

AT HOME

with

DARREN PALMER

One of Darren Palmer's go-to sayings is: luxury that's not comfortable is not luxury. It's a maxim that correlates well with another: exceptional design requires beautiful form and outstanding functionality. He applies these ideals as much to his work as an interior designer as he does to the living spaces in his own home. Here, Palmer gives an exclusive look inside his Bondi house and at his latest renovation, which benefits from the seamless integration of comfortable style and great technology.

Darren Palmer with his LG SIGNATURE Air Purifier and bulldog Brutus.



LG SIGNATURE

THIS PAGE, FROM BELOW: Palmer's LG SIGNATURE refrigerator is the kitchen's focal style point. His bedroom has clear influences from nature. **OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP:** Wall-mounted like a piece of art, the LG SIGNATURE OLED Wallpaper TV blends well with Palmer's living room styling choices. The breezy dining room looks out onto an attractive deck.



As an interior designer and judge on reality television program *The Block*, Darren Palmer has made a career of critically assessing other people's spaces and how rooms can best work for those inhabiting them. But this time he's turned the lens on a recent renovation in his own home, incorporating his kitchen, living room, dining room and main bedroom. The results are impressive and Palmer puts it down to core design principles, well considered integration of LG SIGNATURE products and, perhaps most crucially, a good understanding of himself and what he appreciates aesthetically.

"I'd describe my interiors style as sophisticated but comfortable, natural and influenced by elements of nature," says Palmer. "I think the simplest advice I could give to anyone seeking to develop their own signature style is to look at yourself and consider your experiences. Look at the things you enjoy and what you've discovered on your travels. Decide what's important to you and try to integrate the essence of these things into your favourite living spaces."

As well as being drawn to the natural world for style influences, it's clear Palmer is highly attuned to form and function. "I've actually upgraded and redesigned parts of my home to suit the LG SIGNATURE products. I really like to include things that are not only beautiful but functional. To me, that is great design."



FINDING FOCUS As one of the most-used rooms in Palmer's house, the kitchen was an obvious place for him to begin his renovation. "We like to eat healthily," he says, "so we need lots of fresh food storage and bench space."

With that in mind, Palmer set about redesigning his kitchen around the LG SIGNATURE French Door Refrigerator. "The fridge is the focal point of my kitchen. Its core material is such a strong design element, so I've installed a whole wall of titanium-coloured, stainless-steel cabinetry for consistency. It looks amazing. The fridge also has such a cool feature — double tap the glass door and you can see inside without having to open it and let out cold air, saving energy."

LOUNGE LIFE As with the fridge and his kitchen, Palmer considers his LG SIGNATURE OLED Wallpaper TV the central item of his revamped living room. "In the course of my work, I see some incredible home entertainment technology," he says, "but this is such a beautifully designed product — just four millimetres thick and the perfect scale for my lounge room. Its sound, 4K picture quality and contrast with colours that really pop are outstanding."

“It’s really important when you’re doing an interior to focus on having a cohesive, consistent palette — your colours and materials. If you have a large focal point in a room, it’s a great idea to dilute elements of that throughout the space”

FROM BELOW: Installing the LG SIGNATURE washing machine in his kitchen has proven a masterstroke of integrated design for Palmer. Frankie the French bulldog enjoys deck time with his owner.



QUIET ACHIEVER One of the most practical space-saving solutions you can apply to any home is to make rooms multifunctional, and Palmer has done exactly that with his kitchen in the most subtle and elegant of ways.

“I’ve put my washing machine in my kitchen,” he explains, “because I have lots of bench space there to spread out my clean clothes. While I’m doing the folding, I can watch TV as I have a clear view from kitchen to lounge. The LG SIGNATURE TwinWash is great because it gets the job done super fast and has an integrated heat-pump dryer. Also, you’d normally keep a washing machine quite separate from living spaces, because of noise, but this one is so quiet you’d never know it was there.”

AIR SUPPLY Palmer shares his home with his partner and eight-year-old son, as well as four dogs. It’s the canine factor that inspired him to include the LG SIGNATURE Air Purifier (see opening page) in his home, which he moves from living room to dining room to bedroom as needed. “Because I have dogs, and allergies, the air purifier is already changing my life. I can have fresh, pure air and a great living environment. It’s a perfect example of innovative technology and beautiful design working hand in hand.”

LG SIGNATURE

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