



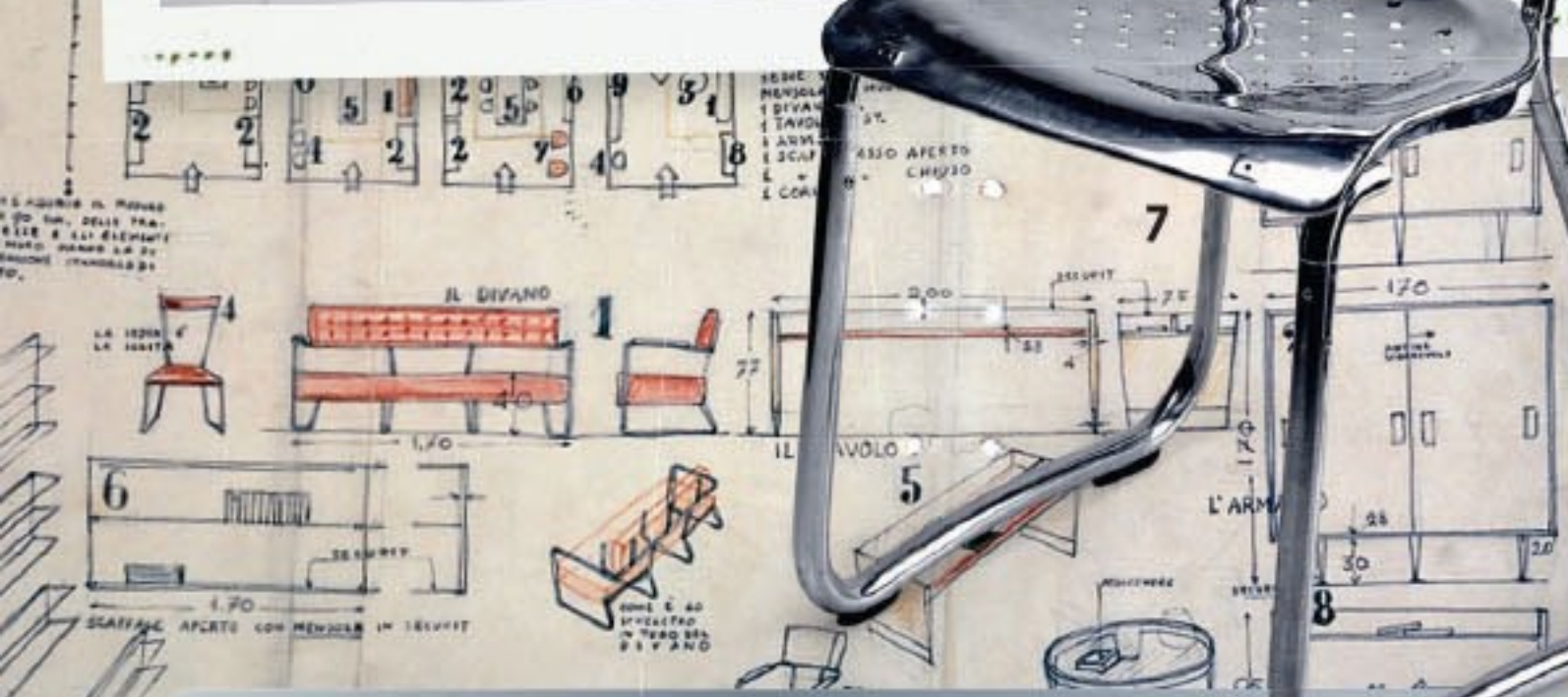
**BARBARA HERMON**, Melbourne retailer and design patron, remembers bursting into tears when as a teen she was told she couldn't study interior design because "I hadn't done maths". But there's more than one way to specify a chair, as Barbara and business partner husband John of Richmond's Hermon & Hermon, have shown. The company celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, a success built on its ever-evolving portfolio of furniture, accessories and lighting.

After doing a secretarial course for a year, Barbara decided to set up her own homewares shop in her hometown of Geelong. It was a great start and her subsequent experience has included a stint in the 70s as a buyer for an Asian handicrafts business in Melbourne, a furniture buyer for David Jones, as well as periods spent living overseas in Greece and London.

"Then, in June 1990, John and I saw a niche in the market to import stylish accessories to sell to the local design industry. We thought, let's bring in our own style," says Barbara. They started commissioning Filipino artisans such as Kenneth Cobonpue and other high-end designers to create the modern, oriental furniture and lighting that has become the H&H signature – and which is, says John, "the key to our success".

It also put them on the front foot with sustainability, as much of this stock is created from renewable natural fibres. "We were greenies before it became fashionable," says John.

For more information go to [hermonhermon.com.au](http://hermonhermon.com.au).



SENT ITEMS >>

**7 Green light for Giò** A series of previously unreleased Giò Ponti designs are set to be launched in New York for Molteni&C in mid-September. This aluminium alloy chair, dating from 1935, sits up even better today. Luxe industrial anyone? [molteni.it](http://molteni.it)

**8 The Blackman Hotel** is the latest Melbourne offering from the Art Series Hotel Group. The Blackman will feature works from Australian figurative artist Charles Blackman, joining its siblings The Cullen and The Olsen. [theblackman.com.au](http://theblackman.com.au)

**9 Architect Bill McMahon** has created a classic 'enoteca' interior for the Buzo team's new wine bar. The Wine Library, in Sydney's Woollahra, seats 48 and lists more than 350 wines from around the world. Open seven days a week. [buzorestaurant.com.au](http://buzorestaurant.com.au)

**10 Guy comes to Melbourne** Christopher Guy's work has long been a staple of US interiors magazines. Now Melburnians can buy his glam designs, with Robertsons launching a gallery to feature his pieces. [robertsonsdesign.com.au](http://robertsonsdesign.com.au)

**11 Aesop has collaborated** with renowned French clothing company A.P.C. to create a delicate fabric wash. So don't chance your arm with your cashmere throw, give the Aesop Fine Fabric Care a go! [aesop.com.au](http://aesop.com.au)

**12 Hamilton Island Yacht Club Villas** are a design standout. All of the villas, by architect Walter Barda and with interiors by the Coco Republic design team, have stunning direct water views. [hamiltonislandyachtclubvillas.com.au](http://hamiltonislandyachtclubvillas.com.au)

