



## THE ART OF LIVING BEAUTIFULLY

For Sandy Harvey, owner of Claremont's gorgeous homewares and furniture store, Veranda, it's as easy as A (for accessories), B (for beautiful furniture, C (for cushions) to turn drab rooms into fab living spaces

By GABI MILLS  
Images CRIB CREATIVE

**O**n the face of it, Sandy Harvey isn't your typical interior design expert. With a background and distinguished career in corporate finance, an MBA and accountancy degree, she doesn't necessarily fit the mould when it comes to somebody working in a creative industry.

"I've always had a creative flair," she says, "and just by chance came across Veranda, a business which had been running for 11 years."

As the saying goes, she loved everything in the shop so much, that she bought it all, lock, stock and barrel two years ago, using her business acumen to transform a rather dated showroom into the kind of retail destination which makes customers want to move in.

"Many of our customers become regulars, and say that they just want to come in for a 'fix'," laughs Sandy. "They love the ambience, the sound of water flowing from features we stock, the scented candles, the set pieces styled just like a real home. We don't just plonk products on shelves, we try to create looks which our customers want to adopt for their own homes."

From Sandy's carefully curated collection of 100 or so suppliers from around the world, Veranda's customers can expect unique, one-off items not available anywhere else in Perth.

"I work closely with my suppliers to meet the needs of my customers and am happy to source bespoke items when required, for special projects."

Some of the most popular 'looks' at Veranda are based on the classic 'The Hamptons' style of interior design as well as the South of France design motifs.

"I'm planning on going to The Hamptons this year and then to France to try to get hold of some extra special pieces - my customers visit regularly just on the off chance that something unusual has arrived."

One of the services Sandy and her team are able to offer in addition to gorgeous items, large and small, for the home, is a home-styling service, especially useful for those who are trying to sell their property.

"The Veranda Real Estate Styling service is designed for anyone looking to update their home for sale," says Sandy.

"We have a large range of furniture, furnishings, faux flowers and plants, candles,

diffusers, shells, rattan baskets and more to provide the appropriate ambience that's vital when selling your home for the best price possible. So if you are planning on putting your house up for sale, give us a call - we would love to help."

Thanks to her wide experience of renovating properties around Australia, Sandy has a great eye for what works in a room and what doesn't, so here are her top tips for freshening up rooms in anticipation of a home open or auction day:

"The most important thing you can do relatively quickly is de-clutter the home. Only have in your home inviting items, so I'd suggest investing in some of our faux flowers (they don't die and need little

maintenance), sprayed perhaps with our Durance scented room spray to match, and some well placed scented candles and diffusers too. It will create an ambience and draw the eye to a focal point if the flowers are beautiful and bright.

"Create other focal points too to distract the eye from less perfect areas in a room. Perhaps pick a lovely chair with a bespoke cushion, or some large faux pot plants, again strategically placed in a tidy, de-cluttered room.

"Assess the furniture in each room. Is it too large for the space, or too small? We can help here too and provide you with furniture which complements each space.

"A tired kitchen can be improved

without a huge outlay of funds with some unusual yet beautiful accessories, like bread boards, shells, baskets, or just a simple vase of flowers. It's all about stage managing the space, even if it's only temporarily until the house is sold.

"I always recommend customers to keep their garden clean and tidy too, and invest in some large pot plants at the front door. It's welcoming and sets the tone for what they can expect inside.

"We have a range of custom-made outdoor cushions and furniture which can look wonderful if you have the space in your front verandah - another welcoming touch!"

With prices from as low as \$3 right up to one-off furniture items for around \$5000, Veranda is an Aladdin's Cave of homewares, designed to beautify even the most humble home.

Visit [veranda.com.au](http://veranda.com.au) for opening hours or to book a Home Styling appointment with Sandy and her team.



WIN

**A Veranda Home Styling consultation valued at \$300!**

The consultation prize includes a designer from Veranda coming to your home, armed with an array of goods, designed to freshen up a tired room as well as lots of styling ideas for your home. The winner's home will be photographed and featured in a future issue of PRIMOLife magazine. So whether you're looking to put your home on the market, or you just want to breathe new life into your living space, here's your chance to beautify your home. Send a picture of the room/s you would like beautified to [gabi@premiumpublishers.com.au](mailto:gabi@premiumpublishers.com.au) by February 28. **Good luck!**

