

THE  
STYLE



ANNA SPIRO



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Interior and textile designer



KARA ROSENLUND



## Daring to be different

Brisbane's Anna Spiro is bringing maximalism back through richly detailed interiors and bespoke soft furnishings. *By* **ELICIA MURRAY**

**Q: Tell us about your journey from interior designer to textile designer.**

**A:** Throughout my career, I always wanted to achieve three things: write a book, decorate a boutique hotel and create my own textile collection. I've now ticked all three boxes. When I start putting a room scheme together, fabric is where I start. I think it was inevitable that I would end up creating my own fabrics. I also like to use lots of layered colour. It was often difficult finding fabrics in the particular hue I needed, so I created my own.

**Q: Describe your signature style.**

**A:** I am a traditionalist at heart but I also like a bit of quirkiness thrown in. I don't like things being too perfect and I don't like anything that is mass-

produced. I love antiques and custom-made soft furnishings. Fabric can change the face of a room in an instant.

**Q: Where do you find inspiration?**

**A:** For my first textile collection, the inspiration was Hawaii. My family has spent endless summer days enjoying the islands' tropical lifestyle. For my interior projects, inspiration comes from old books and magazines, travel and memories of wonderful old houses I have visited.

**Q: Your work on Halcyon House in northern NSW has garnered international acclaim. What was your vision?**

**A:** Halcyon House was a dream project. The owners were very trusting in my aesthetic and let

me do my thing. I thought of the project as though it was a big, beautiful house by the beach. By incorporating amazing fabrics, textiles, antiques and art, I was able to create a place that is full of soul and comfort.

**Q: Is minimalism dead?**

**A:** I think people are coming back to wanting to surround themselves with comfort and things that create an interesting space. Minimal spaces can all start to look the same. Maximalist spaces can be more interesting and unique, in my opinion, and also stand the test of time.

**Q: What's the most important element people need to consider when designing interiors?**

**A:** Investing in good furniture and not wasting money on of-the-moment items.

**Q: What's next for Anna Spiro?**

**A:** I'm working on three amazing restaurants in the new Howard Smith Wharves redevelopment in Brisbane. It's a very exciting opportunity. 

[annaspirotextiles.com.au](http://annaspirotextiles.com.au)

Anna Spiro has earned acclaim as the designer of bold interiors, especially Halcyon House, and eye-catching fabrics.