

# HOME

The Daily Telegraph <sup>SATURDAY</sup>

SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

build ✓  
design ✓  
living ✓

**PLUS**

Sustainable  
design ideas  
you can use



How to renovate  
— and still stay  
together



**RACHAEL KABLE**

*The quick  
guide to  
taking it slow*

# It's a jungle in here

Why the world of design is going mad for plants





# Jungle fever



A cluster of plants edge a perfectly imperfect rug from Jenny Jones Rugs. Dulux Pencarrow is a soothing backdrop.

THIS CONTEMPORARY STYLE IS A BREAK AWAY FROM A CONTROLLED LOOK. INSTEAD, THERE IS A SENSE OF NATURE RECLAIMING WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY HERS

Wherever you look we can't get enough of all things green this season, writes Robyn Willis

Something strange is happening in interior design. In recent years, we've moved our living spaces outdoors, with tatty old outdoor furniture making way for comfortable lounges that would not look out of place in the living room but are designed to weather the conditions.

But just as outdoor spaces start to resemble interior spaces, indoor spaces are growing more like gardens — literally.

It has long been understood that we have an innate need to connect to nature but the recent surge in interest is widely seen as a response to the invasive nature of technology.

Basically, as we become more plugged in, we're craving the desire to immerse ourselves in the natural world.

In commercial environments, it is manifesting itself in internal gardens intertwined into staircases or green walls, where the building appears to be covered by a wall of plants.

In residential living spaces, everything is starting to turn green, with walls bathed in deeper tones than ever, and spaces layered with texture and patterns perfectly imperfect to emulate the natural world outside.

Such has been the popularity of indoor plants, people are now

referring to themselves as “plant parents” and put plans in place for their leafy “children” to be cared for when they go on holiday.

While maiden hair ferns were the epitome of style in the 1970s and 1980s, the most fashionable indoor plants now are big and bold, with monstera deliciosa, or Swiss cheese plant, topping the list this season, along with perennially popular devil's ivy, spider plants and an array of succulents and palms.

Easy to care for, even for novices, these plants have an emphasis on foliage rather than flowers, giving spaces an almost masculine, slightly wild feel to them, strengthening the connection to nature.

## BLENDING IN

But this look does not begin and end with live plants.

Just as plant shapes are big and bold, so too is the rest of this interior look.

Lounge chairs deep enough to sink into in natural tones of green, blue, terracotta and mustard in textured fabrics or worn leather invite relaxation and disconnection from the digital world without sacrificing the conveniences and comfort of modern living.

The adventurous are looking to wallpaper and murals, with graphic palm leaves and rainforest foliage emerging.



Go big and bold with leaf prints from Arti Studio.

## WILD AT HEART

Despite its wild origins, this style is all about comfort and retreat. Look for furniture that you'll not only love to sit in but you don't need to be too precious about.

There's no better time to keep indoor plants. Growing succulents from cuttings is a great way to start.

Go big and bold with plant motifs. Palms, monstera and aspidistra will add height and impact. They'll also improve your indoor air quality.



Dulux Pencarrow provides the backdrop for this room while the chair from Cosh Living is deep enough to sink into.

## NATURAL style



While these motifs have been used before, particularly in Palm Beach or plantation-style interiors, this contemporary style is a break away from that controlled look. Instead, there is a sense of nature reclaiming what is rightfully hers.

Perhaps the best thing about this look is how easy it is to live with, at least once you've mastered plant care.

With its emphasis on softer hues and uneven patterns, it's a style better placed to handle the variations of modern family living.

Indeed, it's also an accessible look, with little more than a coat of paint, a framed print or a plant from a neighbour's cutting to get you going.

With its emphasis on oversized patterns, it's even an opportunity for the creatively minded to execute a mural with a restrained palette of natural colours.

Best of all, it offers the perfect retreat for body and mind. Just don't forget to water the plants.

More: [artistudio.com.au](http://artistudio.com.au); [dulux.com.au](http://dulux.com.au); [greenhouseinteriors.com.au](http://greenhouseinteriors.com.au) [luxewalls.com.au](http://luxewalls.com.au)



There's still room for florals. This print (above), based on artwork by Adele Naidoo, available from Greenhouse Interiors, is set against wood-look wallpaper from Luxe Walls. Fan palm leaves in a terracotta pot connect all the elements.

Bigger is definitely better with this style. Overlapping leaves in this Talipot Palms wallpaper from Luxe Walls is a slightly wilder look than traditional plantation style (left).