

Doyenne of chic

Japanese antiques and Champagne top Melbourne interiors guru Barbara Hermon's must-haves.



Which artist or artists have been an enduring influence? Can I say an architect – Tadao Ando [1].

Contemporary artist that you most admire? Joshua Yeldham [2].

Do you collect anything? Antique Japanese lacquerware in red, of course, and hand fans [3].

Fashion must-haves? Shoes – I have an antique Japanese bath-house shoe locker which holds 39 pairs – it is overfilled with Yohji Yamamoto [4], Stephane Kélian and Fausto Santini, to name a few. Also fashion by Limi Feu, Yamamoto's daughter.

Favourite watch? I'm not a great watch fan but I love my plain Mondaine men's watch.

Fragrance of choice? I only ever wear Chanel 'Cristalle' [5].

Books – what are you reading now – both fiction and art/design? Actually, I have no time to read but I do love Karen McCartney's books and other volumes on design and architecture. I have quite a collection!

Music – what's on rotation at office and home? Dead Can Dance, Leonard Cohen, Sade, Anouar Brahem, Eros Ramazzotti, K.D. Lang – I could go on as I have lots of favourites.

Favourite flowers? White phalaenopsis orchids [6].

Best downtime (if you ever have any) pursuit? Japanese calligraphy with my beautiful teacher Miho Araki at Ebisu in Elwood.

Entertaining – at home – and restaurant of choice? As I do not cook, I rely on [my husband] John, sushi and Champagne at home, or eating out at our local restaurant, Noir in Richmond. For a big treat, we go to the Lake House in Daylesford.

Preferred tippie? Only Campari or Champagne – Ruinart [7] or Egly-Ouriet Champagne.

Films that have inspired you? *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Indochine*, *A Man and a Woman*, and *The Last Samurai* starring Ken Watanabe – not the Tom Cruise version!

Shops and online stores you frequent? Eastern Market in Carlton. Online – Club21Global.com to get my 'BaoBao' bags by Issey Miyake, which I cannot find in Australia.

Magazines you read regularly? *Côté Sud*, *Côté Paris* and *Belle*, of course!

Travel – favourite regular haunt and where is on your must-see list? Chiva-Som health resort in Hua Hin, Thailand – an absolute favourite, and I would love to visit Norway to see the northern lights after seeing the vision from Joanna Lumley's visit.

List a few objects of desire that you would buy right now. More Joshua Yeldham art, an Ivana Perkins sculpture [8], and a West Highland Terrier puppy dog.

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