) and, more importantly, how you want to feel in the finished space (the vibe). Quite simply, they're a visual summary of your goals.

The vision board I created when planning my Forever Home reno captured that I wanted my home to look very white, fresh and minimalist – like a Santorini-inspired Mediterranean villa. It also helped me realise that I wanted my home to become a more social space – somewhere we could feel as if we were on holiday every day. Both elements of that vision were equally important to achieving my dream family home.

CREATING AND USING A VISION BOARD WILL HELP YOU TO:

- WORK OUT HOW YOU WANT YOUR HOME TO LOOK
- CLARIFY HOW YOU WANT YOUR HOME TO MAKE YOU FEEL
- STAY ON TRACK WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH

FLIP TIP IF YOU'RE RENOVATING TO SELL, A VISION BOARD IS A GREAT WAY TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPACT (AND VALUE) IN THE MARKET PLACE BY PRESENTING THE PROPERTY WITH A CONSISTENT LOOK AND FEEL. JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ON A TIGHT BUDGET DOESN'T MEAN THE HOUSE OR APARTMENT CAN'T BE BEAUTIFUL. THIS IS A COMMON MISNOMER WITH RENOVATING FOR PROFIT.



Lana's Forever Home

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED...



First, let's get the dream juices flowing with a few BIG questions. Don't hold back when you answer these – go broad with your thinking about your life, your family, your financial position, everything. Just brain-dump the little things and the big things. It's totally fine if some answers overlap a bit.

NOTE: We understand there are lots of different types of properties out there – houses, apartments, units, duplex, terraces, townhouses, semis, shacks and even caravans. For the sake of simplicity, we'll refer to them all as homes or houses throughout this course. If we need to highlight a particular difference, between apartments and houses for example, we will.

WHAT CHANGES DO YOU WANT TO MAKE TO YOUR HOME?

FOR EXAMPLE: 'I WANT TO RENOVATE MY BATHROOM.' OR 'I'M CREATING A NURSERY FOR MY NEW BABY.' OR 'I'M RENOVATING THE WHOLE HOUSE NOW THAT THE KIDS ARE OFF TO SCHOOL.'

Tip:

IF YOU ONLY PLAN TO RENOVATE PARTS OF YOUR HOME, THAT'S TOTALLY FINE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY RENOVATED SOME AREAS OR PERHAPS YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO DO IT ALL AT ONCE. HOWEVER, WHEN CREATING YOUR RENO VISION, YOU STILL NEED TO WORK WITH THE WHOLE HOME IN MIND. ULTIMATELY, YOU WILL WANT YOUR HOME TO HAVE A CONSISTENT LOOK AND FEEL THROUGHOUT - YOU CAN'T HAVE A FEDERATION STYLE OUT THE FRONT AND BOHO THEME OUT THE BACK. SO WE NEED TO CREATE A VISION FOR YOUR WHOLE HOME AND THEN MAKE SURE THE RENOVATIONS YOU PLAN TO DO TAKE YOU CLOSER TO THAT OVERARCHING VISION. YOU MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO DO A FEW MINOR THINGS TO THOSE PARTS OF THE HOME YOU'RE NOT RENOVATING, TO BRING THEM CLOSER TO YOUR WHOLE HOME VISION TOO. I DID THIS WITH MY FOREVER HOME RENO. I HAD PREVIOUSLY RENOVATED MY BACKYARD BEFORE STARTING MY HOME RENO. AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T HAVE A VISION BOARD SO MY BACKYARD (WITH NEW POOL) DIDN'T END UP MATCHING THE MODERN MEDITERRANEAN STYLE WHICH WAS THE VISION I CREATED FOR MY HOME A YEAR LATER. HOWEVER, I MADE A FEW SMALL, INEXPENSIVE UPDATES TO THAT AREA TO BRING IT MORE IN LINE WITH MY #SANTORINIINSYDNEY THEME. I EXPLAIN WHAT I DID IN OUR BLOG [HERE](#).

HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?

