



# Grand designs

Interior designer *Luisa Volpato* is on a mission to make every home beautiful.

## MEMBER DETAILS

*Luisa Volpato*

**POSITION** Interior designer

**COMPANY** Luisa Volpato Interiors, NSW

**WEBSITE** [luisavolpato.com.au](http://luisavolpato.com.au)

*Tell us a little bit about your business:*

I'm a Sydney-based interior designer and style writer (see my Your Style page in *Latte*). I'm known for helping busy professionals create beautiful and practical living spaces that are tailored to their needs, lifestyle and budget, which they will enjoy for years to come and are proud to show off. No two jobs are the same and they range from one-room makeovers to complete home restyling overhauls and renovations.

My signature style involves combining investment pieces with more affordable finds and custom-made upholstery for a truly bespoke look. I'm a strong believer that it's not just about replacing everything you have with something new; it's about expressing your own style and surrounding yourself with things you love, that have meaning to you. Don't get me started on furniture package deals!

*What do you love most about what you do?* Most of my clients have a good idea of what they like and the result they're after but don't have the time, inclination, skills (or trust in themselves) to bring together a whole interior scheme. That's where I come in. Helping them narrow their choices to what they really like that also suits their lifestyle is crucial to what I do. It's incredibly satisfying when a client says, "Wow, how did you know that's exactly what I want?"

*The last thing I posted on Instagram was ...*

A shameless selfie with American interior designer extraordinaire Jonathan Adler, who I was lucky enough to meet when he visited Sydney recently for the very first time. (You can buy his fab furniture and accessories at *Coco Republic*).

*What one trait has helped you most in your work?*

My project-management skills. While I love the creative side of interior design (not to mention spending other people's money!) the reality is that a lot of what I do is manage client expectations, suppliers, contractors, logistics and execution. Attention to detail and quality control is always top of mind.

*What is the one trait that has hindered you most in your work?*

I used to think that being a perfectionist was a good thing, but I've realised in many cases it can be a complete time waster. I'm getting better at not sweating the small, non-important stuff (baby steps).

*What's the one golden piece of advice you could offer other women in business?*

Do work you love and you won't work a day in your life.

*What are you most pumped about right now?*

That *Home Beautiful* magazine is about to feature one of my design and renovation projects. The before and after photos of this apartment are pretty extreme. Before: original 1950s all-pink bathroom; retro blue and white kitchen; vinyl floor and old carpet; and Taj Mahal-inspired archway! After: modern Scandinavian-inspired white bathroom with concrete-look floor and black tapware; white kitchen with mirrored splashback and timber

accents; and timber floorboards. Not to mention the wall and dated cabinetry that had to go to open up the whole living area.

*What's trending in your world right now?*

A conscious movement against 'throw-away-ism'. I'm a staunch believer in spending more to buy fewer, better quality products that last longer, rather than buying items that are quickly replaced or thrown away.

*My top marketing tip:*

I've never loved the idea of networking for the sake of it – in my experience, I've found that you don't have to go much further than your own personal networks to develop some of the best, most rewarding partnerships and opportunities. ✨

## Quick questions

**Last thing I Googled:** Marble side tables.

**Three items in my bag I can't live without:** iPhone (the camera and Notes are invaluable to record discoveries on the go), small measuring tape, sunglasses.

**Last book I read:** *The Tailored Interior* by Greg Natale – one of my Australian interior design idols.

**Fave website:** [theinteriorsaddict.com](http://theinteriorsaddict.com)

**Fave app:** Sleep Easily Meditation by Shazzie. I'm always asleep before I get to the end of the 26 minutes!

**Entrepreneur icon:** UK interior designer Abigail Ahern – she breaks all the rules.

**Top of my to-do list:** You know what they say about plumbers and leaky taps at home ... my next job is to get my own home repainted!