

# The Resident Dog

*Photographer Nicole England combines her love of fine architecture and friendly dogs*



Jed at home in Torak, Melbourne. Interior design by SJBInteriors



Dogs bring a beautiful energy to a space," says photographer Nicole England. "99 per cent of the time they're happy and relaxed, and they make people laugh. They're good to be around."

An in-demand architecture and interiors photographer who shoots some of Australasia's most stunning homes and architectural projects, England initially worked as a fashion photographer after graduating with a major in photography from the University of Auckland's Elam art school. Always drawn to good design – her Remuera-based parents, Carol and Graeme, are passionate about architecture, and brother Simon is an architect in the UK – England left Auckland initially to work in Bromhead Design's showroom in Melbourne. From there, she worked for a publishing company specialising in design, and in a full circle, came back to photography in her adopted home town.

The idea of shooting interiors enriched with a dog came after a conversation about her career late last year with an old friend.

"She asked me what my favourite day shooting would look like, a dream scenario. I said it would involve spending the day in someone's beautiful house, a house with stunning architecture and interiors. It would be surrounded by trees, close to the beach or the ocean, there'd be a clear blue sky with maybe a smattering of clouds, there'd be a dog running around. I'd be working with a great stylist and crew, it would be a perfect day."

"The one thing she picked out of that was to say, 'what is it with the dog?' And that's where it really started from, from that conversation."

The resulting project, Resident Dog, is, says England, "a fun thing to do. I've been really enjoying it. When I show people photos from the shoots even just on my phone, they laugh, even if they're not dog lovers."

Initially, England went back to the owners of several of the homes she'd shot for design magazines where she knew there was a dog in residence. Those dog owners recommended friends with lovely homes and charming dogs, and Resident Dog came bounding into life.



Top, Juddy in his Potts Point apartment, interiors by Arnold Lane. Below, New Yorker Lucy, interiors by P+T Interiors



Top, Charlie ensconced in Blairgowrie, Victoria. Interiors by SJB Interiors; below, Noodle of Caulfield, Melbourne. Interiors by Madeline Grummet



Jed, keeping an eye on things in Torok, Melbourne

"Dogs tend to be so much part of the space. People talk about buying their house because it had a great garden for the dog, or that there was room for the dog. I really don't think cats bring as much personality to a house." (She has politely demurred shooting cats, even turning down a direct plea from a cat who claimed to really be a dog at heart).

In her own home in Melbourne, England and her partner, Rick, have a part time dog, Bella, "a cute little white fluffy thing" who visits when Rick's children come to stay. England does see a full time dog in her future, but what to choose, when she meets so many appealing canines?

"I really don't know," she laughs. "I thought I might like one of those living teddy bears like Noodle, but then you meet a dog like Jed - it changes all the time!"

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To find out more about Resident Dog, contact Nicole via [nicoleengland.com](http://nicoleengland.com)  
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