

Materials Guide

Your go-to guide for selecting
colours and materials for your home

A modern courtyard with a brick wall, large glass doors, and outdoor furniture. A man is sitting on the ground with a dog. There are potted plants, a green table, and a chair. The scene is bright and sunny.

BRICKWORKS

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Product: Bowral Bricks in Gertrudis Brown

Architect: Those Architects | **Photography:** Luc Remond

First impressions count, even for your home, and with the right colours and materials, making a good first impression is easy. While a carefully curated and well-designed exterior will enhance the aesthetic appeal of your home, making the right choice of colours and materials can also provide functional benefits – think durability, energy efficiency and house value. But with so much to choose from, how do you know that you're making the right choice? We've put together this step-by-step guide to provide you with everything you need to know, from where to find inspiration to how to narrow down your final product and colour selections.



How and where to find inspiration

Your home – specifically its style – should be a reflection of you. Here's where to start.

Set the mood

Give careful consideration to the overall mood and atmosphere you want to create within your home – both inside and out. Are you looking for a sleek modern masterpiece or a relaxing coastal-inspired sanctuary? Asking yourself these sorts of questions will point you in the right direction to finding the perfect colour scheme and textures.

Mood-board magic

Look to magazines and online resources such as Instagram, Pinterest and design blogs to collect and collate design ideas and styles that resonate with you. Browse freely and dream big at first, but be sure to review regularly and soon enough you'll begin to see a common denominator – this will help you to articulate exactly what you want. You'll find plenty of ideas in the [Brickworks Style Inspiration Guide](#) or on the [Brickworks Pinterest](#) account.

Look to your surroundings

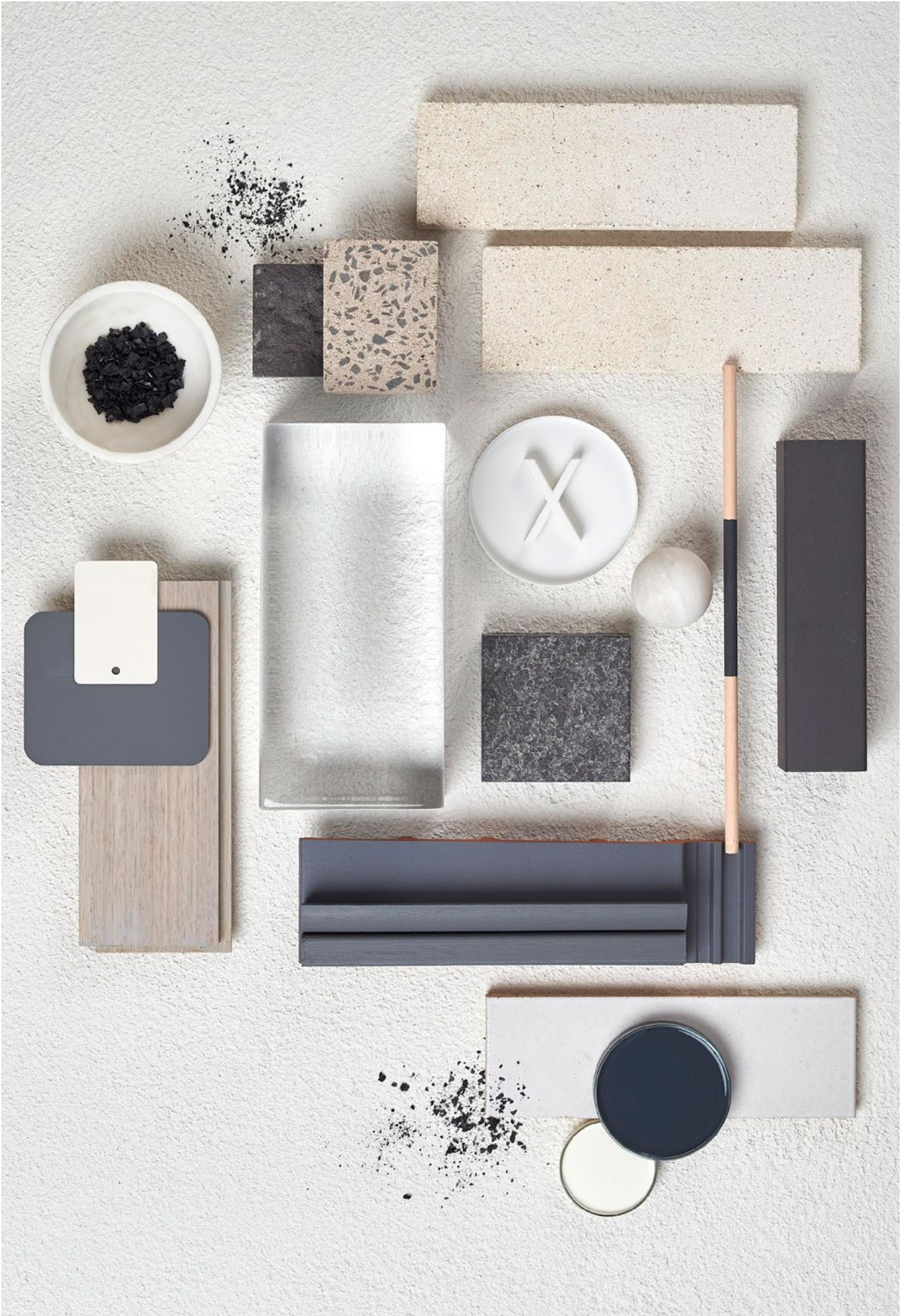
The location of your home can be a rich source of inspiration in itself. “We see a lot of face brick paired with cladding in beachy areas to create a coastal feel,” says Bianca Murdaca, Austral Bricks NSW Colour Consult Manager. “And if a home is near water, normally 9 times out of 10, clients will go towards light, sandy colour schemes.”

The real deal

To get a real-life feel for your new home, visit display homes and look closely and critically at the exterior colours and materials that have been used – this will give you a tangible sense of what you may be looking for. Consider these estates:

- [HomeWorld Box Hill](#), NSW
- [Aurora Display Village](#), Wollert, VIC;
- [Rochedale Estates](#), Rochedale, QLD;
- [Eden Beach Display Village](#), Eden Beach, WA
- [Northgate Display Village](#), Northgate, SA.

For expert advice, you can book a [FREE Colour Consultation](#) or, to view our broad range of products up-close, visit a [Brickworks Design Studio or Design Centre](#).



Do's and don'ts of materials

What works and what doesn't when it comes to material choices.



