



# Penny Del Castillo

For nearly three decades, this design professional has put her exquisite signature stamp on national and international design projects

WORDS CARROL BAKER



With her distinctive professionalism and innovative approach to design, Penny and her team are winning accolades with their beautiful, intelligent and stylish interiors. Penny founded In Design International in 2003; the studio has grown and evolved and now there are exciting changes in store – with a rebrand to Studio del Castillo.

This talented design artist began her career in fashion design, later switching to interior architecture, decorating and styling. “After building my first home, I realised I had the ability to see what others could not,” she says. “Most people think in 2D, but I think in 3D.” She returned to university and began her foray into the world of design, honing her craft with master builders and bespoke cabinet makers. “This set the foundation for my love and great understanding of construction and production, at the same time allowing creative flair,” she says.

In her work, Penny favours a collaborative approach, operating closely with other professionals including architects, landscape designers, builders and other trades to deliver projects that justifiably wow her clients. “One project that captivated my talents for three years was a sensational resort in Bali, Batu Karang,” she shares. “I worked extensively with the developer on every aspect of the resort, inside and out.”

Penny began her exciting journey with international design by launching her own business while living the Alps of Chamonix Mont Blanc in France. But eventually she found herself drawn back to Noosa Heads, where she says client demand was high for boutique resort development.

This versatile designer describes her signature style as elegant, layered and welcoming. “It is luxe without the bling and





## PENNY SAYS

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a little eclectic, and I love to mix the old with the new, bringing a touch of nostalgia into innovative interiors,” she explains. In design, Penny loves classic whites and neutrals, basket weave, brushed metal and leather, as well as the Franco Poli Loom chair and almost anything designed by Patricia Urquiola. “She is undoubtedly this generation’s leading interior product designer,” says Penny, who is also working on her own range of furniture pieces, which she hopes will be launched later this year.

Her success as a designer is also due to her fundamental desire to make people smile. “I love the joy I see on the faces of my clients when I have unravelled the design,” she admits.

Penny describes herself as being an optimist, a dreamer and proactive. She also loves to dream big. One day she’d love to renovate a castle in Europe with a combination of antique furnishings and ultra-modern fittings. “There would be abstract and collectable art, complete with a drawbridge and motorised alligators!” 🏠 [delcastillo.com.au](http://delcastillo.com.au)