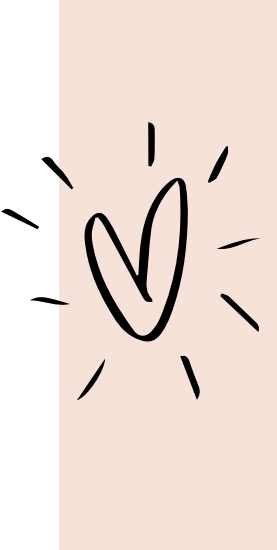
FOR EXAMPLE, HERE’S WHAT I WROTE ABOUT HOW I CURRENTLY LIVE:

I live in an upside-down house with the kitchen/living area upstairs and bedrooms downstairs. The kids never go into the backyard because it’s difficult to access. The three levels are not connected and we never have people over because there’s nowhere to entertain.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO RENOVATE?

HERE’S WHAT I WROTE ABOUT WHY I WANTED TO RENOVATE:

I want to renovate because I want to create my dream family home with a parents’ retreat, separate kids’ areas and a large open family zone that flows out onto the backyard. I want to have spaces to entertain in.





WHO WILL BENEFIT MOST FROM YOUR RENO?

IS IT YOU? YOUR FAMILY? EVERYONE WHO VISITS THE HOUSE? HOW WILL THEY FEEL LIVING IN THIS NEWLY RENOVATED SPACE? WILL IT CHANGE HOW YOU INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER? FOR EXAMPLE, MY HOME RENOVATION BENEFITED THE WHOLE FAMILY. WE'VE BECOME MUCH MORE SOCIAL SINCE RENOVATING AND THE KIDS SPEND MORE TIME OUTSIDE AND LESS TIME IN FRONT OF SCREENS BECAUSE THE BACKYARD IS SO WELL CONNECTED TO THE FAMILY ROOM.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO FEEL IN YOUR HOME?

INSERT WHICHEVER HAPPY WORDS COME TO MIND HERE!
HERE'S WHAT I WROTE:

“ I'm on holiday every day, calm and relaxed. ”

HOW DO YOU ENJOY SPENDING YOUR TIME AT HOME?

DO YOU LIKE ENTERTAINING? DO YOU LOVE A QUIET SPACE TO READ A BOOK?
ARE YOU IN THE KITCHEN WHILE THE KIDS ARE OUTSIDE?

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE FRIEND’S HOUSE OR A HOTEL THAT YOU LOVE?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?
ARE THERE ELEMENTS YOU WANT IN YOUR OWN HOME? WHAT ARE THEY?

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CURRENTLY GETS IN THE WAY OF YOU ENJOYING YOUR HOME EVERY DAY?

WHAT MUST YOU HAVE IN A HOME?

WHAT DOES YOUR DREAM HOME LOOK LIKE?

Before you fall in love with a vision of your dream home, do a bit of research so you understand the original architectural style of the home you have, as this should guide you on what ‘looks’ may be easiest to achieve. For example, if your house is a 1920s Californian bungalow, you’re probably best renovating to a style that works with some of the original features of that home rather than trying to create something completely different. With my home, the original Tuscan render made it easy to create a modern Mediterranean-style home – it just worked. If, however, my dream had been to have a Federation-style home with fretwork and a wrap-around balcony ... well, no amount of renovating would have made that happen because I wasn’t starting with a house that had Federation origins. Put another way, if you are born with the same colouring as Nicole Kidman or Naomi Watts, you’ll be forever disappointed if you keep showing inspo pictures of Eva Mendes to your hairdresser. ;-)

The same goes for houses. Work with what you’ve got and improve on it.

Not sure what different architectural styles are out there? Click [this link](#) to see what the experts say.

WRITE DOWN WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THE OVERALL DESIGN AESTHETIC, LOOK AND MOOD YOU ARE DRAWN TO (YOU CAN USE WORDS LIKE ‘COASTAL’, ‘HAMPTONS’, ‘SCANDI’, ‘MODERN’, ETC.), AS WELL AS ANY THOUGHTS YOU HAVE ABOUT YOUR RENO. REFERENCE COLOURS, TEXTURES AND MATERIALS (WARM, TIMBER, NATURAL, ORGANIC, SMOOTH ETC.). WE WILL HOME IN ON THE AESTHETIC LATER. FOR NOW, JUST WRITE DOWN YOUR IMMEDIATE THOUGHTS.