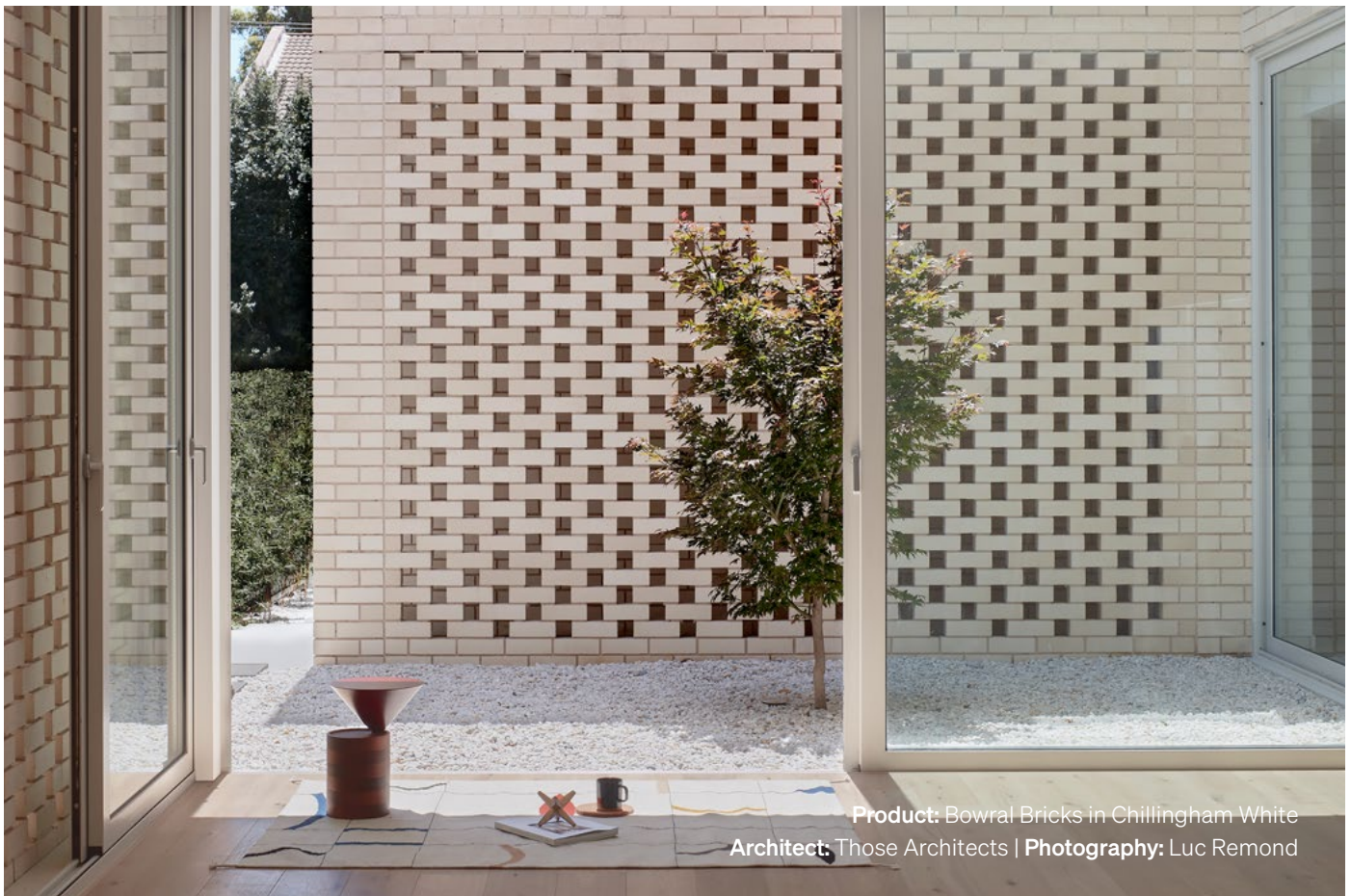
Product: Austral Bricks San Selmo Reclaimed in Limewash
Builder: Fowler Homes | Photography: Robert Camariere

Do

- ✓ Embrace your personal style as a starting point.
- ✓ Explore the full range of styles, designs and options available and go with your own preference – trust your instincts when it comes to making final selections.
- ✓ View products and materials in person rather than relying on brochures and what's on your computer screen. Visit a [Brickworks Design Studio](#) or [Design Centre](#) to do just that.
- ✓ Consider playing with texture: contrasting matte and gloss, smooth and rough, hard and soft textures can help to create a style statement. Bricks and concrete blocks are ideal for adding character and visual interest to your home.
- ✓ Make sure you get samples of all materials ([Brickworks](#) also provides samples of your brick selections).
- ✓ Look at colours in natural light to confirm your choice.

Don't

- ✗ Don't neglect the finer details. Doors, hardware and window frames should all be taken into consideration to complete the bigger picture.
- ✗ Don't forget to consider the location of your home. If you are beachside, you'll need to consider saltwater corrosion when using materials.
- ✗ Don't choose your colour from a brochure or website – make sure you see it in real life.
- ✗ Don't rely on the upfront cost of materials. Often it's worth investing more upfront for more durable and higher quality products that will last the test of time, saving you on maintenance work and replacements in the future.



Do's and don'ts of colour

A guide to selecting colours.



Products: Austral Bricks San Selmo Smoked in Cloudy Silver & Austral Bricks Metallix in Blackstone
Builder: Fowler Homes | **Photography:** Robert Camariera

HOT TIP

Repeat colours on doors and windows for a sense of cohesion



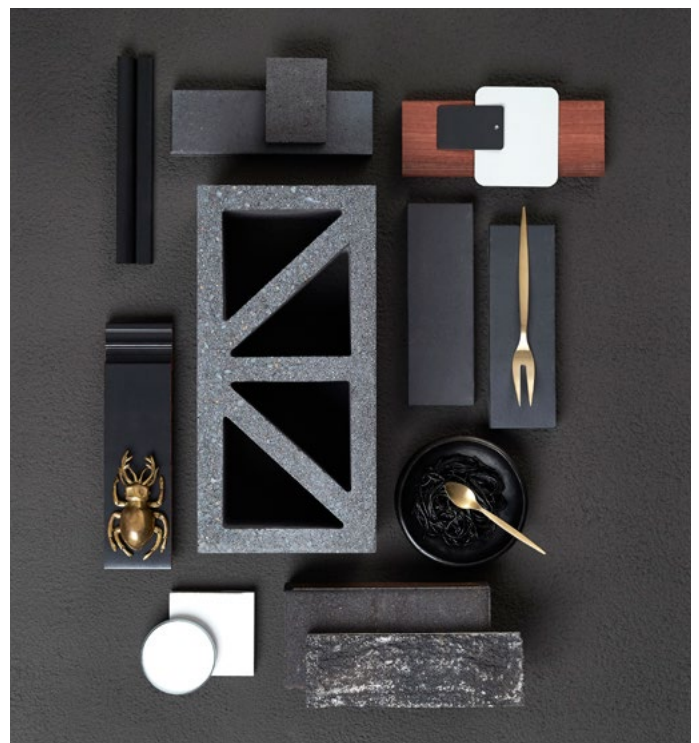
Do

Use colour to highlight your home's architectural features (that doesn't include downpipes)

- ✓ Complement the colours of the surrounding landscape and be inspired by other homes in the area.
- ✓ Repeat colours on details like doors and windows for a sense of cohesion.
- ✓ Flat-lay your final choices before going ahead – this will give you the most accurate picture of how all of your colour choices look together.
- ✓ Consult a professional for advice – book a [free colour consultation](#)

Don't

- ✗ Don't view your exterior colours under artificial lighting, as this can misrepresent true colour. Instead, examine them under natural lighting as this will give you the most accurate impression of colour in an exterior setting.
- ✗ Don't use more than three main colours (natural materials such as wood and stone can be an exception to this rule). Any additional colours you add to the mix should simply be lighter or darker shades than your core three.



Getting to know your home

Take a look at all the features of your home's façade.

Cladding

Fascia

Moulding

Face Brick





Exterior Facade

A guide to creating a great first impression



Product: Boral Bricks Bowral 50 in Chillingham White and Austral Bricks La Paloma50 in Gaudi
Architect: Office88 | **Photography:** Kat Lu

External walls

Your home's external walls are the first indicator of style and character, so it's important to give careful thought to the visual impact you're looking to achieve.



Product: Nubrik Traditional in Chapel Red

Architect: Bryant Alsop Architecture | Photography: Jack Lovel Photography



Watch here to find out
why brick is best

HOT TIP

Pick materials that require less maintenance so you can enjoy your home

Colour

As the largest surface area of your exterior scheme, a lot weighs on the colour choices of your external walls. “Greys are super popular still, and more natural tones are starting to come back,” says Blanca Murdaca, Austral Bricks NSW Colour Consult Manager. If you’re having trouble deciding between playing it safe or being bold with colour, think ahead, as a more timeless palette may be beneficial when the time comes to sell. “If you’re selling, you’ve got to cater to all parties with the design,” adds Bianca. Once you’ve chosen your palette, opting for a colourfast material such as brick will mean fading and repainting is a chore of the past as the colour is there to stay.

