

Your Dream Space

Your Dream Space Why Great Projects Need
Both Architects and Interior Designers



in collaboration with

elska
INTERIORS

INTRODUCTION

Hello, we're the authors and architects, Manny & Vanessa.

There's a moment in every home project when structure meets soul, where the technical precision of architecture embraces the warmth of interior design.

At Quorum Studios, we have a collaborative and trusted creative partnership with Elska Interiors, and together we've recognised how this collaboration transforms houses into homes that truly work for the people who live in them.

Creating your dream space isn't just about square metres or stunning finishes. It's about bringing together two essential perspectives that, when aligned, create something far greater than the sum of their parts. Yet many homeowners still approach their projects by hiring these professionals separately, often at different stages, missing out on the transformative power of true collaboration.



At Quorum Studios, we are architects who don't just design homes - we guide people through one of the most meaningful journeys they will experience in life.

We don't design for awards or applause. We design for people. Our job is to bring your vision to life and make the process feel grounded, respectful, and clear.

Manny & Vanessa

Hello, I'm the co-author and Interior Designer, Bec Farrow

Hello! I'm Bec, and I have been providing Interior Design services to the Brisbane area for nearly a decade. I am dedicated to helping others design homes that go beyond aesthetics –spaces that foster joy, reduce stress, and support well-being, all while serving as the backdrop for cherished memories.

Through functional design that takes into account personal connections and the human condition we can create environments that elevate daily living and contribute to happier individuals and communities.

Whether you're planning a home renovation or building a new property, the guidance and expertise of an experienced Interior Designer can provide a clear strategy for your tradespeople and result in a home that authentically reflects your story.



If you're ready to renovate or build in the greater Brisbane area, I invite you to get in touch for a complimentary phone call. Let's discuss how thoughtful design can elevate your home and make the process as seamless and stress-free as possible.

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CHAPTER 1

Two Minds, One Vision

What if your home could reflect not just how you live, but why?

Think of architects and interior designers as two sides of the same coin. While architects shape the bones of your home, ensuring it's structurally sound, meets regulations, and flows logically, interior designers breathe life into these spaces, considering how you'll actually live, move, and feel within them.

This isn't about choosing between form and function – it's about recognising that the best homes seamlessly blend both. An architect might create a stunning cathedral ceiling, but it's the interior designer who ensures the scale doesn't overwhelm, that the acoustics support conversation, and that the lighting creates intimacy despite the volume.

Conversely, an interior designer might envision a dramatic kitchen island as the heart of family life, but it's the architect who ensures the structural support, plans for services, and confirms the space can accommodate it without compromising flow.

When these professionals work together from day one, magic happens. Instead of retrofitting ideas or compromising on either form or function, you get spaces that are both beautifully designed and genuinely liveable. The result is homes that don't just photograph well – they live well.



CHAPTER 2

The Hidden Benefits of True Collaboration

Early Problem-Solving

When architects and interior designers collaborate from the beginning, they catch potential issues before they become expensive problems. That stunning kitchen island? Better to plan for it during the structural phase than try to retrofit plumbing and electrical later. The home office that needs absolute quiet? Best to position it away from noisy areas during the planning stage rather than adding acoustic treatments as an afterthought.

Working with Elska Interiors from day one means these conversations happen naturally. Her expertise brings invaluable insights about how families actually use spaces – where they gather, how they move through the home, what storage they really need. This real-world perspective combined with our architectural expertise creates solutions that are both beautiful and brilliantly functional. This proactive approach extends to every aspect of your home. Storage solutions are integrated into the architecture rather than added later. Lighting plans consider both natural and artificial sources from the start. HVAC systems are designed to be both efficient and discreet, with vents and returns positioned thoughtfully rather than wherever they fit.