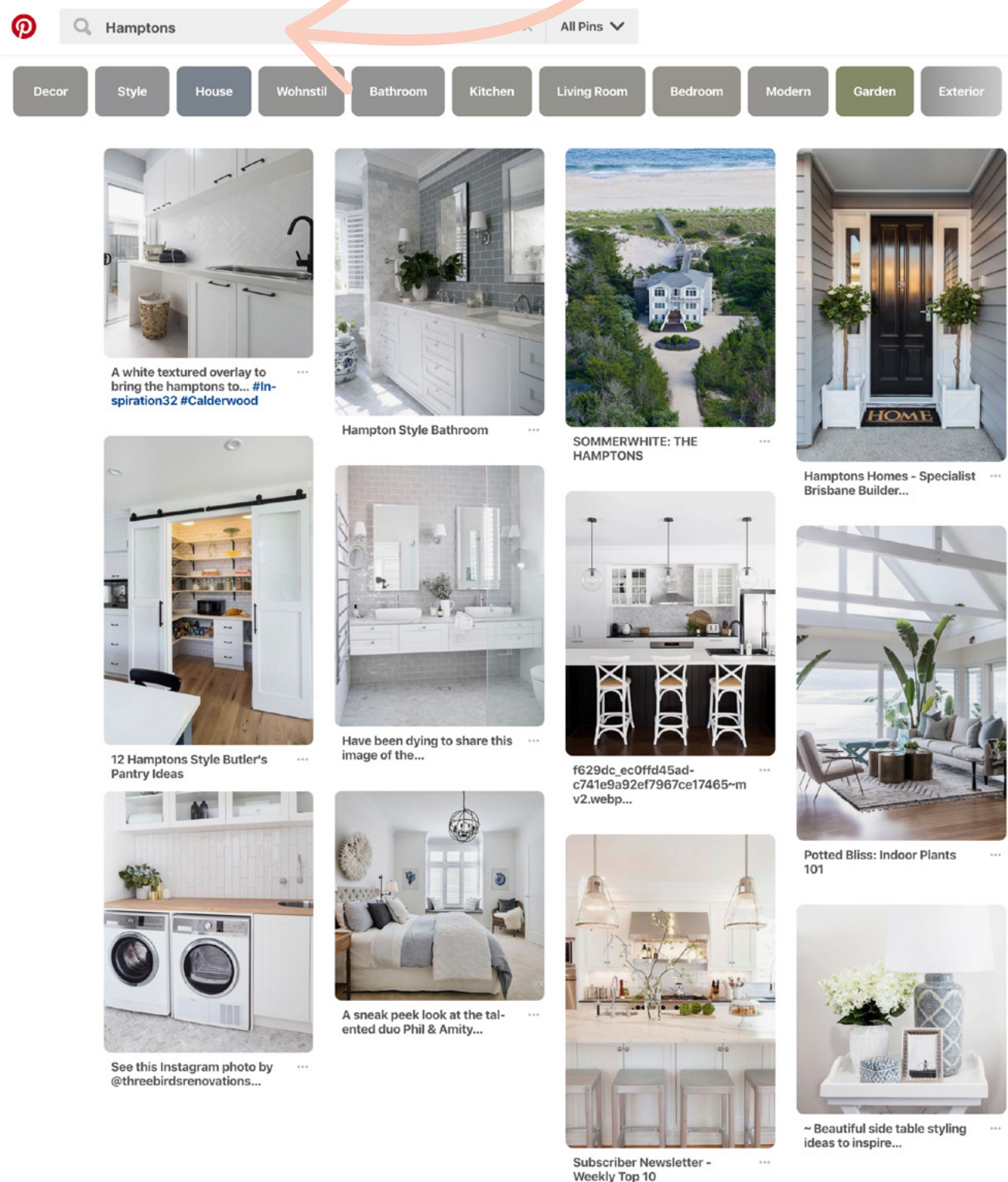
Tip: IF YOU STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT STYLE YOU LIKE OR WHAT THE STYLE YOU LIKE IS CALLED, [CLICK HERE](#) TO VISIT SOME PINTEREST BOARDS OF DIFFERENT STYLES THAT WE HAVE COLLATED FOR YOU.



