

HAROLDS

finishing touches

Harolds Finishing Touches in Toowoomba has customers flocking from near and far for that something special and it's all thanks to owner Aaron Bourne, who at just 24 years of age has created a magnificent interiors mecca.

PHOTOGRAPHY HUMMINGBIRD PHOTOGRAPHY
INTERVIEW PIP MILLER



store profile

HOW DID THE HAROLDS JOURNEY BEGIN?

Coming from Toowoomba it was always frustrating to never be able to find precisely the things that I wanted when decorating my home. I have always been drawn to things that were a little bit different and a little bit curious and never really found what I wanted, So, I began to think, well perhaps I could do it myself. Many months of planning, sourcing and sleepless nights and Harolds Finishing Touches was finally born.

WHAT ABOUT LIFE BEFORE HAROLDS? ARE YOU FORMALLY TRAINED IN DESIGN OR IS IT PURELY INSTINCTIVE – OR A BLEND OF BOTH?

It is perhaps a blend of both. Prior to Harolds I was working as a visual merchandiser manager for Freedom both in Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. It was an excellent starting platform to learn the ways of business whilst still keeping a finger on the pulse of the world of interiors. I am an interior designer by qualification, but I do feel it was my experience as a VM that ignited my passion for retail.

TWO YEARS DOWN THE TRACK, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

I think the main thing that I have learned is to trust my gut instinct. I have over the years refined my style and the Harolds brand to become something quite distinctive and recognisable. My favourite thing to hear is when customers say “that is very ‘Harolds!’” So knowing what I love and only buying what I love has been my greatest and most valuable lesson. I knew setting out that I couldn’t and wouldn’t please everyone’s taste and I think that is a good thing to recognise from the outset. Know what you do and do it well.

MEET AARON

Aaron Bourne is the owner of Harolds Finishing Touches in Toowoomba and has a background in interior design and visual merchandising.





store profile

DESCRIBE YOUR SHOP'S STYLE.

I would like to think that my style would be described as masculine, collected, curious, individual, organic, monochromatic, interesting and by no means, minimalist. I wanted a store where it was instantly recognisable as a store owned by a man. Somewhere where men feel equally comfortable to shop as women.

DOES IT EVOLVE WITH TRENDS OR IS IT CONSISTENT WITH YOUR SIGNATURE?

I like to stay true to my style, but because it runs on a palette of monochrome it is quite easy to inject trends as they emerge. Last year's neon trend was easy to throw into the mix quickly, with the bursts of colour looking magnificent against the black and white surroundings.

IS MONOCHROME A FAVOURITE COLOUR WAY OF YOURS?

I am a black and white man, through and through. Call me simple, but I just love the simplicity and chicness of a black and white interior. It's the perfect base to start a room and you can always add layers of texture, fabrics, wood tones, organic material and bursts of colour for good measure. It certainly always grounds the space.

WHERE TO FROM HERE? DO YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP THE HAROLDS BRAND?

I have lots planned for Harolds in the future. Next on the list is our online curiosity store, which we have been slaving over for some time now. It is nearly at the finish line and I am so excited at the results. It will be launched in the coming months and should hopefully satisfy all those that cant make it out to the store in Toowoomba.



VISIT HAROLDS FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE CORNER OF BRIDGE AND HUME STREETS, TOOWOOMBA

www.haroldsfinitingtouches.com.au
(website coming soon)

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