

australian

# home beautiful

34  
page  
BONUS  
BATHROOM  
SPECIAL

WINTER  
HEATING GUIDE  
25 BEST BUYS FOR  
INDOORS & OUT

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SOUL FOOD  
Recipes for  
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## Hermon & Hermon

We pay homage to Melbourne emporium Hermon & Hermon as the iconic store celebrates 20 years of cutting-edge style

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It's rare to find a store that makes you want to pack a suitcase and move right in, and rarer still to find one that can count its age in decades, as can Melbourne store Hermon & Hermon. "I always say, if I'd gotten it right, I would be retired by now!" laughs Barbara Hermon, who, along with her husband John (above), founded their eponymous store 20 years ago this month. Offering such diverse products as Jordan sofas, unique lighting and textured throws, the store's success rests largely on Barbara and John's skills as stylists. The couple displays their beautiful finds in elaborate room sets to inspire design lust in any who wander past their wide shopfront windows. Their store has a recognisable style, influenced

by Barbara's passion for handmade design and natural fibres, and her emphasis on striking accent pieces. Taking centre stage in their Melbourne showroom right now is a woven panel (pictured, top left) by Filipino designer Juvey Fernandez. The one-off piece is an artwork, with the fibre tapestry resembling a topographical map. Barbara has coaxed the artist into adapting the piece into smaller-scale works, which will be hung in triptychs. Kenneth Cobonpue is another H&H favourite: his intricately woven designs, which include his sculptural red 'Yoda' chair (top left), have been stocked here for years. "I was told a very long time ago that one must never forget to have 'ooh-ahh' products!" says Barbara. "It's important to create that impact."

'Triboa Bay' four-poster bed, \$3450/queen-size.

*Barbara recognises* THAT SUCCESS DOES NOT ALLOW FOR RESTING ON ONE'S LAURELS AND IS ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HOT NEW DESIGNERS AND MUST-HAVE PRODUCTS



The 'Kantha' chair, \$2495. Right: Boundary marker sculptures, from \$595ea.



### FILIPINO FLAIR

Hermon & Hermon's distinguished look is largely down to Barbara and John's passion for the Philippines, where they've been buying and travelling for 20 years, entranced by its talented designers and high-quality goods. Throughout the store, you'll find tribal figurines and sculptures (left), intriguing artworks and unique furniture pieces. Barbara and John's loyalty has been rewarded with access to the cutting-edge pieces of Movement 8, a Filipino design alliance including Tony Gonzalez, Tes Pasola, Milo Naval and Kenneth Cobonpue – whose designs create statements in chic homes across Australia.

### international radar

After 40 years in the homewares business, Barbara recognises that success does not allow for resting on one's laurels and is always on the lookout for hot new designers and must-have products. "I always have my eyes open," she says. "It involves a lot of tracking down and pestering people! Australia is a much smaller market than America or Europe, so you have to be persistent." Her doggedness has certainly paid off, with the store's on-trend stock helping to keep Australia ahead of the international design curve.

Contact Hermon & Hermon on (03) 9427 0599 or visit [hermonhermon.com.au](http://hermonhermon.com.au).