Tip: ONCE YOU KNOW WHAT STYLE YOU WANT OR LIKE - RESEARCH THE BEJEEZUS OUT OF IT. PINTEREST IS AWESOME FOR THIS - I WOULD TYPE IN "SANTORINI" AND "GREEK ISLANDS" AND FOUND SOOOO MUCH INSPO.

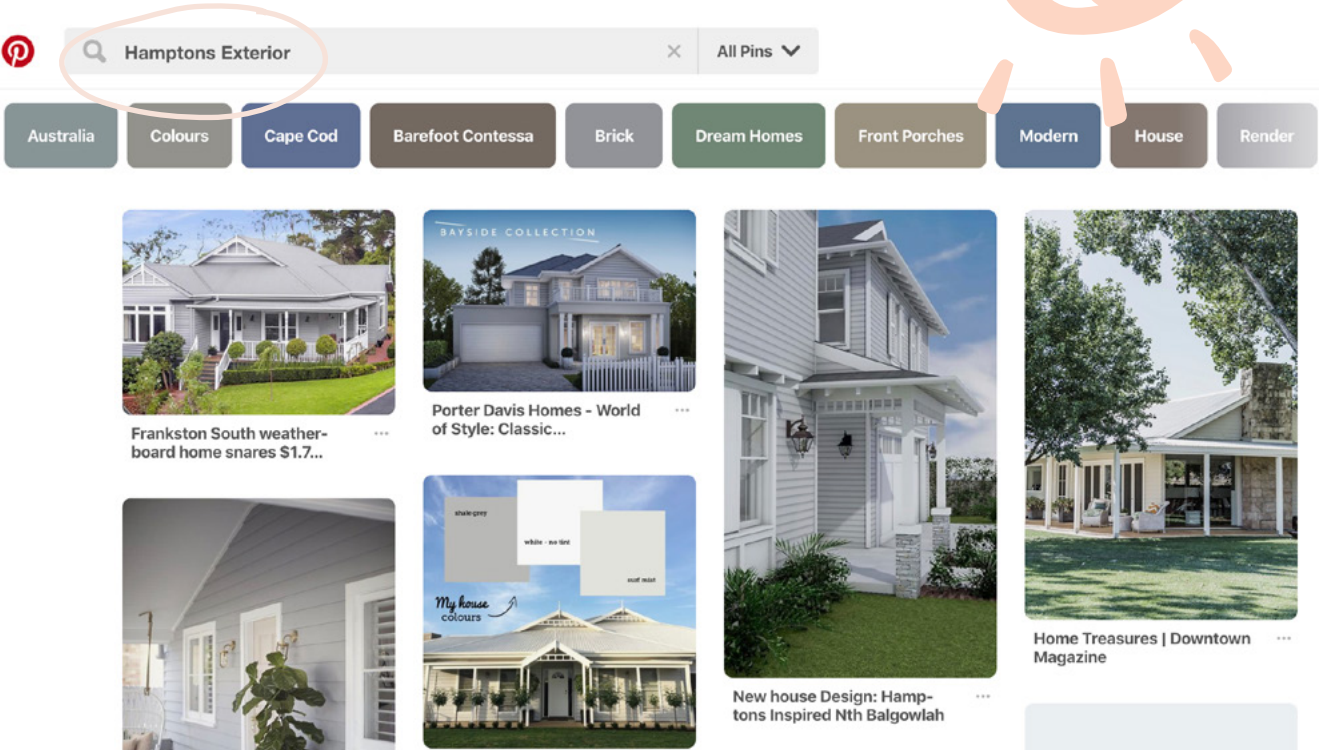
Let's try an example together...

TYPE 'HAMPTONS' INTO THE SEARCH BAR OF PINTEREST.