Texture

The texture and applied finishes you choose for your home are just as important as colour, as they’ll set the style tone and help you to achieve the look you’re after. “At the moment, we’re seeing a lot of natural, jagged edges,” says Bianca. Warmer shades in a more tactile finish (such as Austral Bricks’ [San Selmo](#) and [La Paloma](#) ranges) can bring a rustic charm and provincial elegance to your home, while darker hues and ultra-smooth options provide a modern twist. To bring home rustic and charming European-inspired designs, consider innovative new cladding products such as [SKINS](#), which combine iconic European looks with contemporary aesthetics.

Function

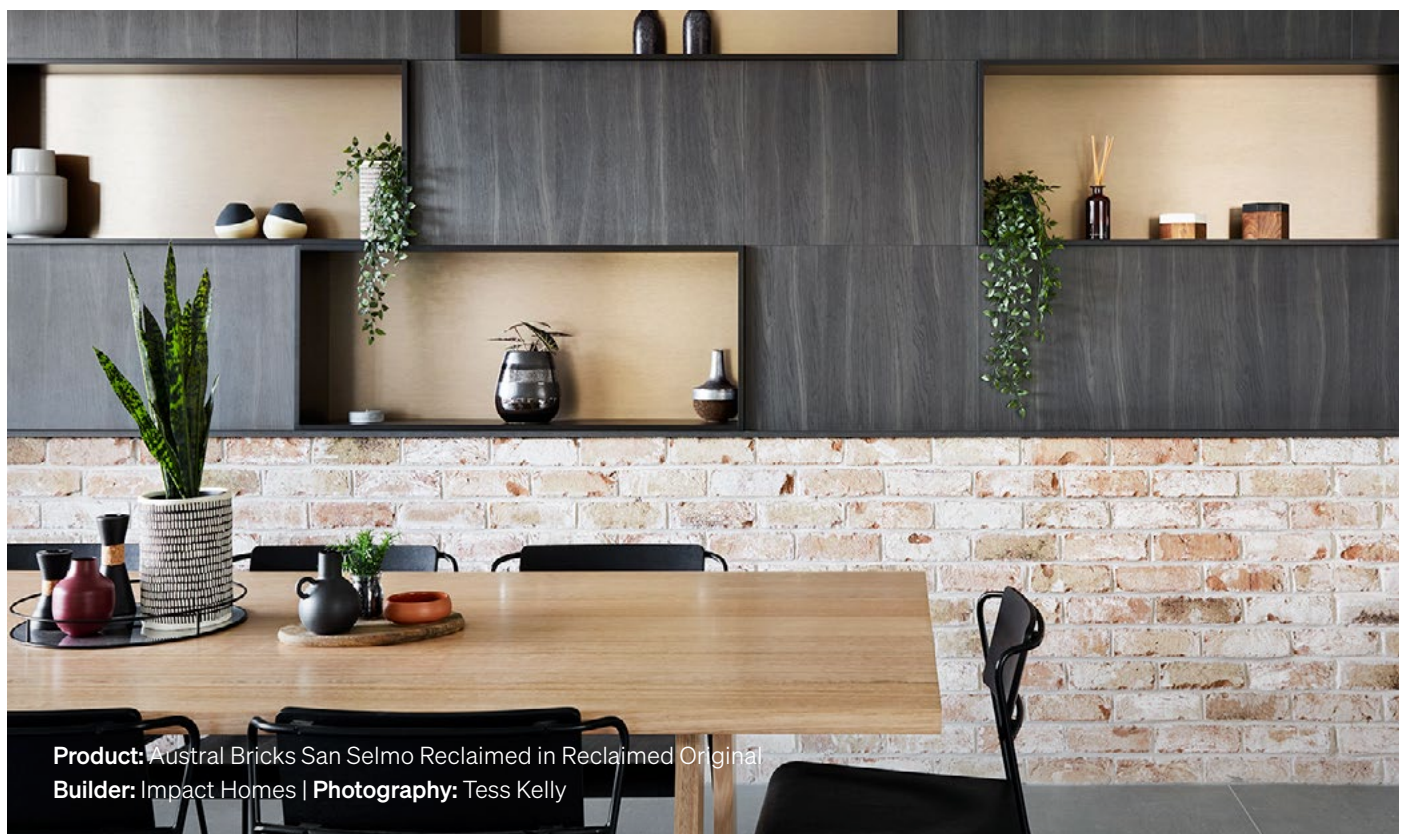
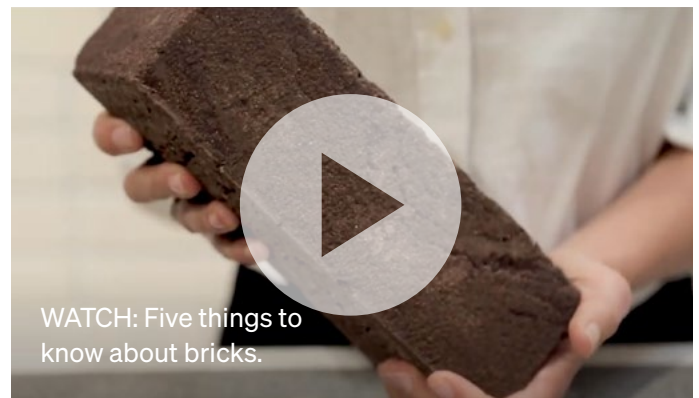
One of the most fundamental principles of good design is ‘form follows function’, but to embrace this adage it’s important to understand the function itself. Your home should be a place of comfort and shelter, and your external walls especially should protect you from the elements – so when you choose your materials, energy efficiency, strength and safety should be front of mind. Bricks (as a thermal battery) can help to moderate your home’s temperature, making it cooler in summer and warmer in winter so they’re a great energy-efficient option. Thanks to their sound-reducing qualities, bricks are also great for noise cancelling and providing peace and quiet – whether it’s noisy teenagers or traffic noise you’re dealing with.

Interior connection

“Whatever is external, you absolutely should introduce internally,” suggests Bianca. “Whether it’s elements of colour or an external masonry or a brick feature wall, it’s great to reincorporate it in a fireplace or an internal wall – bringing your outside inside,” she adds. Keep your interior style in mind when making your outdoor selections.

HOT TIP

Bricks are a thermal battery, keeping your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter

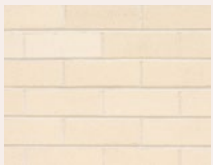


Product: Austral Bricks San Selmo Reclaimed in Reclaimed Original
Builder: Impact Homes | **Photography:** Tess Kelly

New-gen bricks

Bricks have come a long way from the basic red material our grandparents built their homes with. Brickworks' [San Selmo Smoked](#), [Sculptured Sands](#), [Panorama](#) and [Bowral Dry Pressed](#) ranges epitomise the new face of brick.

