

# Rowland.

## Media monitoring

MEDIA: The Sunday Times – Home Magazine

DATE: 25 May 2008

PAGE: 10

my style

Chrissie Catling,  
below right, in her  
home in North Perth.  
Pictures: Ian Munro

## SIMPLE TRUTH

Fashion designer Chrissie Catling's love for the simple things in life is not only reflected in her range of products but in her decor at home

**F**ASHION and style isn't always about being busy – sometimes the simple things can have a bigger effect. Chrissie Catling, designer of WA label S2, has the modern minimalist look mastered not just in her fashion store, but in all areas of her life.

The division of new and old in Chrissie's home is non-existent, giving a modern-day edge to the decor and proving that new and old can blend effortlessly.

"I like new and old together because it brings out more soul," she says.

The inner-city home which was built in the early 1900s exudes character, despite the simplistic decor.

"It's certainly not run-of-the-mill. It's a little bit left of centre," Chrissie says.

Drawing inspiration from nature and architecture, she favours natural colour tones with splashes of her favourite colour, red, in various places.

Chrissie has been wholesaling her designs for four years, but with her store in North Perth now open, she has been able to stock a vast range of throw rugs, cushions, candles and clothing.

Lighting is another key element that helps the designer achieve the right feel in her home.

Feature lighting and strategically placed candles combine to create a cosy ambience.

"It's all about energy and balance for me," Chrissie says.

The house has an ideal lived-in feel, making it both inviting and relaxing.

"It's not about being perfect. It's about having things in balance. I find it more fulfilling to have less," Chrissie says. "I love walking into busy, colourful homes, but I just can't live in them."

While Chrissie tries to keep her working and domestic lives separate, she says it's hard, being in such a creative industry.

A big believer in making the most of what you have, Chrissie says it's not about the house itself, but what you do with it that matters.

"It comes from your background and heritage and what you've grown up with," she says. "My grandmother would have a piece of driftwood next to amazing bone china. It was about simple things – it wasn't necessarily expensive, but how it was put-together."

Working from her home office, Chrissie notices how her work is affected by her environment.

"Changing your environment is about recognising the change in yourself. It's about creating a space where you can start anew again," she says.

Hayley Bolton

*\*S2 has been selected to parade as one of four emerging WA designers at STYLEAID, at Burswood Entertainment Complex on July 18.*



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