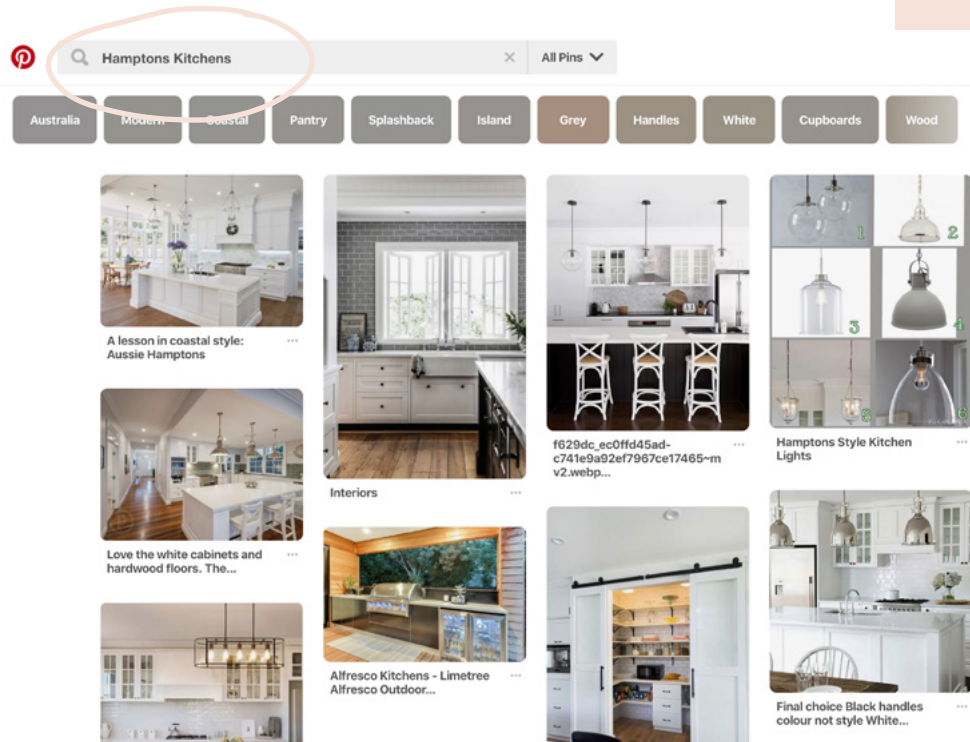
To discover more about this style, delve deeper.

TYPE 'HAMPTONS EXTERIOR' INTO THE SEARCH BAR.



Search by room.

TYPE 'HAMPTONS KITCHEN' INTO THE SEARCH BAR.



