

Which house will rule?

Get set for a new series of House Rules which has so much more to reveal.

Australia's biggest renovation show is back.

Six new teams from around Australia are set to embark on a ride of a lifetime, putting their homes on the line and their skills to the test, as they battle it out to become mortgage free.

Together, they'll travel the country, hand over the keys to their homes and leave their opposition to transform every room in their house in just seven days!

Host Johanna Griggs will be in the thick of the action as these six brave teams gamble with the most important possession in their lives.

Acclaimed designer Carolyn Burns-McCrave will be supervising the teams, who have only one week to completely transform each home. Guided by just five House Rules, the teams will each be given a designated zone in the house and they must draw on all their creative talents, determination and strategy to achieve the most stunning reveals.

The whole house reveals are what sets this show appart. Nothing can match the feeling because it's their own home.

Expert judges – award-winning architect and designer Joe Snell and Home Beautiful magazine editor Wendy Moore – will score each team for their work. But the last word will go to the home owners.

Without knowing who was responsible for each zone – the home owners will score each transformation. Will they love or loathe what they see?

Scores will be revealed at Homebase, where one by one the teams will be eliminated.

The two teams left standing will face-off in the Grand Final for a chance to win the most coveted prize on Australian TV... their entire mortgage completely paid off!

The six teams vying for the life-changing prize are:

NEW SOUTH WALES / Steve & Tiana

VICTORIA / Bronik & Corrine

QUEENSLAND / Ben & Danielle

SOUTH AUSTRALIA / Ryan & Marlee

WESTERN AUSTRALIA /
Karina & Brian

TASMANIA / Cassie & Matt

House Rules surged into the Top 10 regular programs of 2014 with 2.8 million* viewers tuning in to see Victoria's Adam Dovile and Lisa Lamond crowned champions. The couple's lives have changed forever with Adam now a presenter on Better Homes & Gardens and their home completely paid off.

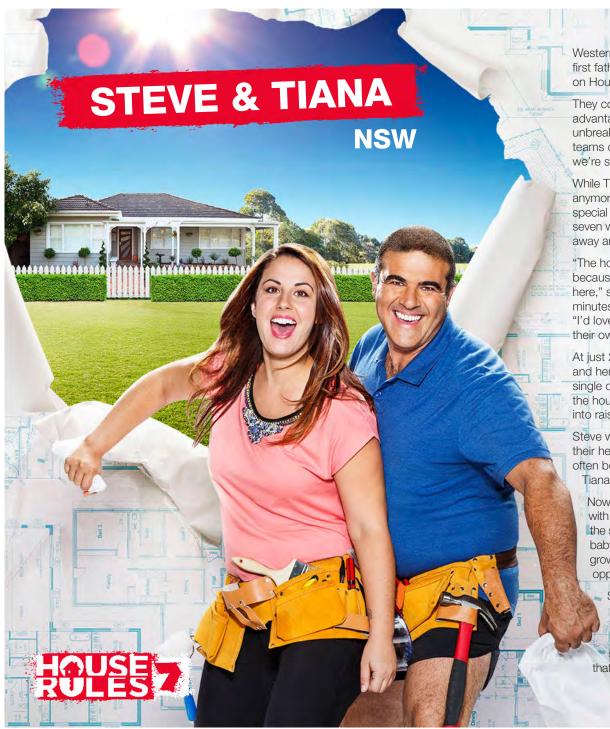
Who will win the ultimate prize in 2015? There's only one House Rules and it's on Seven.

For more information, go to the show's official website:

yahoo7.com.au/houserules

*Metropolitan and Regional Combined Audiences

HOUSE RULES



Western Sydney's Steve and Tiana are the first father and daughter duo to compete on House Rules.

They count their blood ties as a massive advantage in the competition. "It's an unbreakable bond," Tiana says. "The other teams can go their separate ways but we're stuck together for life."

While Tiana doesn't live with her dad anymore, her childhood home holds a special place in her heart. She was only seven when her mother Danielle passed away and the house is filled with memories.

"The house is really important to me because I had a wonderful childhood here," says Tiana, who now lives 20 minutes away with new husband Dean. "I'd love for my future children to create their own memories here."

