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*Decorators'*  
**SECRET**  
**HANDBOOK**

x x

500+  
must-know  
contacts for  
decorating &  
renovating

florist is excellent and the staff listens to the brief. Also on offer is a balcony-design service.

### FLOORING

**Nash Timbers** 136 Old South Head Rd, Vaucluse NSW 2030, [www.nashtimbers.com.au](http://www.nashtimbers.com.au), (02) 9337 6800. We use Nash Timbers for most of our timber flooring needs. It's worth a visit to the timber-sample showroom (appointment only). The website is useful for choosing the right timber flooring for your application.

### HOME-THEATRE INSTALLATION

**Sydney Hi Fi** 1/80 O'Riordan St, Alexandria NSW 2015, 1300 284 234, [www.sydneyhifi.com.au](http://www.sydneyhifi.com.au). This is one area that is definitely best left to the experts. Doug at Sydney Hi Fi always has plenty of good advice and excellent service to help with this minefield.

### JOINERY

**Vanessa Designs** 13 Minnie St, Belmore NSW 2192, (02) 9740 6511. Vanessa Designs makes excellent built-in joinery as well as bespoke furniture. Ask for Carlos.

### METALWORK

**Hunter Metal Work** 0405 158 303. Hunter does fantastic metalwork gates and balustrades and is a pleasure to work with.

### MY SECRET SOURCE

Artduo, [www.artduo.com.au](http://www.artduo.com.au), (02) 9371 2138. Ilana and Sonja are a delight to work with. They are great at finding art for specific projects and briefs. Their website is a really good resource for finding art for all types.

### PAINTING

**Decor Active** 0418 462 927. The team at Decor Active recently did an amazing job for one of our projects in Darling Point – and we had a very tight deadline to work with. The other reason we like to use this company is that it can also do wallpapering and fabric panelling – which is quite a skill. I recommend you talk to Gerard.

### PICTURE FRAMING

**FX Art & Framing** 78 George St, Redfern NSW 2016, (02) 9319 5996, [www.fxart.com.au](http://www.fxart.com.au). These guys are well-known in the art world and with interior designers, for their high-quality conservation framing. As owner Patrick Holmes says, "We're a specialist custom-framing business, not a high-street framing shop," but the business is still open to members of the public who want the best possible frame for their work. →

to Home Furniture On Consignment, [www.hfoc.com.au](http://www.hfoc.com.au).

# meryl hare



*Director – Hare + Klein Interior Design, 138 Cathedral St, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011, (02) 9368 1234, [www.hareklein.com.au](http://www.hareklein.com.au).*

*Only go down the  
DIY path if you're  
bandy and confident  
with instructions.  
When it comes to  
hiring services  
from tradespeople,  
make the time to  
see their work or get  
a reference from  
someone you trust*

## WHO I CALL FOR

### CONCRETING

**Alex Bauk** 0412 704 189.

Alex is a wonderful concreter. He's recently worked with us on a number of projects – where we've specified concrete benches, hearths, bathroom vanities and kitchen benchtops – in quite tricky configurations. He also specialises in terrazzo.

### BLINDS & SHUTTERS

**Blindmaster** 1 Chard Rd, Brookvale NSW 2100, (02) 9938 4977, [www.blindmaster.com.au](http://www.blindmaster.com.au). Whether you're after blinds or shutters for indoors or exterior louvres and awnings, Blindmaster has a great range to choose from, and it's a pleasure to work with the staff.

### CUSTOM-DESIGNED FURNITURE

**Isherwoods The Designer Makers** 1 Knox St, Chippendale NSW 2008, (02) 9211 2226, [www.isherwoods.com.au](http://www.isherwoods.com.au). The owner, Simon Isherwood makes artisan furniture, and his specialties are commercial fit-outs and detailed joinery. The company is equally good at both contemporary and traditional furniture.

### FLOWERS

**PoHo** 117 Macleay St, Potts Point, NSW 2011, (02) 9331 4333, [www.poho.com.au](http://www.poho.com.au). This Potts Point