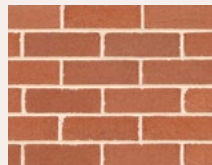
Bowral Dry Pressed by Bowral Bricks



Chillingham White



Simmental Silver



Capitol Red



Brahman Granite



Gertrudis Brown

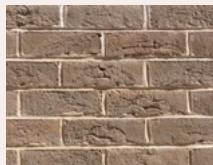


Bowral Blue

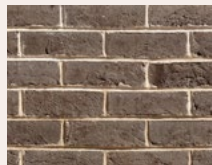
Sculptured Sands by Austral Bricks



Beach



Granite



Volcanic Ash



Siltstone



Magnetite



Ochre

Panorama by Austral Bricks



Snowfield



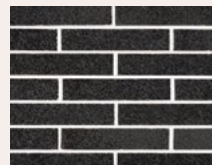
Lunar Crust



Evening Dusk

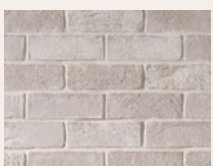


Night Sky

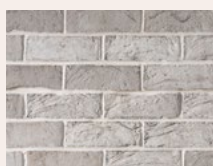


Midnight

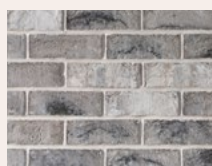
San Selmo Smoked by Austral Bricks



Grey Cashmere



Cloudy Silver



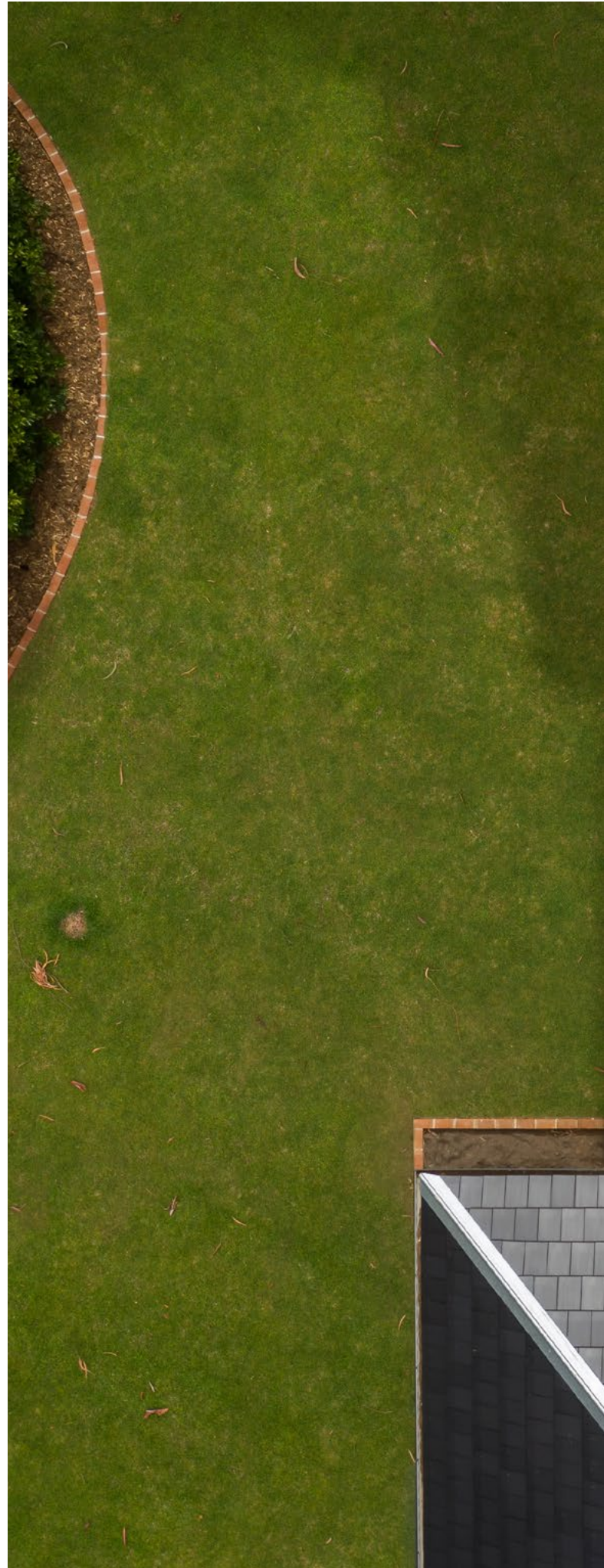
Opaque Slate

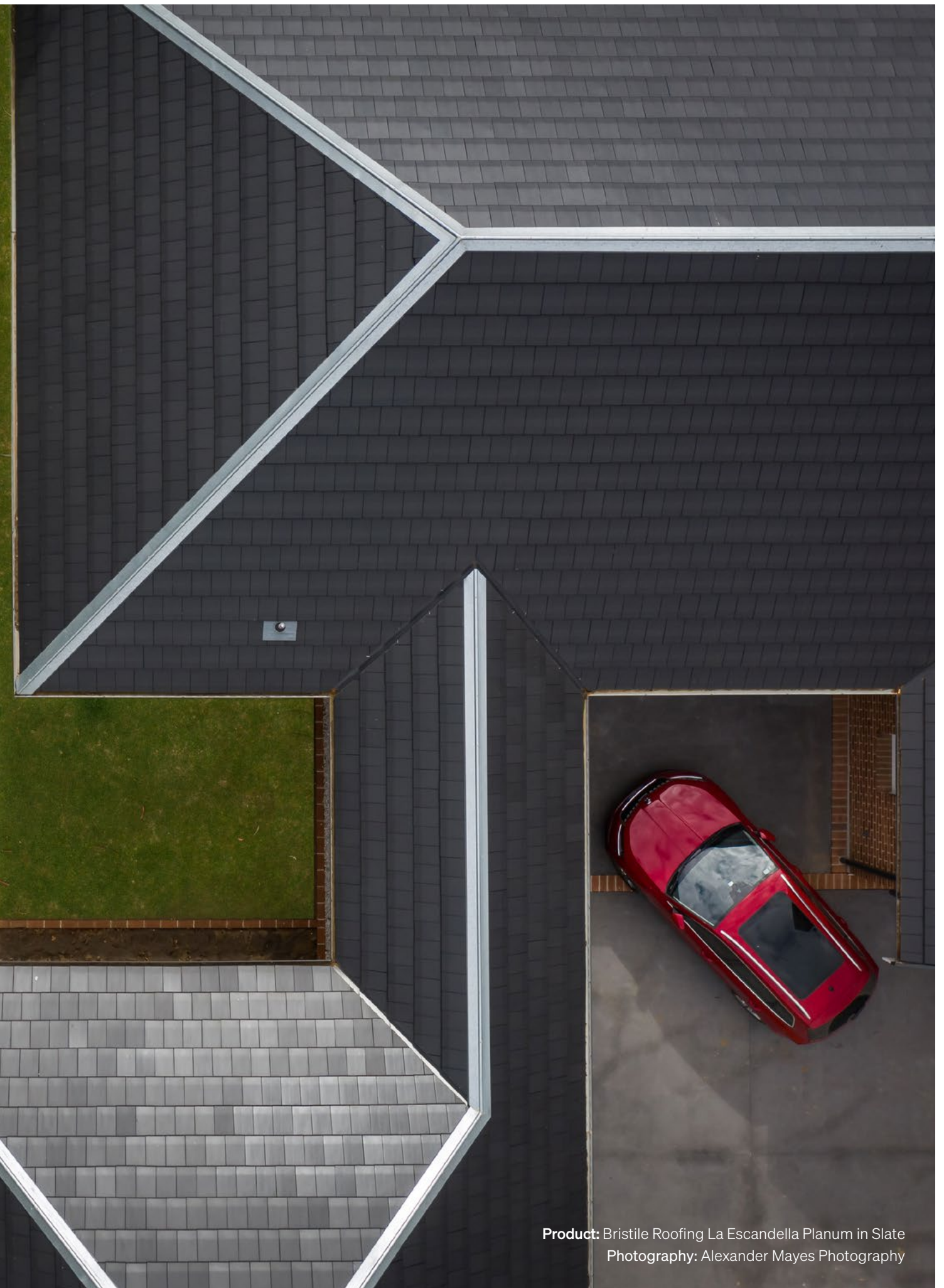


Wild Storm

Roofing

As one of your home's most prominent features, your roof should not be overlooked. And with so many profiles, colours and material choices on the market, there's a lot to consider.