At just 28, Steve was left to bring up Tiana and her younger brother Andrew. "Being a single dad was tough. I wasn't able to fix the house because all of the money went into raising the kids."

Steve worked hard to keep a roof over their heads. "We didn't get to see Dad very often because he was constantly working," Tiana says.

Now Steve is a father to six-year-old Rory with partner Deanne, Tiana is determined the same thing doesn't happen to her baby brother. "He's given me everything growing up," she says. "This is my opportunity to give back to him."

Steve's 1960s yellow brick threebedder has definitely seen better days. "It's falling apart," Tiana says. "There's cracks everywhere and it's so dated. Dad's paying off something that he's not proud to show off." Steve, a metal fabricator, admits to feeling embarrassed by the state of his home. "I would like to feel proud of this house again. It's been a long-time dream to have this house renovated. And to have my mortgage paid off would be mind-blowing."

The pair want the house transformed into a big modern entertainer, where Steve – the king of the barbecue – can play host to his big Maltese family.

At 47, Steve is the oldest competitor on House Rules while Tiana, 26, is the youngest by one month. While Steve will provide the brawn on the show, he's counting on Tiana to do the rest. "He'll be the muscles; he'll tear everything down and build everything up but I'll be there to make everything look pretty," she says.

The pair may be close but their relationship isn't always smooth sailing. "She's the apple of my eye, but she can also be a pain in my arse," Steve laughs.

Tiana, a childcare director, admits she's feisty and opinionated.

"There's always going to be arguments when I'm involved because I like to get my opinion across."

Proud Blues supporter, the duo are thrilled to be flying the flag for NSW. "We're Blue through and through," Steve says.

Tiana adds: "We've got the best state in the country. We're gonna win!"

#SteveandTiana



Having the only carpenter in the competition, the pressure is on the Victoria team to deliver.

Bronik, 27, has spent the last 10 years working as a chippie and it's a job he loves. "I enjoy building something from scratch and seeing what I end up with," he says.

His girlfriend of two years Corrine, 28, believes his skills will set them apart. "He was born with a hammer in his hand," she says. "I have a lot of confidence in Bronik and his workmanship."

Corrine describes Bronik as being 'super impulsive', like the time he bought their house without telling her!

"We were out watching the cricket and he gets this call," she laughs. "He's like, 'Babe, guess what?' We just bought a house! I still get goosebumps thinking about it."

The 1960s weatherboard they bought early last year was the first house they looked at. Despite it being a 'bombsite' and an 'eye-sore', it was situated in an area they could see themselves raising a family.

"We want to make this place our forever home; an open space where we feel comfortable and can raise some kids," Bronik says.

The only habitable area is the living room, which is where they eat and sleep. "We've packed most of our things into the lounge room because it's cosy and comfortable," Corrine says.

While they had a vision for the property, hefty mortgage repayments have stalled the much-needed renovations. "Knowing that we have such a huge mortgage hanging over our heads has put a lot of strain on us financially," Bronik says.

Corrine adds: "Even though Bronik could renovate the entire house on his own, we can't afford it financially."

House Rules is just the opportunity they've been waiting for.

"We entered this competition because our house is a dump and in real need of some TLC," Bronik says. "To have it renovated is a dream come true."

They may be in love but when it comes to design, they're like chalk and cheese.
"I like clean, white walls," says Corrine.

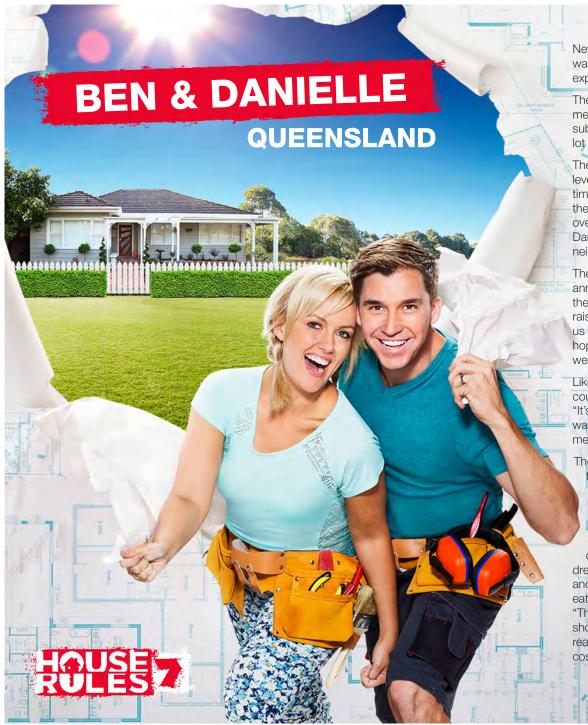
"I like walls that make a statement," counters Bronik, who describes his style as modern industrial.