Seamless Integration

Lighting, storage, and spatial flow work best when considered holistically. An architect might design a magnificent double-height space, but it's the interior designer who ensures it feels intimate rather than cavernous, warm rather than overwhelming. Together, they might add a mezzanine level that provides both visual interest and practical function, or introduce architectural details that create more human-scale moments within the larger volume.

This integration extends to the smallest details. Power outlets are positioned exactly where you'll need them. Switches are grouped logically and located intuitively. Built-in furniture is designed to complement the architecture while maximizing functionality. The result is a home where everything feels intentional and nothing feels like an afterthought.



Budget Efficiency

Contrary to what many believe, involving both professionals early often saves money. Coordinated planning means fewer changes during construction, smarter material choices, and avoiding costly mistakes that come from miscommunication. When everyone's on the same page from the start, you're less likely to face expensive surprises or change orders during construction.

Additionally, collaborative teams can often find creative solutions that achieve your vision more economically. Perhaps the architect can design a feature wall that eliminates the need for expensive artwork, or the interior designer can suggest materials that provide the look you want at a fraction of the cost.



Making It Work: The Collaborative Process



Start Together

Bring both your architect and interior designer into initial conversations. Let them hear your dreams, understand your lifestyle, and explore possibilities together. This isn't just about efficiency – it's about creating a shared vision from the very beginning.



Design is in the details

Regular meetings between all parties – including you – ensure everyone stays aligned. When challenges arise (and they will), having established relationships makes problem-solving smoother. Create a communication protocol early: Will you have regular site meetings? How will decisions be documented? Who's the primary point of contact for different aspects of the project?



Trust the Process

Sometimes the architect will need to guide decisions based on structural requirements. Other times, the interior designer's insights about daily living will reshape architectural plans. This give-and-take is where the best solutions emerge. It requires all parties, including you as the client, to remain flexible and focus on the end goal rather than being wedded to initial ideas.

In our collaboration with Elska Interiors, clients benefit from a seamless integration of architectural vision and interior design expertise from the beginning. This partnership means you'll work with professionals who speak the same language and share aligned values. Rather than navigating between two separate visions, you'll experience a unified approach where Elska's understanding of how spaces should feel and function marries with our architectural expertise. The result is a more efficient process, clearer communication, and homes that achieve both architectural integrity and interior design excellence without compromise.

Document Everything

Collaborative projects generate lots of ideas and iterations. Keeping clear records of decisions, changes, and the reasoning behind them helps everyone stay aligned and prevents misunderstandings later. This documentation becomes invaluable during construction when questions inevitably arise.

Finding Your Team

Look for professionals who genuinely value collaboration. Ask potential architects about their experience working with interior designers, and vice versa. The best teams speak positively about each other's contributions and can show you examples of successful partnerships.

Questions to Ask

- Can you show me projects where you've collaborated from the start?
- How do you handle disagreements between design disciplines?
- What's your process for ensuring both perspectives are heard?
- How do you communicate during the project?
- Can you provide references from other professionals you've worked with?
-

When considering Quorum Studios and Elska Interiors for your project, you'll find our answers to these questions are backed by real experience. We don't just talk about collaboration - we live it. Our teams meet regularly, share resources, and have developed streamlined communication processes that keep projects moving smoothly.



Build With Confidence

Red Flags to Avoid

- Professionals who dismiss the other discipline's importance
- Those who prefer to work in isolation until their part is "done"
- Anyone who sees collaboration as a burden rather than an opportunity
- Teams that can't provide examples of successful joint projects
-

At Quorum Studios, we've built our practice around this collaborative approach. Our collaboration with Elska Interiors exemplifies what's possible when architects and interior designers truly work as one team. Together, we've seen the transformative difference this makes.

The synergy between Quorum Studios and Elska Interiors has evolved naturally over multiple projects. We've developed a shared language, understanding each other's strengths and approaches. This means we can anticipate challenges, build on each other's ideas more effectively, and deliver results that exceed what either firm could achieve alone.

