

habitat SHOP FRONT lisa calautti



African style queen: Adri-Ann Brown at the front of her shop and, left, looks in the shop. Pictures: Angelita Bonetti

RIGHT AT HOME

Heart and soul are important to the owner of a stylish new store

For Adri-Ann Brown it's rather apt that her new lifestyle store is named after a place that holds a special place in her heart. Blu Peter, which stocks homewares, body care products and furniture from around the globe, was named after a South African venue where her husband proposed.

Blu Peter has allowed Johannesburg-born Mrs Brown, an interior design consultant with her own consultancy business, Red Brown Design, to bring together her love of design, contemporary homewares and discovering international emerging designers.

"I wanted to bring the pieces that I love to live with to Perth so that others can experience their warmth and surround themselves in their beauty too," she said.

The North Fremantle store, which opened last month, is situated inside a circa-1900s three-bedroom stone cottage along Stirling Highway.

Mrs Brown described the store's layout, spread across approximately 190sqm, as "contemporary ethnic".

"But things are going to change depending on what pieces I get in," she said. "It took a good year to source all the products. I did travel a lot to source products. Next year I hope to do more travelling."

Throughout the store are co-ordinated settings displaying the versatility of the stock. There are woven chairs, beaded lamps, tableware, wall art and designer furniture by Classical Geometry.

Many of the items in Blu Peter's range are making their Australian debut. These

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- Texture is a major element in Adri-Ann Brown's decorating philosophy. "Texture is so important, especially in contemporary interiors," she said.
- "When you go for one look running throughout, it can become so dead and boring. For me, it is important to have different textures."
- "I love contemporary design and classic and traditional objects that have cultural significance," she said.

include Rain bath and body products made with South African plants, works by Filipino designer Vito Selma and furniture by Design Ventures. Blu Peter is also the first WA store to stock Wonki Ware, a South African pottery range, described as "perfectly imperfect". Visitors to the store will also find Fremantle designer Amber Ward's range of felted alpaca and merino wool blankets, rugs and pendants, as well as handmade pottery by Mud Studio.

Blu Peter, 100 Stirling Highway, North Fremantle, 9433 1782, www.blupeter.com.au.

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