While Bronik is handy on the tools, Corrine's no stranger to renovation having remodelled a milk bar she once owned into a funky café. "There was a lot of painting and sanding," says Corrine, who now holds down two jobs as a barista and retail assistant.

In their spare time, Corrine enjoys designing and making jewellery while Bronik makes timber furniture. "I like to go out to the shed and make tables, chairs or whatever," he says. "I get a real satisfaction out of making them and giving them away as gifts".

The couple have some big shoes to fill after Victoria took the House Rules title in 2014. "Victorians are winners, as we saw last year with Adam and Lisa," Bronik says. "We'll make sure we come out on top."

#BronikandCorrine



Newlyweds Ben and Danielle always wanted a home in one of Brisbane's most expensive areas.

Their dream came true in 2011 but it meant buying the worst house in the suburb! "It was a fixer-upper but it had a lot of character," Ben, 32, says.

The couple liken their 1970s split-level brick abode to a ski chalet. With timber cladding and outdated finishes, the home is in desperate need of an overhaul. "Our house is an ugly brick box," Danielle, 31, says. "It's the eyesore of our neighbourhood."

The pair - who celebrated their first anniversary in October last year – bought the home from an elderly couple who'd raised their entire family there. "They left us a bottle of wine and a card saying, 'We hope you spend as many happy years as we did here,'" Danielle says smiling.

Like the home's previous owners, the couple can imagine growing old there. "It's our forever house," Danielle says. "We want to build our life together here and it means the world to us."

The plan was to renovate the property themselves. After all, firefighter Ben had previously worked as a plasterer and concreter while urban designer Danielle has an artistic flair.

But their attempt to revamp the study quickly put an end to their renovating dreams. "We pulled the lining off the wall and saw the studs had been completely eaten out by termites," Ben says. "The house was a can of worms we shouldn't have opened. We suddenly realised that renovating was going to cost an absolute fortune."

Being on House Rules is the kick start their home desperately needs. "Our house is dying for a makeover," Ben says.

They're hoping the other contestants can give them a house with the wow factor. With a quirky love for both modern and vintage styles, they describe their style as fresh and eclectic. "We like natural, earthy materials like timber, stone and concrete," Danielle says.

They may be competitive but their laidback attitude might fool their competitors into underestimating them. "I think the other contestants will see us as nonthreatening because we're pretty chilled," Danielle says.

"What makes Ben and I contenders is that we work so well together; our skills complement each other."

However, indecisiveness and a lack of organisation could be their undoing. "Danielle is quite disorganised and she struggles with decisions," Ben says. "And her mouth can get her into trouble."

In their spare time, the couple enjoy the great outdoors and hanging out with their dog Pepper, a three-year-old border collie cross poodle.

Born and raised in Brisbane, the pair are looking forward to flying the flag for Queensland. Ben says: "It's the best state in Australia. Hopefully we do everyone proud."

#BenandDanielle



When Ryan first bought his Adelaide home four years ago, he moved in alone.

Now it's gone from being a bachelor pad to a cosy love nest after girlfriend Marlee, 26, joined him last year.

"When I moved in, nothing matched," she laughs. "Every cup and piece of cutlery was different. I've started transforming it slowly into a home for us but it's been baby steps...I've taken it one cushion at a time."

They may live together but Ryan's hectic work schedule leaves little time for their relationship.