When architects and interior designers work as true collaborators, clients don't have to choose between a home that works and one that inspires – they get both.



Let's design something that matters

Creating a home through true collaboration is a journey, not a destination. It requires patience, trust, and open communication from everyone involved. There will be moments of uncertainty, times when the vision feels unclear, and decisions that challenge your assumptions. This is all part of the process.

But when you have the right team – professionals who respect each other, communicate openly, and put your needs first – these challenges become opportunities. Each obstacle overcome strengthens the project. Each problem solved together leads to better solutions.

Your dream space deserves nothing less than a team that sees the full picture. Because at the end of the day, the best homes are those where every decision, from foundation to finishing touches, serves a single vision: creating a space that's unmistakably, beautifully yours.

Book a call →



Your Project Vision Workbook

Bringing Clarity to Your Dream Home

This workbook will help you articulate your vision clearly to both your architect and interior designer, ensuring everyone is aligned from day one.



Part 1: Understanding Your Current Space

What's Working?

List three things about your current home that you absolutely love:

1.

2.

3.

What's Not Working?

List three things that frustrate you daily:

1.

2.

3.

The Missing Pieces

What does your current home lack that you need?

Part 2: How You Live

Daily Rhythms

Walk us through a typical day in your home:

Morning (5am-9am)

Where do you spend most of your time? What activities happen?

Midday (9am-2pm)

Who's typically home? What spaces are most used?

Afternoon/Evening (2pm-9pm)

Where does the family gather? What activities occur?

Night (9pm onwards)

What are your evening routines? Where do you unwind?

Weekend Life

How do weekends differ from weekdays in your home?

Entertaining Style

How often do you entertain? What size groups? Formal or casual?

Part 3: Your Family's Needs

Who Lives Here?

List all family members and their unique space needs:

| Name | Age | Specific needs/ interests | Private space required |
|------|-----|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
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| | | | |
| | | | |

Pets

Do you have pets? What are their needs?

Future Changes

Any anticipated family changes in the next 5-10 years?

Part 4: Feeling & Atmosphere

The Feeling of Home

When you walk into your dream home, how do you want to feel? (Circle all that apply)

Calm | Energised | Inspired | Cosy | Sophisticated | Relaxed | Joyful | Grounded | Creative | Organised |
Connected | Peaceful

Sensory Preferences

Light

Do you prefer bright, sun-filled spaces or softer, moodier lighting?

Sound

Do you need quiet zones? Music areas? How important is acoustic privacy?

Temperature & Air

Do you run hot or cold? How important is natural ventilation?

Texture & Materials

What materials make you feel at home? (Wood, stone, metal, fabric, etc.)

Colour Feelings

Without naming specific colours, describe how you want your colour palette to feel:

Part 5: Functional Priorities

Rank These Spaces (1 = Most Important)

___Kitchen

___Living Areas

___Master Suite

___Children's Rooms

___Home Office

___Outdoor Spaces

___Storage

___Guest Accommodation

___Entertainment Areas

___Utility Spaces

Part 6: Style Without Words

Lifestyle Inspiration

Instead of design styles, think about places where you've felt most at home:

Holiday Memories

Describe a hotel or holiday home where you felt completely comfortable:

Restaurant or Café

Think of a place you return to again and again. What draws you back?

Friend's Home

Whose home do you love spending time in? What makes it special?

Activities You Love

What activities make you happiest at home?

Part 7: The Non-negotiables

Must-Haves

List 5 things your new home absolutely must have:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Deal-Breakers

List 3 things you definitely don't want:

1.

2.

3.

Part 8: Dreams vs Reality

If Money Were No Object

What would be your ultimate home feature?

Being Realistic

What are you willing to compromise on to achieve your main goals?

Part 9: Project Success

How Will You Measure Success?

In one year's time, what will tell you this project was successful?

Your Biggest Hope

What's the one thing you hope this project will change about your daily life?

