



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Designer Amy Mellen on a Calvin Klein Home daybed with walnut finish. Calvin Klein Home occasional chair. 'Tuxedo' sofa with glass and metal table.



CREATIVE DIRECTOR of Calvin Klein Home, New York-based Amy Mellen never stops looking at the world around her. "I take inspiration from nature, art and architecture," she says, explaining the impulse for the Curator Collection by Calvin Klein Home, which is now available in Australia. "And, of course, I'm always looking at [Calvin Klein's] own fashion."

Responsible for the design of all Calvin Klein Home products – including textiles, tableware and, more recently, furniture – Amy started working with the brand in 1999 as a senior designer. For five years prior to this, she oversaw print design and development for Adrienne Vittadini's home furnishing line.

Promoted to Calvin Klein Home's design director in 2006 and to her current role last year, Amy maintains a hands-on approach. "I'll take cuttings from plants and will print them on bedding textiles, or will photograph strands of seaweed that I'll turn into plate patterns," she says, explaining that she paints, sews and draws many original prints and designs herself.

As evidenced by the strong and simple materials used – from American hardwood to smoked glass and brushed stainless steel – Calvin Klein fashion and accessories served as Amy's initial inspiration for the Curator Collection. "People appreciate quality in a minimal sense from Calvin Klein fashion, and we synergise that into the home," Amy says. "You can also see how the elegantly detailed furniture has been accented with leather details taken from belt buckle designs, and metallic fixtures conceived from jewellery."

The textile colour palette for the Calvin Klein Home range was taken directly from Amy's findings in nature. "One of the things I did was bring in a handful of walnuts which were made into fabric dye," Amy says, explaining why the Calvin Klein Home colours are unique. "Bringing that natural element to such sculptural designs means the furniture isn't 'modern scary', it's 'modern comfortable'."

The Curator Collection – a series of highly polished, hand-rubbed ebonised timber pieces – consists of 65 items for the living room, dining room and bedroom. The sophisticated new furniture range was inspired not only by the fashion line but also the minimalist work of architects John Pawson, who designed Calvin Klein's stores around the world, and Le Corbusier. "Their work embodies what Calvin Klein is all about," Amy says. "Well-thought-out simplicity."

When Amy designs each product she is conscious that it should fit with pieces people already have and love. "I have a spare, comfortable apartment in the city, and an eclectic log cabin in the country, and I have the same [Calvin Klein Home] chair in both houses," she says, adding that each item "works anywhere".

"Every piece is quietly elegant, and will fit with your personality by mixing with cushions, throws or rugs of your own. We know that no one has the budget to start from scratch."

The Calvin Klein Home range is available from Coco Republic. For more, go to calvinkleininc.com/home

Super natural

A love of nature inspires this homewares designer.