The 29-year-old holds down two jobs, often working 16 hour days. "I run behind the garbage truck and empty bins from 4am to 1pm and from 1.30pm till dark I'm a paver and fencer by trade," he says. "Money's always tight. Not only is it the mortgage, it's the bills that follow. I'm working two jobs to make ends meet."

Tired of seeing him run himself into the ground, Marlee saw House Rules as their ticket to freedom. "Winning is going to change our lives," she says. "Ryan won't have to work two jobs anymore and get his life back."

Despite calling their home the 'ugliest house in South Australia', Ryan is proud of what it represents. "I bought it all by myself so it means the world to me and it's gonna be a future for me and Marlee when it's renovated," he says.

Describing their style as 'modern warehouse', the pair have a clear idea about what they like. "We're looking for a fresh, modern, funky vibe," Marlee says. "We love to entertain so we want it to be a warm, welcoming, bright and happy place."

Ryan's strong work ethic and Marlee's skills as a travel agent make them one formidable duo.

"As a travel agent, I need to be able to multitask and be super organised which will come in handy," Marlee says.

Ryan adds: "We are real contenders in the competition because when you combine my physical ability and her brains we'll be number one."

While they have their eye on the prize, it won't be all work and no play for Ryan and Marlee who admit they're 'big kids at heart.' "We're always mucking around and laughing," Ryan says.

When they're not busy working, the pair enjoy keeping fit and hitting the beach. "We do a lot of outdoor activities," Marlee says. "That will help us in the competition especially during those long working days."

Having been born in South Australia, the duo can't wait to make their state proud. "I'm a very proud South Australian so to represent our state is amazing," Ryan says.

Marlee adds: "Our message to the other teams is watch out! Because we are the wrecking ball you don't want to mess with."

#RyanandMarlee



Married couple Karina and Brian are playing to win for their tight-knit blended family.

The couple have three children, teens Daniel and Bailey from Brian's former marriage, and six-year-old Lara.

Leaving them behind will be heart-breaking but they see no other way out. "We've had to weigh up the pros and cons," Karina says. "It's a huge sacrifice but we need to get our family out of debt."

They bought the property in Geraldton, north of Perth, five years ago because of its potential. Situated on five acres, it enjoys ocean glimpses, mountain views and roaming wildlife. "We purchased this house with the dream of renovating it but we can't afford to do anything with it," Karina says.

Brian adds: "Just making ends meet is a struggle."

The 1970s Spanish-style villa is in desperate need of renovation. "The house is old and tired," Karina says. "I talk to the house and I tell her, 'Don't worry old lady, we're going to make you better."

House Rules is just the makeover she needs. "We want to grow old here together," Brian says. "It's something we want to leave as a legacy for our children and our future grandchildren."

The couple may share common goals but they're polar opposites when it comes to executing their plans. While Brian shoots for the stars, Karina drags him back down to earth. "I dream big," he admits.

Karina adds: "He has these ideas that aren't always achievable financially. Brian has been known to call me a dream killer but at the end of the day he knows that we've got limits and I'm just looking out for our family."

When it comes to budgeting, Karina is queen. "If it wasn't for Karina, I'd be out on the street broke," Brian laughs.

Karina, 42, and Brian, 44, are the oldest team in the competition but their age won't be holding them back. "The younger teams might think that we're old but they don't know our abilities and the knowledge we have," Brian says.

Karina, who works as an operations manager at her local museum, is a qualified drafter with a keen interest in interior design.

Brian works in the mining industry as a plant operator but he's also a qualified timber framer who once owned his own shed building company.

They're both incredibly handy having renovated their last home together.

"The other teams are in for a rude awakening once they learn about us," Brian warns. "I've done many renovations and helped other people build their dreams homes. I'm confident we'll do well in the competition."



Go-getters Cassie and Matt are determined to break the Tassie curse on House Rules.

"We know the pressure is on with the previous Tasmanian teams eliminated first," Cassie, 31, says.

"But we want to win," Matt, 31, adds.
"Just because we're on the bottom of
Australia doesn't mean we're not going to
finish on top."

The pair met 10 years ago through mutual friends but it wasn't until five years later they began a relationship. In 2014, they bought their first home together in Hobart; a classic 1960s brick home that has never been renovated.