Part 10: Working Together

Communication Style

How do you prefer to communicate? (Email, phone, in-person, text)

Decision Making

Who will be involved in decisions? How do you typically make choices as a family?

Your Concerns

What worries you most about this project?

Your Excitement

What excites you most about this journey?

Next Steps

1. **Share this workbook** with your architect and interior designer before your first meeting
2. **Don't overthink** - first instincts are often most honest
3. **Involve your family** - everyone's input matters
4. **Keep it handy** - refer back to it throughout your project

Remember: This workbook is about capturing how you want to live, not about choosing specific design elements. Trust your design team to translate your lifestyle needs into beautiful, functional solutions.

This workbook is provided by Quorum Studios to help create homes that truly reflect the people who live in them.

Get in Touch

We'd love to hear about your project! Contact us at:

admin@qstudio.au

07 3062 9431

Yours sincerely,

Manny & Vanessa



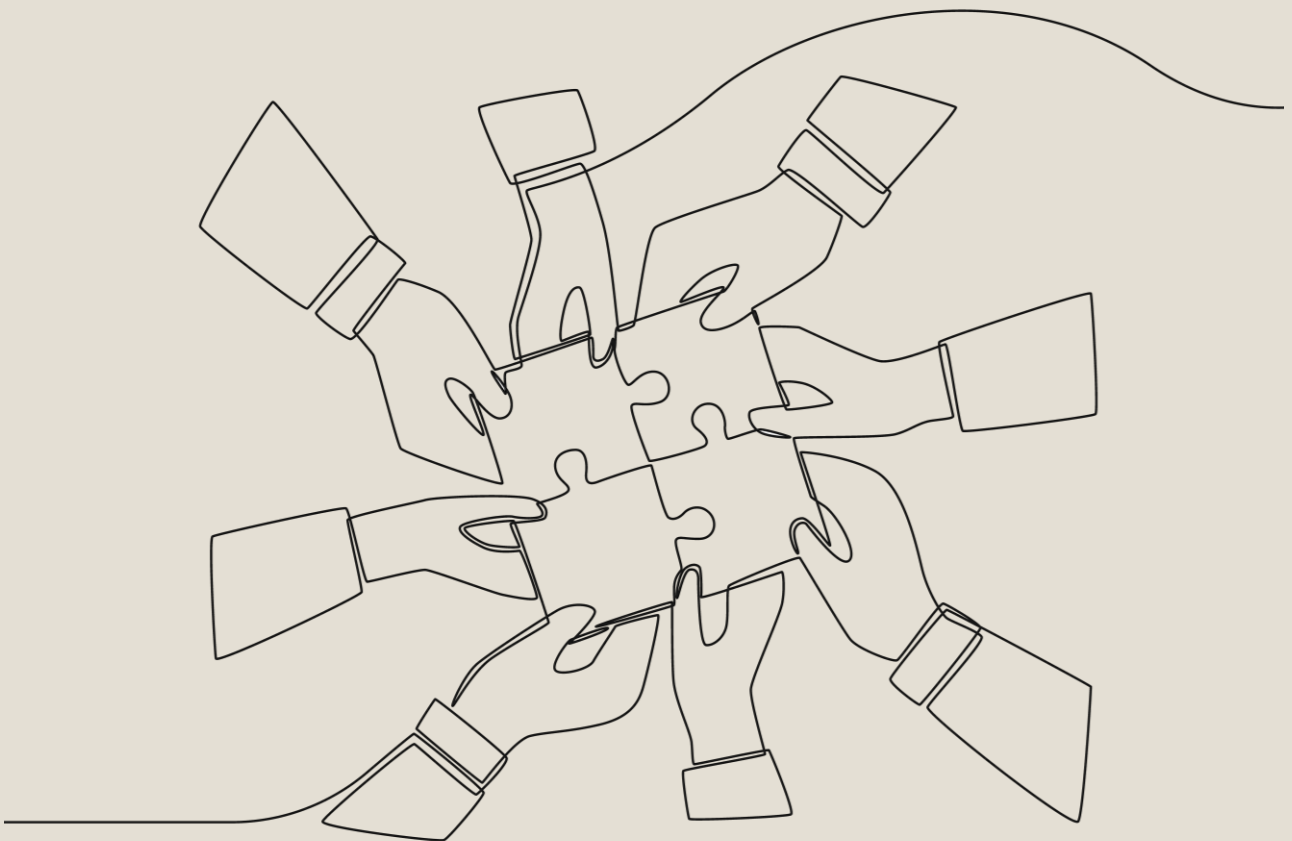
Notes

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Your Design Dream Team Checklist

Finding the Right Architect & Interior Designer for Your Project

Creating your dream space starts with assembling the right team. Use this checklist to ensure you're choosing professionals who will work together seamlessly to bring your vision to life.



Questions to Ask Potential Architects

About Collaboration

- ☐ How often do you work with interior designers?
- ☐ At what stage do you typically bring interior designers into the process?
- ☐ Can you share examples of successful collaborations with interior designers?
- ☐ How do you handle creative differences with interior designers?
- ☐ Are you open to interior designer input during the planning phase?

About Process

- ☐ How do you ensure interior design considerations are incorporated early?
- ☐ What's your approach to coordinating structural and aesthetic elements?
- ☐ How do you communicate design decisions to all team members?
- ☐ What collaboration tools or methods do you use?

Questions to Ask Potential Interior Designers

About Collaboration

- ☐ How early do you prefer to be involved in architectural projects?
- ☐ What's your experience working with architects?
- ☐ How do you ensure your design vision aligns with structural requirements?