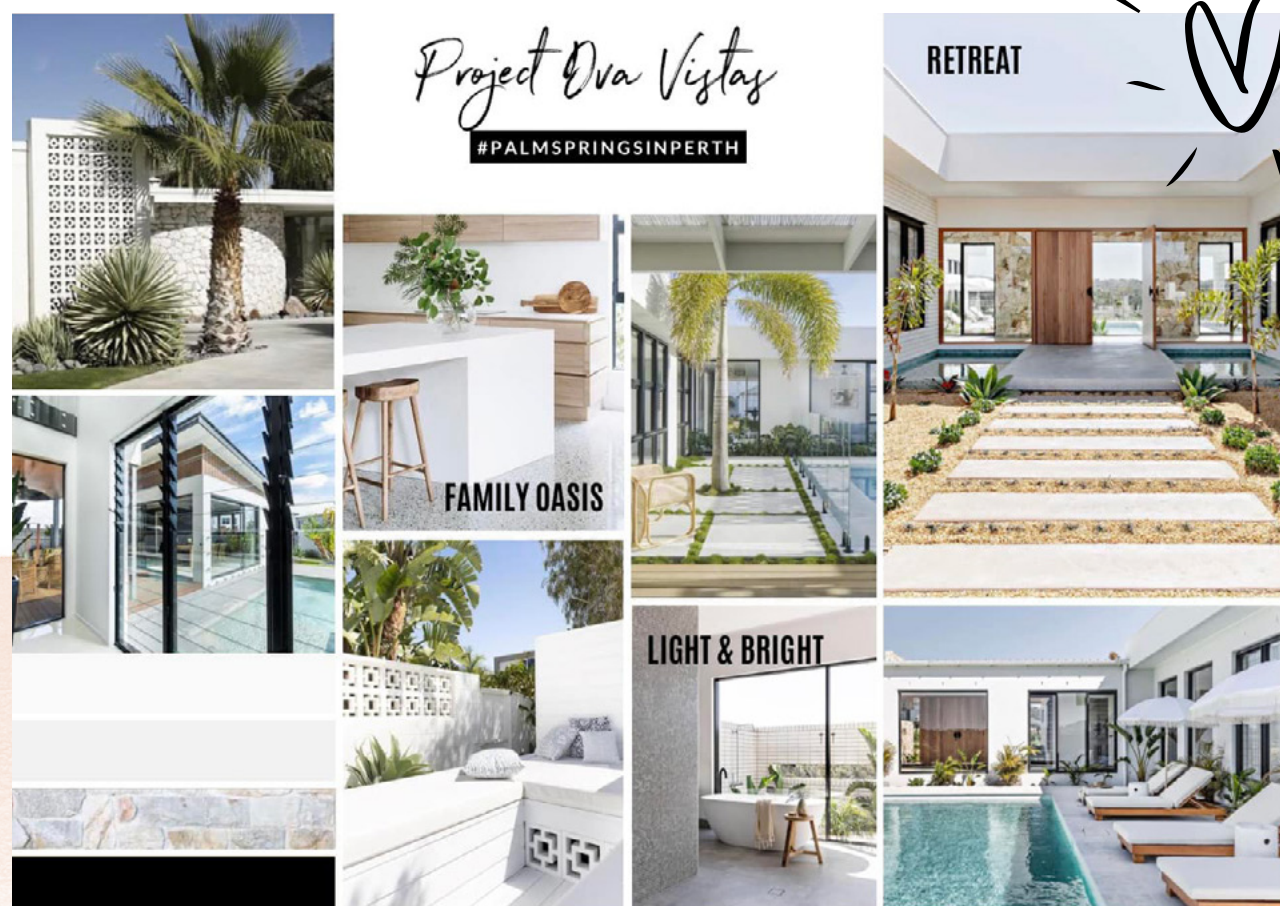
Finding images is easy, but you need a system to group together the pics you love.

Create Pinterest boards for every part of your house that you want to renovate e.g – kitchen, master suite, terrace, façade, front door, hallway, main bathroom. The better you are at collating and filing images, the more chance you have of nailing your look.

I never thought Bonnie was 'well-organised' until I saw her Pinterest board. She has a board for everything!

LOOKING FOR SOME INSPO?

Check out these Reno Vision Boards that some of our wonderful students have made! The possibilities are endless, but honing in on your vision for your dream home will help you bring it to life, and will become the anchor to come back to when you're making the BIG decisions!



Chelsea White Hall



Jacinta Di Prinzio



Lizbeth Pal-Develter



IF YOU ENJOYED THIS LITTLE CANAPE OF RENO GOODNESS YOU WILL LOVE OUR ONLINE RENO SCHOOL.

[Three Birds Reno School](https://www.threebirdsrenoschool.com) is an online course created by us to teach you everything we know about how to design, renovate, and style your dream home. We will help you create a vision for your project, understand who you need to work with, how to handle tradies, manage a budget and style a space. We'll show you where to spend versus where to save and how to avoid basic mistakes that can chew up your time, money, and happy reno vibes. Whether you're renovating, doing a new build or simply styling a space, you need vision and know-how to get what you want. Our Reno School can fast-track your knowledge, build your confidence and get you ready to reno!

Join the thousands of students from all over the world who have already completed the course.

Are you ready to make your dream home a reality?

VISIT [THREEBIRDSRENOSCHOOL.COM](https://www.threebirdsrenoschool.com)



**LEARN HOW TO DESIGN,
RENOVATE OR BUILD
YOUR DREAM HOME.**

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