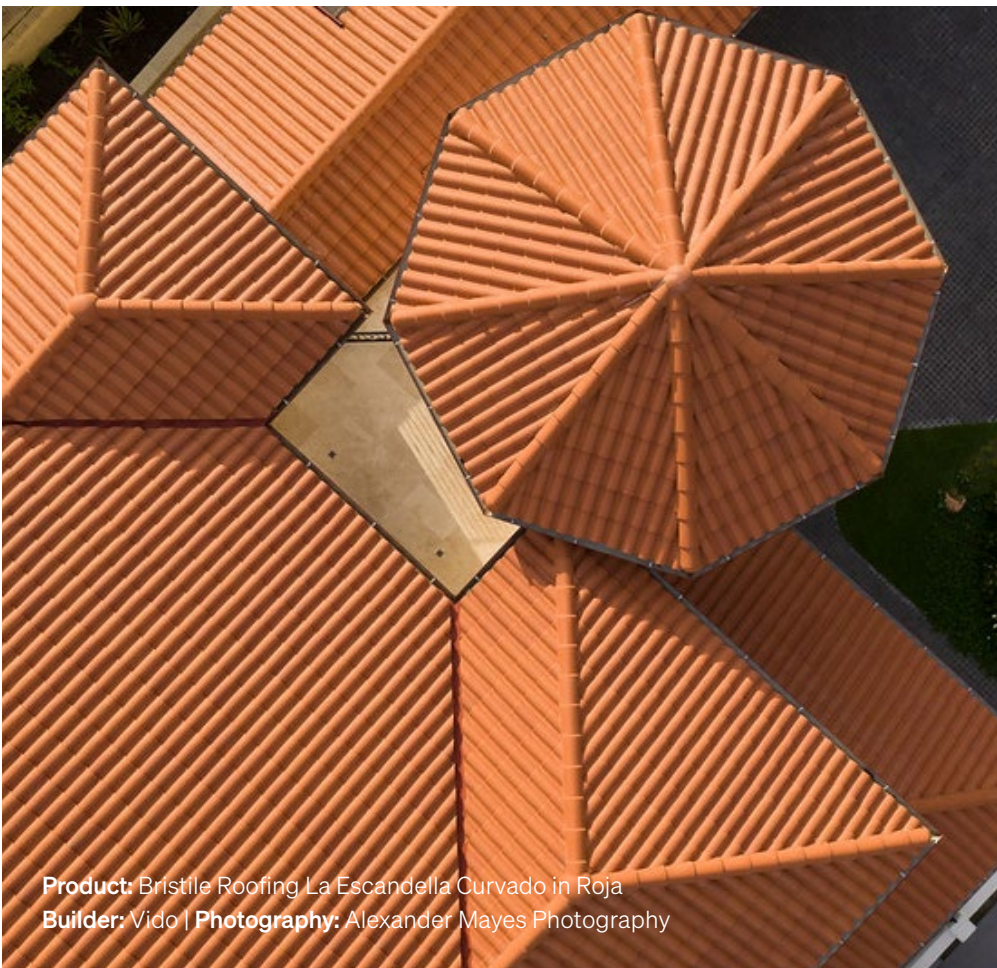
Product: Bristle Roofing La Escandella Planum in Slate
Photography: Alexander Mayes Photography



Product: Bristile Roofing La Escandella Planum in Ghost White



Product: Bristile Roofing
La Escandella Planum in Slate
Architect: Tim Stewart
Photography: Black Bee Studio



Product: Bristile Roofing La Escandella Curvado in Roja
Builder: Vido | **Photography:** Alexander Mayes Photography



Products: Bristile Roofing La Escandella Planum in Slate & Integrated Solar Roof Tiles
Builder: Oracle Platinum Homes
Photography: Black Bee Studio



Start by breaking down the criteria for roofing into four key components:

1. Appearance

The architectural style of your home, your preferred colour scheme and the surrounding environment all come into play. Are you looking for a complementary or contrasting style to your neighbours? Roof tiles also come in various profiles (see box, next page) – so you will need to take these into account as well.

2. Value

A more affordable product doesn't necessarily mean you are getting better value: a bigger upfront investment on a high-quality product with a longer lifespan is likely to be more cost-effective over the long term.

3. Durability

In addition to the overall lifespan of a material, find out about its colour longevity and weather resistance.

4. Insulation and energy efficiency

Different roofing products will offer different levels of natural insulation. For example, dark colours and metals can make it harder to keep your home cool in summer.



HOT TIP

For a heat reflective and temperature-efficient roof, choose roof tiles



Products: Bristle Roofing La Escandella Planum in Slate & Integrated Solar Roof Tiles
Builder: Oracle Platinum Homes | **Photography:** Black Bee Studio

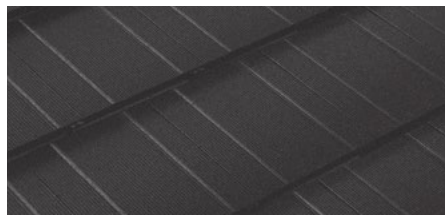
The options are endless with roof tiles



Terracotta roof tiles

- Colour for life warranty: will never fade
- 100 year product warranty: Designed to last.
- Excellent Sound Insulation
- Fire resistant
- Strong and durable
- Won't rust or corrode

Explore: Bristle Roofing's [La Escandella](#) European terracotta tiles



Concrete roof tiles

- One of the most affordable products on the market
- 50 year product warranty
- A wide variety of colour, finishes and profiles available, making them suitable for any style of home
- Fire-resistant
- Strong, durable and rust-proof (they get stronger with age)
- Energy efficient as they reflect heat away from the home

Explore: Bristle Roofing's [concrete roof tiles](#)



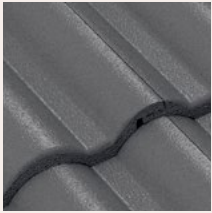
Integrated solar roof tiles

- Can be laid in conjunction with either terracotta or concrete tiles
- High quality and guaranteed to generate power for 25 years, while the structural integrity of the tiles is guaranteed for 10 years
- Bigger upfront investment, but will deliver savings over time by reducing your reliance on grid power

Explore: Bristle Roofing's Integrated [Solar Roof Tiles](#)

Pick your profile

Not sure what kind of profile you want with your concrete tiles? Here are six classic styles.



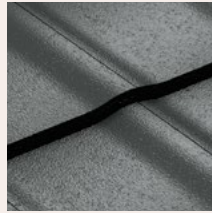
Designer

Sleek, minimalist and quietly undulating, our Designer profile works well in contemporary house designs.



Artisan

Timeless and enduring, these tiles are influenced by Australia's Federation homes.



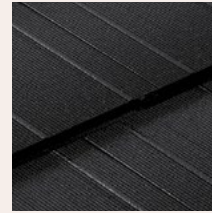
Classic

Modern and simple, the smooth linear finish works well in city or coastal environments.



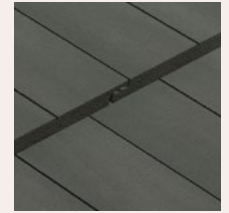
Prestige

Understated and simple, the Prestige profile is eye-catchingly elegant and timelessly refined.



Eton

The textured surface of this profile makes for a creatively different and prestigious look.



Premiere

With its striking design, Premiere has a smooth finish and dark tone akin to slate – at a much lower cost.



Find out why
roof tiles are best

Ridge rules

Your roofing will need to be capped with a ridge, and it can influence the overall look of your home. Here are Bristile Roofing's three ridge options.



Standard

A simple stepped finish gives a playful series of visual notes to any roofline.



Smoothline

This ridge is all about clean lines, and a smooth seamless finish.



Provincial

A modern finish using a crafted metal to integrate into just about any roof line.

Doors, window frames, garage doors

Every little bit (of your exterior) counts.



Product: Austral Bricks San Selmo Reclaimed in Reclaimed Original
Builder: Pro Living | **Photography:** Ange Wall

Front doors

When it comes to choosing a colour for your front door, make sure it's something you love, whether it's a timeless classic that speaks to the style of your home or something bold, brave and attention-grabbing.