- ☐ Can you share examples where early collaboration saved time or money?
- ☐ How do you approach projects where architectural plans are already set?

About Process

- ☐ How do you communicate spatial needs to architects?
- ☐ What's your process for integrating finishes with architectural elements?
- ☐ How do you handle changes that affect the architectural design?
- ☐ Do you attend construction meetings?

Red Flags to Watch For

In Architects

- ✗ Dismissive of interior design as "decoration"
- ✗ Prefers to complete all plans before involving designers
- ✗ Unwilling to revise plans based on interior design input
- ✗ Doesn't see value in early designer involvement
- ✗ Has no examples of collaborative projects

In Interior Designers

- ✗ Only interested in surface finishes
- ✗ Doesn't understand basic architectural constraints
- ✗ Unwilling to work within structural parameters
- ✗ Prefers to work independently without architect input
- ✗ No experience with renovation or new build projects

Signs of Great Collaborators

What to Look For

- ✓ Speaks positively about the other profession
- ✓ Has established relationships with other professionals
- ✓ Shows enthusiasm for collaborative process
- ✓ Provides specific examples of joint problem-solving
- ✓ Values input from all team members
- ✓ Demonstrates flexibility and open communication
- ✓ Focuses on your needs rather than their preferences

Making Your Decision

Compatibility Assessment

- ☐ Do both professionals seem genuinely interested in collaboration?
- ☐ Are their communication styles compatible?
- ☐ Do they share similar values about design and client service?
- ☐ Are they both willing to be involved from project start?
- ☐ Do their fee structures accommodate collaborative working?

Next Steps

1. **Schedule a joint meeting** with your top candidates
2. **Observe their interaction** - do they build on each other's ideas?
3. **Ask for shared references** from past collaborative projects
4. **Discuss your specific needs** and see how they problem-solve together
5. **Trust your instincts** - you'll be working with these people closely

Your Collaboration Foundation

Remember, the best design teams are built on:

- **Mutual respect** between professionals
 - **Clear communication** channels
 - **Shared commitment** to your vision
 - **Flexibility** to adapt as projects evolve
 - **Focus on outcomes** rather than individual recognition
-

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