With its pink bathroom, purple bedroom and fluorescent green carpet, the house is screaming for a makeover.

"It needs a lot of work,"
Cassie admits. "However, we want to preserve the character of the home; maintain that 1960s feel but modernise it."

Keeping a keen eye on the renovations will be Cassie's nan who lives down the road. "My mum and dad's first house was in the same suburb so we see it being our forever home," Cassie says.

The duo are set to storm the competition. Pharmacist Cassie already has two secret weapons in her arsenal. Nicknamed the 'Transformer', she has a clever knack for transforming trash to treasure.

"One of my favourite things to do is to go to the tip," she says. "I love scavenging around, finding old things I can give a new lease of life to."

And, according to Matt, she's "the most organised person" he's ever met. "Cassie's all about lists, order, folders. She researches and plans everything."

Matt, a swim instructor who's studying to become a P.E teacher, will keep them cool under pressure. "It takes a lot to make Matt angry," Cassie says. "I've never seen him blow up at anyone."

And Cassie will be able to count on him to make her laugh even if their backs are against the wall. "He's a bit of a clown – someone who likes to defuse situations with humour," Cassie says.

While Matt worries he doesn't have a trade behind him, he's determined to learn.

"When it comes to the tools, I'm a little bit inexperienced but I'm a quick learner," he says. "I just love to give anything a go."

The active pair are both physically strong, spending their spare time outdoors playing competitive sport, diving, sailing and fishing. "We like to do everything together," Matt says. "As a team we'll be like a rock. Unbreakable!"

Given their sporting backgrounds, losing is not an option. "Second is the first loser. I don't like losing," Matt says.

Cassie adds: "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. We won't ever get another chance to have our mortgage paid off."

#CassieandMatt



House Rules fans can expect plenty of surprises this year according to host Johanna Griggs.

"The show is continuing to evolve with loads of twists and turns and a whole new phase never seen before," she says. "We've had to keep the contestants guessing just as much as our audience and it's resulted in some pretty amazing scenarios."

Away from the bright lights of television, Johanna runs a construction company with builder husband, Todd Huggins. "Renovating is ridiculously good fun," she says "But I'd be lying if I didn't say it can also be extremely stressful. There are so many things you can't control on a building site."

Together they've built and renovated several homes. But would she let complete strangers renovate her house?

"I would have a heart attack just thinking of what they might do," laughs Joh. "I admire anyone who has the courage to hand over their house keys, but I'm way too particular."

Johanna says House Rules is unlike any other show on Australian TV. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. At worst, our contestants will walk away with great memories, a renovated home, and skills they can use for life.

"But if they win, they will have their entire mortgage paid off. The freedom that will provide is just incredible. Everyone's a winner including the audience who are treated to the most spectacular reveals each week."

In addition to hosting on House Rules, Johanna anchors the multi-award winning Better Homes and Gardens, which she has fronted for more than a decade.

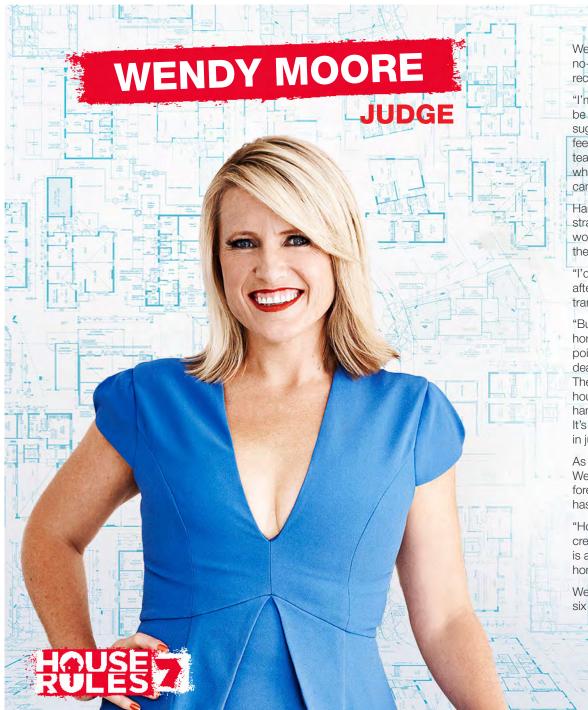
Before her successful television career, Johanna represented Australia in swimming, winning bronze at the Auckland Commonwealth Games in 1990, and silver at the 1991 World Championships.

