

# BUILD A BRIEF FOR YOUR HOME

you + your space + your stuff = the heartbeat of your home

with Julia Atkinson-Dunn [www.studiohome.co.nz](http://www.studiohome.co.nz)

simply jot down your answers on a piece of paper and be one step closer to your #homegoals

# 1.

**Is your home temporary/rented/owned and over what timeframe do you imagine you will call it your own?**

This will help you be realistic about the weight you place on purchases dictated by the home you are currently in. Be smart about investing money into space specific items if you are planning on moving on in the near future!

For example - a 2 seater sofa would fit perfectly into the bay window space in your rented villa, but you are moving next year and overall, 2 seaters can be an awkward piece of furniture that takes up more space than an armchair but is often only comfortable for 1 person to sit in!

**Action: simply write down your projected time frame for living in the home you currently call your own**



**Result:** this will help you rank what is most important to you when it comes to spending on your home and contents.

*For example -*

Perhaps you do buy a 2 seater but will look for a bargain on trade me that you could sell again later without losing any money. Instead you could invest in a gorgeous blanket or sheepskin to cover it which you can take and reuse in many different scenarios.



# 2.

**Who lives in your home?**

A home is for living in, not just looking at, so make your decorating and furnishing choices reflect the realistic needs of your everyday life in relation to the space you live in.

**Action: list all those you share your home with and what specific needs they might have?**

*For example -*

Is it just you? A couple? Young family/growing family/kids about to fly the coup? Pets with hair/claws/a love of lying all over your stuff (wait, that's all pets.) Flatmates?

Then consider what they need:

Furniture that, within reason, can take punishment from orange juice and sticky fingers? Ample storage in spare room for regular visitors.

Ability to hide a home office in the living room.

Seating for how many to watch tv?

Space to store out-grown clothing and toys in the mean time?

Soft edges for toddlers.

Display for growing collection of glass genie bottles

Inside space where clothes racks can be put up to dry in sun over winter?

*People you live with*

*List of needs*

<i>People you live with</i>	<i>List of needs</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Result:** to be responsible with your money and protect against decorating regret, its important that you are clear and realistic about how your house and its contents need to work for you.

This is the reality check for lofty expensive ideas or answering the demands of a current trend.

# 3.

**Identify your furniture & strong decorative pieces that aren't going anywhere.**

Over time you have made decisions on what material items to keep in your home and which ones to lose along the way. Yes, these decisions are often made due to space and budget constraints but nonetheless, its time to take note of your pieces that you really like and then breakdown "why". The "why's" will give insight into your own buried aesthetic and empower you to filter through future purchases based on how they will work with or compliment your existing items.



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This will help you with committing to bigger ticket items in the knowledge that you know exactly what important possessions they will need to work in with.

## Not match. Complement

**Action 1: list these items and make notes of why you love them including emotional attachment, style, shape and material.**

**Force specifics out of yourself!**

*For example -*

### **My standing/office desk - love because:**

It was made by a local nz company and is now a discontinued model. The light colour and classic lines of the trestle design. Its soft corners and height which makes it a little unexpected.

### **My grey fabric sofa from nood - love because:**

It is simple in design but feels modern. I like the curves of the arms and lightness of the way it sits on the floor. Also like its low back.

### **My art collection - love because:**

It makes me so happy to look at each piece and be reminded about who it is by, where I bought or was given it, the stage in my life i was at plus of course its subject matter and messages. True treasures.

### **My dining room table from nood - love because:**

It was our first purchase together as a couple! I love its light wooden finish with natural grain and its soft curved corners. I love that it extends from a 6 - 10 seater.

### **My coffee table - love because:**

It was purchased by my husband before we met it made me feel like we were "similar"!! A good sign! Its curvy, glass and wood and a nod to the modernist era the design was born from. It's also the perfect height to pull up my stool from for eating snacks, great as a sofa foot rest and due to its glass, sits quite lightly in our tight living space.

### **My paris au mois d'aout light shade - love because:**

It was a wedding gift from a dear friend, straight out of her own house! I love its crazy huge size and bold colour. Despite both those features its fine fabric has it sitting softly in the room as light can push through. I like that it is wonky and handmade with soft lines. I love that it is my favourite colour blue despite its shade

being quite navy and a little out of whack with the rest of my blue possessions. I like that about it.

### **Our collection of amber glass vessels- love because:**

They are my husbands and it was such a surprise that this bricklayer would own and grow a collection of glassware! I love the warmth of the amber and that while they push me beyond my own choices, they create a connection between my husband and our home. I love the soft curves and handmade aspect.

*Items i love*

*And why*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Action 2: next list reoccurring themes that you notice:**

*For example -*

Based on my own answers above.... curved corners and lines. Handmade and sentimental items with a story. Natural materials and texture.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

**Result:** pay attention to re-occurring themes, these all matter and mean something to you. These items are the substance of your home right here, right now. By examining them you now have a reference to check against while looking to compliment or juxtapose with future items



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## Having trouble getting started?

Try matching these feelings to your ideas on home to step you off in the right direction: uncluttered, soft, calm, serene, bold, invigorating, bright, fun, cosy, vibrant, private, intimate, elegant, formal, masculine, feminine, romantic, considered etc.

You are specifically listing feelings not styles.

Eclectic, boho, scandi, country don't work here.

For example -

### I want my home to feel:

- Casual
- Personal
- Homely
- Creative
  
- **Casual**
  - Mixed, non-matching furniture and fabrics
  - Simple, hardy textiles like denim, wool, corduroy
  - Books and magazines easily accessible
  - Open display and storage
  - Hard surfaces that handle use like solid wood, glass, stone, brick
  - Rice paper shades
- **Personal**
  - Photos on the wall
  - Display treasures and collections
  - Retaining and re using hand me down items
  - Creating areas for specific tasks I like - office/studio/seed raising
  - Privacy from neighbours
- **Homely**
  - Maximum layered texture
  - Old mixed with new
  - Soft sofas and chairs
  - Blues
  - Intimate spaces for reading, movie watching
  - Easy indoor/outdoor flow
  - Flowers from the garden
  - Flowers by the bed
  - Pot plants
  - Natural texture like wood, cane, wool
  - Nostalgic furniture and architectural features like tongue and groove, butlers sinks and free standing baths.
  - Fire
  - Sunny spots with room to sit or lie

- **Creative**
  - Space to display treasures
  - Colour on walls and in furnishings
  - Rotating art and rearranging furniture on a whim! Transitional spaces.
  - Spaces to easily make and create
  - Experimenting with display and decorating - not taking it too seriously

How you want your home to feel?

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How can you achieve this?

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**Result: you just topped off your life facts with your home wants.** You have created your own terms of your own home and can move forward growing it in confidence!



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3.

4.

5.

6.