The colour itself is entirely up to you, but there are a few practical points to consider:

- If the door is exposed to direct sunlight, using darker colours may have a drying effect and can cause the doors to warp, so lighter shades are a safer option.
- Don't choose the colour indoors – you'll need to see it in its planned environment to get the most accurate idea of how it will look.
- Consider going bare. Stained timber doors offer a rich sense of character and beauty all their own.

HOT TIP

Lighter shades are better if the door gets direct sun

Window frames

The key to good design is attention to detail, so give careful consideration to the finer features of your home's exterior, such as window frames.

Darker coloured framing is on the rise, with dark and charcoal colours like Dulux Monument and Black being some of the most popular dual-finish choices for homeowners thanks to their timeless and versatile appeal. They can create a stylish accent or simply blend in.

For heritage and more traditional-style homes, warmer tones such as reds and browns are prevalent and often sit within a carefully curated wider exterior palette.

With so many people favouring neutral colour palettes, white joinery around your windows and doors gives you flexibility. Colours like Surfmist and White Pearl are extremely popular for a Hamptons-inspired look.

Natural stained timber is also trending, and looks equally striking paired with darker colours like navy and grey, as well as neutral tones.



Garage doors

Choosing a colour for your garage door is more important than it may sound – especially if it's visible from the street. If the garage is attached to your house, choose a colour that fits within your existing palette by co-ordinating with your roof or window frame colours. Be sure to select a colour that also complements your exterior walls. The profile of the garage door is just as important (see opposite). Heritage and ranch garage door profiles will suit a Hamptons inspired facade, just as flatline and slimline profiles would suit a sleek modern new-build.



Product: GB Masonry Honed in Porcelain and Wedge Breeze Blocks in Porcelain
Builder: Webb and Brown-Neaves | **Photography:** D-Max Photography

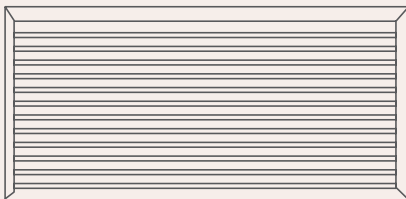
HOT TIP

**A fan of Hamptons style?
Then consider adding
windows to your
garage door**

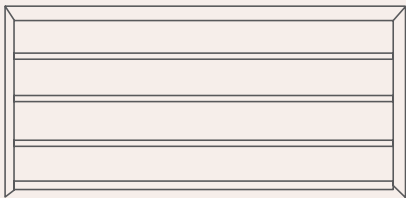
Great garages

The profile of your garage door will enhance your home's look. Here are five main profiles to consider (plus Hamptons-style windows).

Garage door profiles



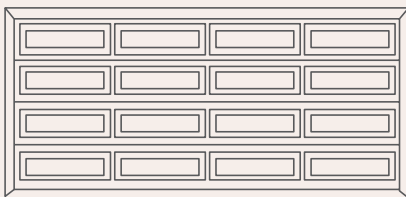
Slimline



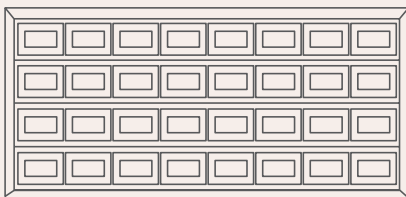
Flatline



Glacier



Ranch



Heritage



Hampton-style garage door window options



Stockton Heritage



Stockton Ranch



Stockford Ranch

Landscaping

It's the most frequently used path to your home and should not be overlooked.



Product: UrbanStone Luxury in Sand

Driveways

Don't forget about the humble driveway. It needs to be super practical – but make sure it looks good, too.



Product: UrbanStone Luxury in Obsidian

HOT TIP

Choose a colour and finish that look good now and endure in the future

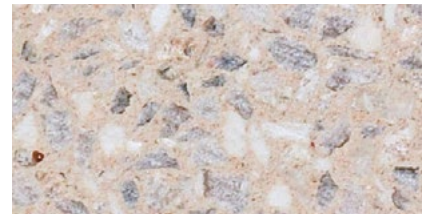
Often the leading line that draws the eye to the home, your driveway design shouldn't be underestimated – and the options are almost endless. Above all else, your material choice should be durable, non-slip, forgiving to oil stains and it should provide traction. With a wide range of colours, textures and patterns, it's no wonder pavers are a popular choice with homeowners.

Consider installing pavers on a concrete base for additional stability. As driveways tend to cover a large surface area, they're more prone to be affected by natural ground movement which can lead to damage and cracking. Choosing smaller paving sizes will also disguise those movements, where larger-format options can be less forgiving.

Darker colours are popular with urban-style homes and will hide the dirt, oil and tyre marks, but, be warned, they will absorb heat and be hotter to walk on in summer.

Sandy shades and softer tones complement most home exteriors and are more likely to fit in with the surrounding landscape, while traditional red brick driveways are a charming addition to country-style residences and heritage homes.

Driveway options



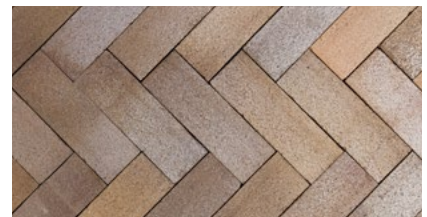
Concrete pavers

- Cost effective
- Good traction when wet
- Wide range of colours, sizes and styles



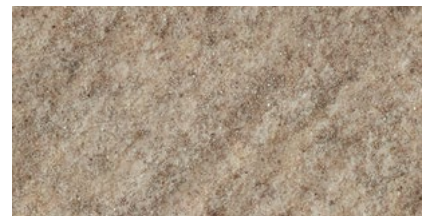
Stone pavers

- Style statement
- Colour longevity
- Good traction when wet
- Range of colours and styles



Clay pavers

- Durable and hard-wearing
- Colour won't fade
- Easy to lay in a range of patterns



Porcelain pavers

- High-end aesthetic
- Stain- and chemical-resistant
- Colour longevity
- Durable
- Wide range of colours, textures and styles

Paving

Paving can add character to your garden. But what to choose and what works best?

Pavers are one of the most useful and versatile products in landscape design. Not only is there a huge range of colours, shapes, sizes and textures, but they can be used for everything from pools to pathways and patios.

When it comes to pathways and pavers, it's important to choose the right material and the right product for the application. Options range from clay, concrete, engineered pavers, porcelain, granites and limestone paving options – in the end, it will come down to the application and your own personal style.

Concrete pavers are cost effective, while engineered and natural stone pavers are dense, durable and offer an organic appeal.

A new product on the market is the [UrbanStone Keope](#) range. These porcelain pavers are 20mm thick, and the beauty of porcelain is that it's chemical-, stain-, mildew- and mould-resistant. The luxury range is imported from Italy and brings European style to the Australian outdoors.

To choose your colours, look to your home's exterior, your natural surrounds and the [style of garden](#) you want to create. Sandy tones and breeze blocks can bring texture and a resort-like appeal to your outdoors, while warm earthy hues and timber-look options are perfect for a cottage garden. After something a little edgier? Smooth, sleek lines in dark colours will suit the inner-city urban aesthetic.

HOT TIP

Light coloured pavers are heat reflective, making the surface cooler to walk on in summer



WATCH: How to lay pavers.