She joined Channel Seven after announcing her retirement from swimming in 1993. She is one of the network's most popular personalities having presented Seven's Summer of Tennis, Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival, Seven Weekend News, Sydney Weekender, Auction Squad and the Summer and Winter Olympics.

Johanna is an avid charity worker, donating her time and services for organisations including the McGrath Foundation, the Humpty Dumpty Foundation and Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital. She is also a Beyond Blue board member, an organisation devoted to improving the mental health of all Australians.

Johanna is a proud mother of two sons: Jess, 19, and Joe, 18. In the rare moments she gets to unwind, she enjoys cooking and gardening.





Wendy Moore is ready to deliver her no-nonsense critique to this year's new recruits.

"I'm a pretty honest person. My aim is to be constructive and truthful, but I won't sugar coat my opinions," she says. "The feedback may be brutal at times, but the teams will get a much clearer picture of what is expected – as well as how they can improve."

Handing over your house keys to complete strangers is a scenario Wendy never would have entertained before working on the show.

"I'd have to say my mind is now changing after seeing some of the amazing transformations," she laughs.

"But it's still a huge risk entrusting your home to strangers. That's the wonderful point of difference with this show. We are dealing with contestants' own homes. They have an emotional connection to their houses and the tension that comes from handing over their keys is just so authentic. It's amazing to see what can be achieved in just one week."

As editor of Home Beautiful magazine, Wendy is regarded as one of Australia's foremost experts on style and design. She has helmed the title for almost a decade.

"Home Beautiful is about being inspired to create a home you love, and House Rules is about teams coming together to create a home for someone else to love".

Wendy says she can't wait to see what the six teams will deliver this series.

Arming people with ideas and the tools to help transform a home is the reason Wendy signed up for House Rules, and took the reins at Home Beautiful.

"I have worked in the magazine world for more than 20 years, but Home Beautiful was my dream title and the one I wanted to work on. It's a magazine I have a personal passion for.

"I love looking at the homes and all the amazing ideas my team offer. It's so inspirational."

Wendy has worked for some of the country's biggest selling magazines including the Australian Women's Weekly, Woman's Day and Burke's Backyard magazine.

Her recent achievements include launching the official app for Home Beautiful and House Rules, in December 2013.

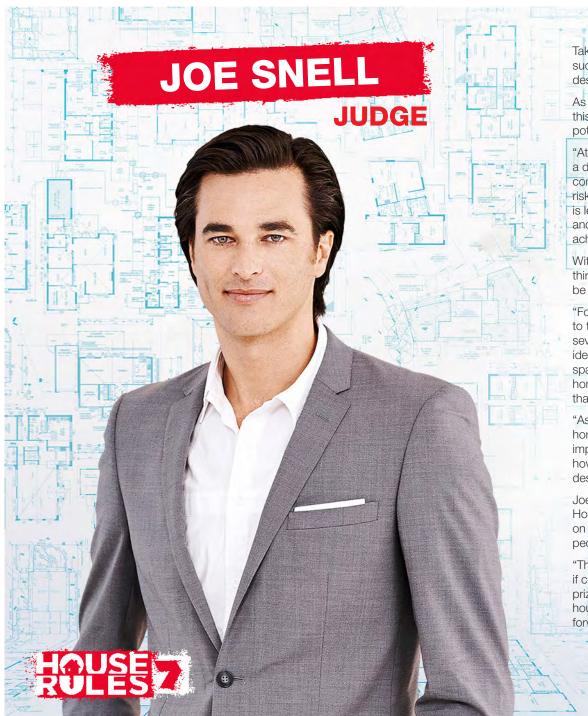
She oversaw the development of the decorating inspiration tool designed to collect, curate and share mood boards and images from the magazine's image library.

It held the number one position in the app store, both overall and in the lifestyle category, with 100,000 downloads three months after launch. Released as Home Love, the app has now been renamed House Rules powered by Home Beautiful.

