

# The Collection™ Vol.2

Finishes

Fixed & Fitted

Furniture

Lighting

## MY COLLECTION ♥

1 Name

SHAREEN  
JOEL

2 Portrait



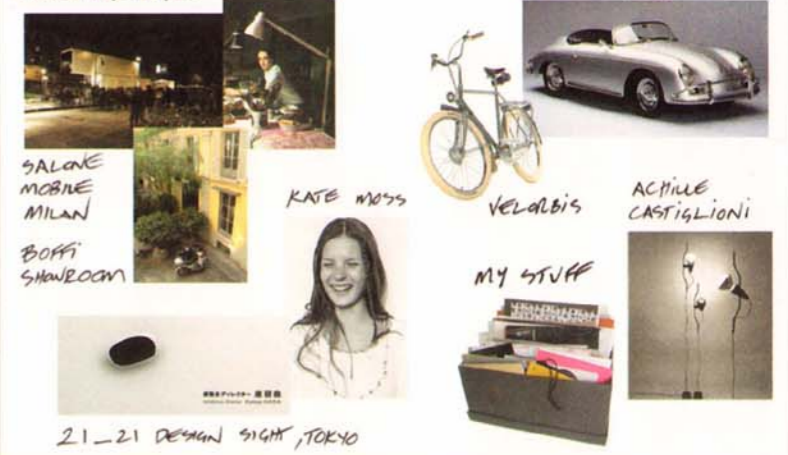
3 What do you do?



THE STUDIO

Shareen Joel Design

4 What inspires you?



PORSCHE 356

SALONE  
MOBILE  
MILAN  
BOFFI  
SHOWROOM

KATE MOSS

VELARBI

ACHILLE  
CASTIGLIONI

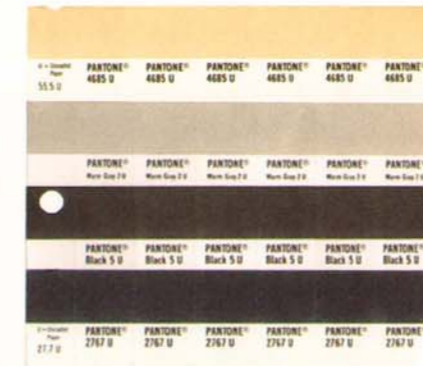
MY STUFF

21-21 DESIGN SIGHT, TOKYO

5 Using words and visuals, interpret...

YOUR FAVOURITE COLOUR/S

FAIR BIANCA HALF STR  
PW2 D6 H



YOUR FAVOURITE GADGET

+ - 0 PLUS MINUS  
CALCULATOR



MARIO BELLINI  
FOL OLINGETTI

LEXON TYKHO

YOUR IDEAL CHAIRS

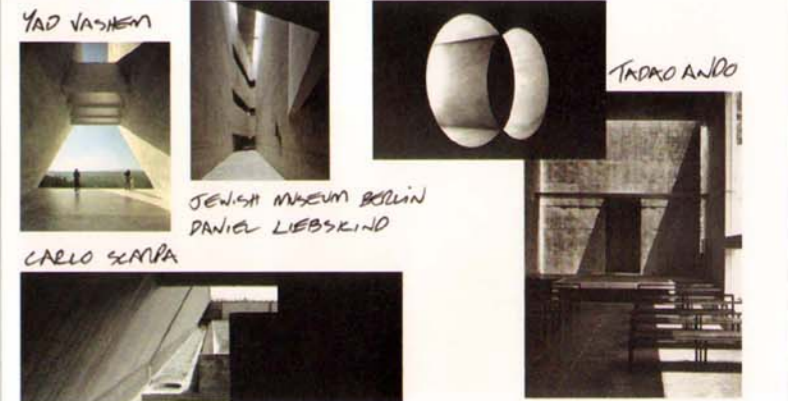


WOMBAC CHAIR



CAB CHAIR

YOUR INTERPRETATION OF LIGHT



YAD VASHEM

CARLO SCARPA

JEWISH MUSEUM BERLIN  
DANIEL LIBESKIND

TAKAO ANDO



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### KEY

Audio Visual AV  
Electrical E  
Hardware H  
H<sub>2</sub>O

## Fixed & Fitted

Form and function – contemporary fixtures and fittings are a true expression of both. Whether classic or custom, as an integrated or feature piece, these pieces have a subtle, yet significant, effect on user psyche. Interior and industrial designer, Shareen Joel reports.



Fittings and fixtures have become the heroes of contemporary interior design. Once overlooked and hardly considered, the perception of hardware, bathroom products, light fittings and energy management systems as merely standardised, utilitarian products has shifted. As consumers come to realise that aesthetics needn't be compromised for functionality, there has been an increased demand for fixtures and fittings that incorporate practicality and appropriateness of application together with style. Fittings and fixtures have flown from under the radar to become the jewel of the home or office; effortlessly updateable, easily changed, and customised (almost) beyond belief.

