

Designs for living

SPRING usually brings warmer weather, beautiful gardens and is of course the prelude to spectacular summer. In addition to the garden, your home looks lovely in spring and the team at Hotondo Goulburn can help you choose a home design that takes advantage of the warmer weather.

A key feature of a good home in the warmer months includes open plan living and an outdoor alfresco area.

Alfresco areas are perfect for combining indoor and outdoor living and entertaining, especially as the days become longer and nights become warmer.

Open plan kitchens, meals and family areas that flow onto an alfresco make the perfect backdrop to everyday living and entertaining.

Phil and Trish Meares own and operate the Hotondo Goulburn franchise, building in Goulburn and surrounding areas.

They have a large range of home designs which feature open plan living areas and an outdoor alfresco in the standard design.

There are additional features that you can add on to an alfresco to make it comfortable throughout the entire year; which includes extra lighting, adding a ceiling fan, creating a gas point for a barbecue or even an inbuilt gas heater.

Even without these upgrades you can use an alfresco all year round as it is protected and



DINING DESIGN: One of the Hotondo-designed alfresco dining areas.

undercovered.

"Alfresco areas are becoming more and more popular as people love to be outdoors in the warmer weather, especially when they have friends or family over," Mr Meares said.

"They are also great for families as children can play in the backyard and as a parent you can be sitting at a table in the alfresco keeping an eye on them but also relaxing and reading a book in the shade."

Almost every home design by Hotondo Homes boasts a large open plan kitchen, meals and family area, which creates the central hub of the home.

"Open plan areas usually have a lot of windows and let in plenty of natural light, which creates a homely and warm ambiance throughout the house.

"These areas are where everyday living occurs but is

also perfect for entertaining as the open plan creates plenty of space for everyone.

"Home designs that have open living plus an outdoor alfresco come with sliding doors to connect the two, creating an easy flow and transition between the two areas."

There are plenty more features that can add a touch of spring to your home, including colours of walls, couch cushions or even adding an indoor plant in the entrance. The team at Hotondo Goulburn can help you with all your colour selections so your home feels like spring throughout the entire year. If you have any questions about building your dream home, you can visit Phil Meares and his team at their office located at 113 Marys Mount Road, Goulburn, or call 4821 2810.

Take time to plan

ANYONE who has renovated will tell you it can be decision after decision, and often with little time to think about what it means for style, functionality or cost.

If it's not the plumber wanting you to choose a tap, the cabinet-maker needs to know the colour of your kitchen cupboards.

Approaching a renovation one room at a time over months or even years, gives you some head space to weigh up decisions and at least feel like you've come to a considered conclusion.

The key to success in renovating bit by bit is to have an overarching

plan so that the work you do in step 'A' really does match up with the improvements completed in step 'D', and you don't waste money and time having to undo earlier efforts because you forgot to think ahead.

Just as you would do with a major renovation, before you pick up a hammer, you should draw up plans of what you want to do for the entire project to form a map for your journey, and go through the usual processes of obtaining any necessary permissions. Once you know where you are headed, time is your friend.



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