Wendy lives in Sydney's inner west with husband Peter and her four-year-old twin girls, Darcy and Ruth.

In her spare time, she enjoys running and gardening.





Taking big design risks is the key to success according to revered architect and designer Joe Snell.

As a judge, he's looking forward to seeing this year's teams unleash a home's full potential.

"At the end of the day House Rules is a design competition and, as in any competition, those that take the greatest risks and pull them off, win! The real prize is learning how to create a dream home and having the skills and confidence to achieve that."

With the renovating competition now in its third year, Joe expects the contestants to be savvier and quicker off the mark.

"For that reason I am looking forward to them getting used to the super quick seven day build and putting their major ideas and energy into the design of the spaces and rooms to ensure that the homeowners get something really special that transforms their lives for the better.

"As always in the judging, the homeowners' House Rules are the most important element so I can't wait to see how the teams use their imagination and design skills to bring it home!"

Joe says he's delighted to be part of House Rules which not only shines a light on his craft, but changes the fortunes of people forever.

"This show is a win-win for everyone. Even if contestants don't walk away with the top prize, everyone ends up with a renovated house and skills they can use moving forward."

Joe's appreciation of design began as a child. The son of an architect, Joe was always surrounded by sketches of buildings and floor plans.

He completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in architecture and then a Bachelor of Architecture, before moving to London to work in real estate for two years.

Joe now practices at Snell Architects where his experience as a Registered Architect has crossed the fields of architecture, interior design, large scale urban event installation and lighting design.

His work has been recognised with national design awards in retail, commercial and event based projects, including the 2012 Westfield National Retail Awards, the 2010 and 2011 Interior Design Excellence Awards. His recent work includes the Anthony Nader RAW Hair Salon, Mamamia offices, Magazin Bar and Foneking retail stores.

As well as architecture, Joe has a passion for lighting and is Creative Director of a lighting consultancy company called LLIGHT.

He has created many exhibits for Vivid Sydney, an annual festival of light, music and ideas. He is also active in his role as Creative Director of The Goods Tube, a design-led company that specialises in bespoke gift collections for the corporate and retail markets.

Joe lives in Sydney with his Danish wife Laura and their three sons Asger, six, Bjorn, four, and Peter, six months.



CAROLYN BURNS-McCRAVE



As the resident design expert and mentor on House Rules, Carolyn Burns-McCrave is there to guide the teams.

She believes paying close attention to the House Rules is the key to success in the competition.

"I want teams to take every House Rule to heart and make sure those rules are reflected in everything they do in their zone. But, before they start, they must try and have a clear design vision.

"Committing 100 per cent to your design vision is where 'Wow' moments come from."

Carolyn's original and innovative ideas regularly create such moments, which is why her work is featured routinely in some of the country's most popular and prestigious home magazines.

Her passion for interior design stems from her childhood when she spent her free time "going to display homes and looking at beautifully designed houses".

In the 1980s she recalls moving her parents' furniture around, sponging walls, using baking paper to trace over real estate floor plans and obsessing over how she could make people's houses better.

After completing a Diploma of Arts in Interior Decoration and Design, Carolyn spent the next eight years working at Melbourne firm SJB Interiors before setting up her own business, Burns-McCrave Design, with husband Leonard almost a decade ago.

Not content to just collaborate at work, the pair also designed and renovated their 1950s cottage in Melbourne from top to bottom. It is scattered with expensive designer furniture and vintage finds and bargains to give it a layered and personal look.

Carolyn says she would have no qualms handing over her house keys to contestants.

"I'd jump at the chance to hand over my house to see how their ideas take shape. One of the hardest things about planning a renovation is the ability to look at a space with fresh eyes.

"Houses are just physical spaces that are being transformed. And you're never going to know how good your house can be until someone takes you there."

The effervescent designer is excited about utilising her skills again to encourage a new group of budding designers.

"Mentoring and supporting contestants with their design choices is one of the highlights of my career to date," she says. "I love watching people develop their eye for design."

The mother of two boys - Fintan, 12, and Lorcan, 10 - enjoys travelling and taking photos as inspiration for her work.

HOUSE RULES



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