Standardised fittings and fixtures have given way to a plethora of customised options. This not only facilitates greater consumer choice but also inevitably leads to smaller production runs and thereby, greater attention to superior quality. According to Tanya Rive, Director of Halliday and Baillie, the traditional terms 'Hardware' and 'Ironmongery' have been replaced by the more contemporary 'Architectural Hardware', used to describe a door handle, concealed hinge or delicate joinery. This is reflective of the number of "fresh, new companies willing to either import or design and manufacture products locally to complement the breathtaking architecture and interiors being created in Australia," says Rive. Standard fittings have been replaced by customised Architectural Hardware choices so diverse that there's a strong element of exclusivity and uniqueness.

Door hardware has undergone considerable change, with consumers looking beyond simply functional protection when it comes to locking solutions. "Modern home security solutions are now expected to combine convenience and style in addition to security and safety features, which means that products must exhibit overall sound design," says Neil Mitchelhill, Business Manager for Marketing and Product Development for ASSA ABLOY Asia Pacific. The demand for affordable, functional and stylish door furniture has led companies such as ASSA ABLOY to partner with leading architects and interior and industrial designers for their Lockwood Aquileart range of door levers, locks and closers. The award-winning Robert Watson range demonstrates the fusion of creativity, innovation and practicality, with the handle's mounting rose concealed within the lever's sophisticated and slender cylinder.

Often the most 'touched' interior fixture yet conversely the most overlooked, electrical light switches are increasingly being designed with materials that consider the frequency of such tactility. Touch screens, rotary dials and soft-feel buttons are becoming more favoured alternatives due to their sensory consideration and design aesthetic coupled with the latest in technology.

Another trend that shows no sign of slowing down is the resurgence of design classics. Just as modernist furniture has regained popularity, fixtures and fittings are following



# FIXED & FITTED:

Fixtures and fittings cover a diverse range of products from versatile shop fittings and ergonomically-designed furniture fittings to sun-shade solutions, kitchen appliances, bathware and automation systems.

suit. Products such as the AJ Door Handle originally designed by Arne Jacobsen in 1955 for the Royal Hotel of Copenhagen are again finding favour with consumers who recognise the timelessness and quality of such designs. This is perhaps best exemplified by Vola who are committed to retaining the original early 1960s faucet design by Arne Jacobsen, yet simultaneously maintaining their position as a leader in technology by updating engineering specifications to meet consumer requirements.

Composite materials that combine natural substances with the stability, durability and premium quality of man-made materials have also increased in popularity. This has become particularly prominent in basins and baths, as manufacturers have greater flexibility with which to sculpt and manipulate organic forms during production. Apaiser remains at the forefront of stone composite bathware, blending a unique combination of stone aggregate, marble, resins and polymers that results in a luxurious, natural tactility. Agape's Spoon ranges, made from Exmar – a composite of resin and quartz powder – are also admired for their suede-like finish and freestanding, organic forms.

The collaboration of DuPont™ Corian® and luxury fashion and textile house, Missoni, exemplifies the flexibility and scope of composite materials used for interior design. The 'Corian Loves Missoni' partnership showcased the "design versatility of DuPont Corian solid surfaces through the style

of Missoni". This innovative range first showcased during Milan Design Week in 2008 saw dense Corian vanities and shower areas transformed with Missoni's trademark rainbow of eclectic prints and glorious colour combinations.

The future of fixtures and fittings is being driven by multi-functionality. The reason for this is twofold. Firstly, we are being driven by a global eco-consciousness concerned with environmental sustainability and the preservation of energy. Secondly, an increase in integrated spaces has led to the need for products that have practical multi-uses.

The future of both commercial and residential fixtures and fittings is being driven largely by integrated and sustainable automation systems. These efficient systems are gaining popularity through their ability to regulate energy use. Smart water-saving conservation technologies such as push pedal, dual-flush toilets and automated shower timers are increasingly being built in to bath, laundry and kitchenware designs. Energy use is also being monitored by integrated electrical systems that are automated to minimise excess consumption. Leading this charge is Clipsal Australia, whose energy management systems "conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions" without forfeiting sleek, contemporary design.

An increasing overlap between commercial and residential spaces in such concepts as the home office and the work

kitchen has resulted in a greater integration of fixtures and fittings. Practical, multi-functional products are responding to the evolution of the kitchen as a central hub utilised for combined cooking, dining and entertaining solutions. For example, rangehoods now switch between extraction (at minimum noise levels) and air purification, whilst also acting as sculptural lighting. Bathrooms too are 'blending,' continuing to work their way into the bedroom and integrating with the master suite to offer harmonious, all encompassing spaces where fittings and fixtures are wholly exposed. Nothing is behind the scenes; showers are being showcased as transparent boxes while bathtubs are being revered as sophisticated yet relaxing statement-makers. Other bathware trends include sleek spouts, push pedals and integrated LED lighting in the shower head.

It's all in the detail...