Products: UrbanStone Opulence in Sand, GB Masonry Wedge Breeze Blocks in Porcelain, Bowral Bricks in Chillingham White & Austral Bricks Burlesque in Indulgent White
Landscape design: Matt Leacy | Photography: Toby Peet



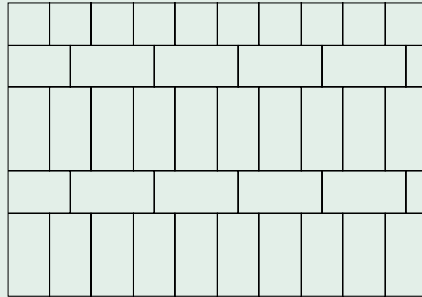
Product: UrbanStone Opulence in Ash



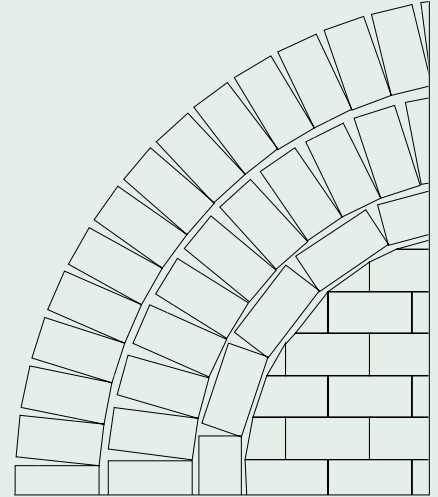
Product: UrbanStone Opulence in Sand
Landscape Design: Matt Leacy | Photography: Toby Peet

Paving patterns

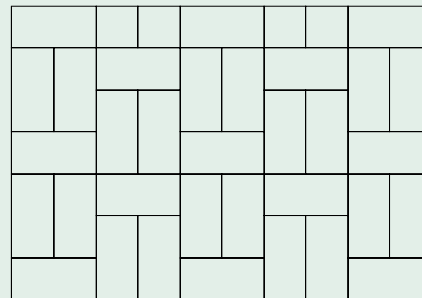
Don't know your herringbone from your stackbond? Here are the seven most common paving patterns.



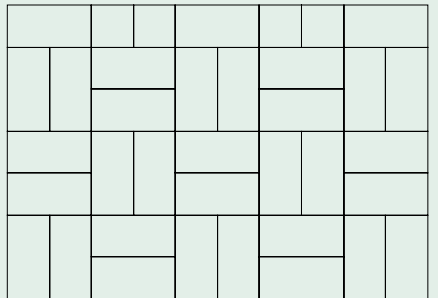
Stack and stretcher



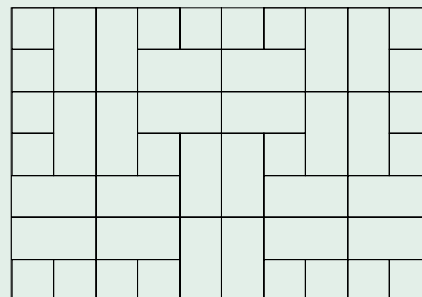
Circular (radial)



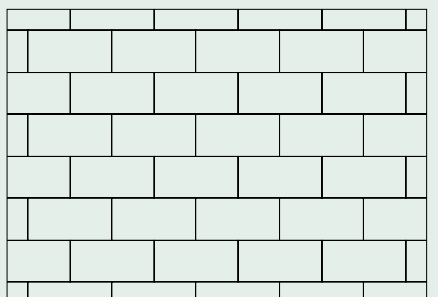
Basketweave 2 × 1



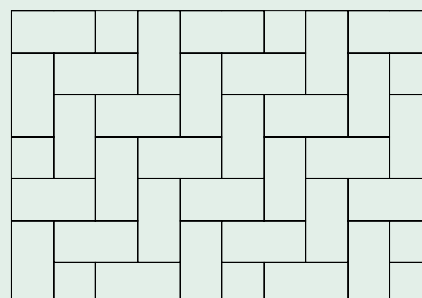
Basketweave 2 × 2



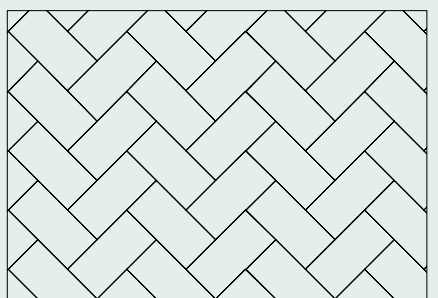
Tracery



Stretcher



90° Herringbone



45° Herringbone

Retaining walls

Offering style and function, retaining walls have a serious job to do.





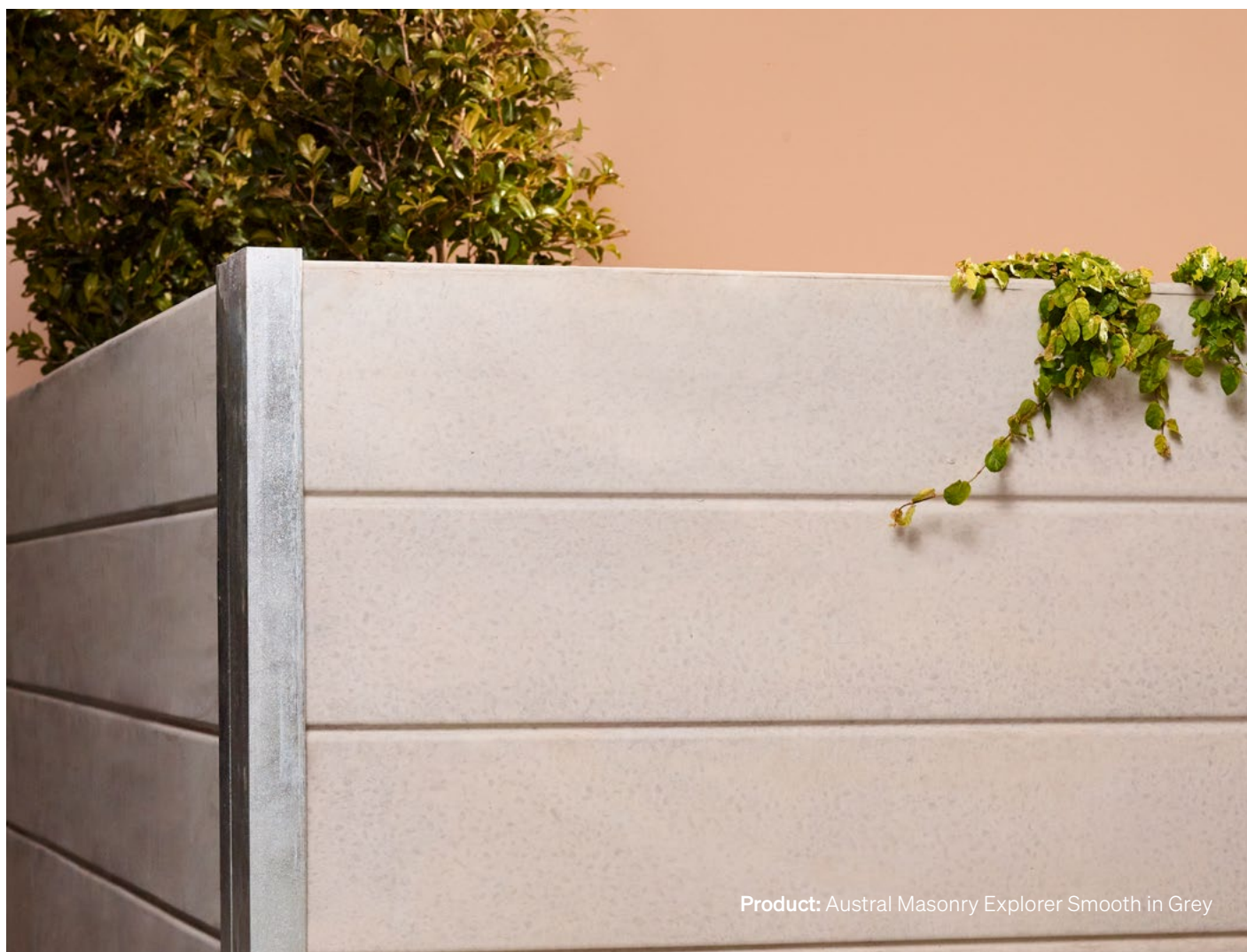
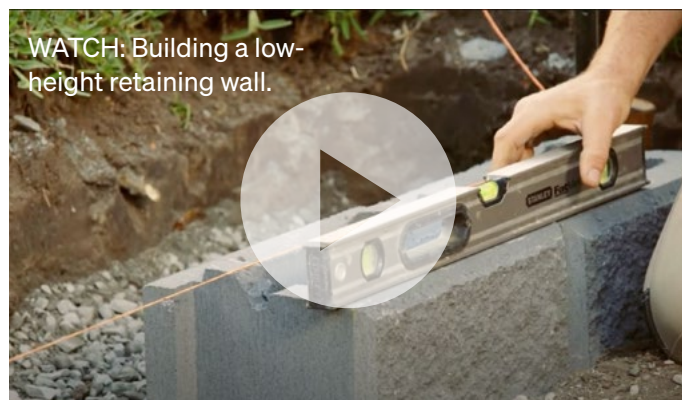
Product: Austral Masonry Heron Retaining Walls in Charcoal
Photography: Black Bee Studio

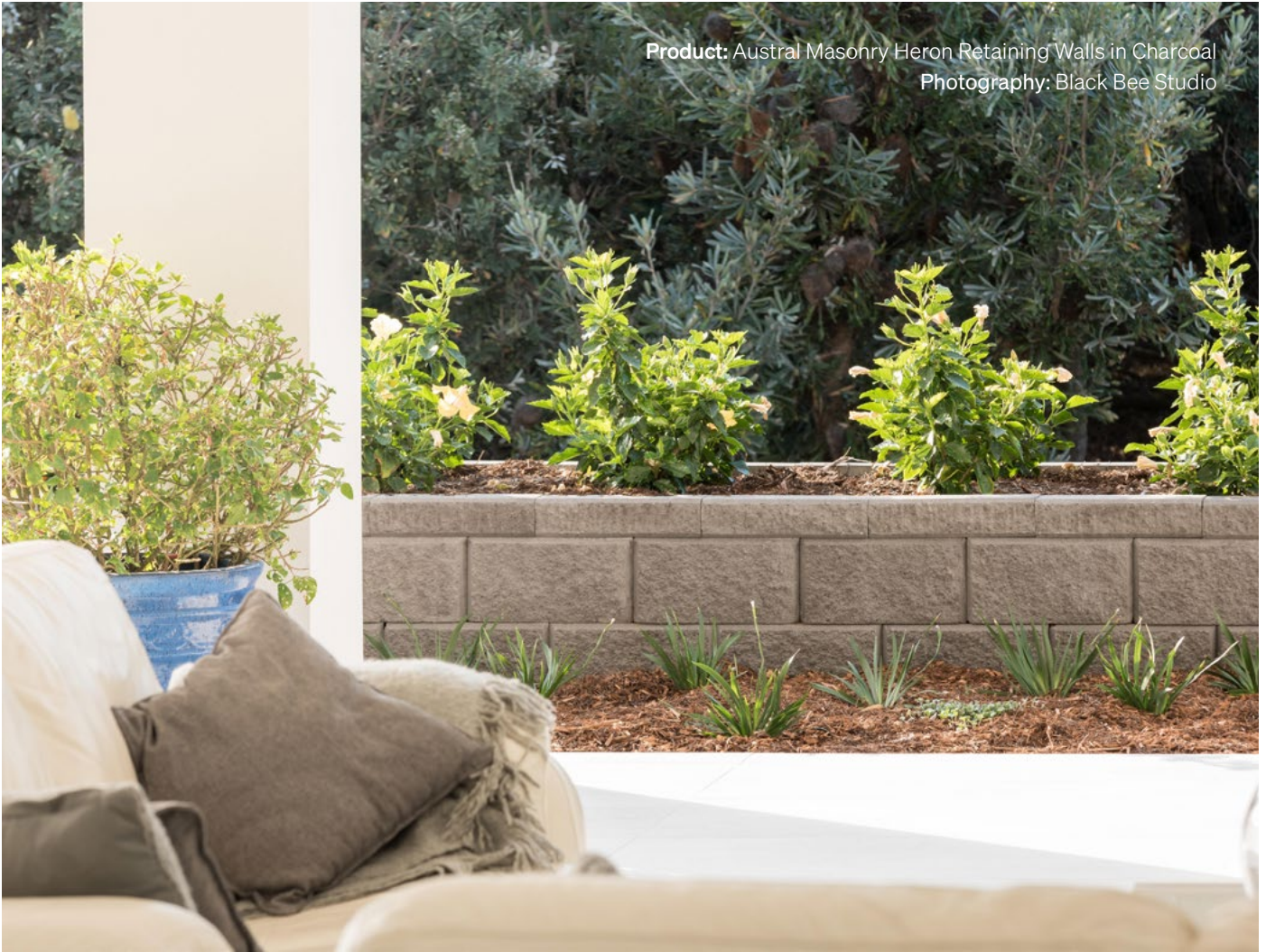
The humble retaining wall is so much more than a tool to level out the land on sloping terrain. A design feature in its own right, retaining walls are great multi-taskers and can be established to build garden beds, delineate your outdoor spaces and even to provide additional seating to create a place to relax and rest.

Take a 'whole-of-home' approach when designing your garden features and use materials and colours that suit the rest of your exterior scheme. Pathway pavers, fencing and privacy screens, external walls and retaining walls should all work together to tie into a bigger, beautiful picture.

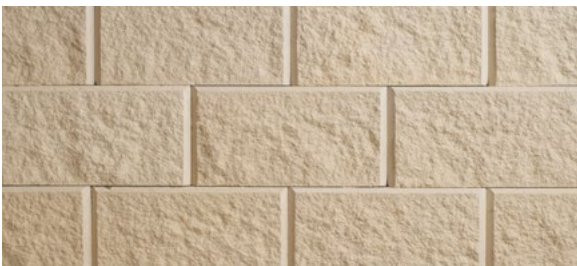
Do your research

When it comes to building a retaining wall, make sure you've got all the information – it might seem like a simple project, but in many cases you'll actually need council approval. If in doubt, engage the help of a professional to install the wall. Depending on the size and weight, it's also a good idea to get an engineer onboard to avoid bigger issues down the track.





Retaining wall options



Masonry blocks

- Available in a range of colours and finishes
- Segmental interlocking blocks are great for [DIY applications](#) on small jobs or should be professionally installed for larger/complex installations
- Coloured concrete blocks – also known as besser blocks – are available in range of colours and finishes to create vertical walls with clean lines. These should generally be professionally installed



Concrete sleepers

- Good for space efficiency
- Wide range of colours and finishes
- All the benefits of timber sleepers without worrying about termites, warping or rotting
- A great option for walls under 1m high
- Fast to install
- Posts are embedded in the ground to create the support structure which concrete sleepers are then fitted into to create the wall



Once you've done your research, made your mood-board and have painted a picture in your mind of how your new home should look, bring that picture to life before it's even built with Brickworks' industry-leading visualisation tool, iVisualise.

iVisualise

Undecided on your exterior house colours? From the comfort of your home you can virtually experiment with the colours and materials to see how they'll look together. You'll be able to show off your new home (or ask for a second opinion) by sharing straight to Facebook and Pinterest, and, for added convenience, print your colour selections in one simple, easy-to-understand colour scheme document that lists all your selections.

Try iVisualise [here](#).

A final checklist

- ✓ Start by gathering inspiration – you can download a free copy of our style inspiration guide [here](#).
- ✓ Seek some expert advice on choosing the right colours and materials to suit your personality and lifestyle. You can find out more about our colour consultation service [here](#).
- ✓ Once you've gathered your inspiration and have an idea of the style direction you want to take, book a free colour consultation with one of our experts. Booking link and information about appointments can be found [here](#).
- ✓ Explore the colours and materials you've chosen and how they look and feel in real life by visiting us at your nearest [Design Studio](#) or [Design Centre](#).
- ✓ See your selections come to life on your new home with our iVisualise tool (without even leaving the couch). You can even share your dream home on social media before building begins. Find it [here](#).



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