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**REALITY**  
The lives of our rich and famous exposed in *WAG Nation*



**DRAMA**  
Off with his head: fantasy thriller *Game of Thrones* returns



**DRAMA**  
Exclusive interview with *Mad Men*'s one and only **Jon Hamm**



**MUSIC**  
**Faith Hill** and **Tim McGraw** shine at CMC Rocks the Hunter

## Open house

**Peter Maddison** has the keys to Australia's most amazing homes in *Grand Designs Australia*





# Home made

The second season of **Grand Designs Australia** follows the construction of some uniquely Australian homes with architect host **Peter Maddison**

ALL OVER AUSTRALIA, inspired architecture is being created by builders looking to create their own unique living space. Based on the long-running UK series *Grand Designs*, *Grand Designs Australia* takes an inside look at the conceptualisation, design and execution process of some mammoth home building projects from the Macedon Ranges to far north Queensland.

The show's first run in 2010 was impressive, with 1.5 million Australians tuning in to watch the series. It was nominated for a Logie and won two ASTRA Awards, including best new talent for its architect host, Peter Maddison. One of the houses even won a World Architecture Festival 2011 award.

For season two, over 1000 eager hopefuls applied to have their projects considered. And the show's success is sure to continue: before the second season has even been aired, season three has already been commissioned.

Maddison talked to *FOXTEL Magazine* about his aspirations for architecture in Australia and what makes a "grand design".

**Are you worried about being compared to Kevin McCloud, *Grand Designs*' famous and popular UK host?**

"They are big shoes to fill, [but] when Kevin McCloud came to Sydney last October for *Grand Designs Live*, I was pleased to see his shoes were about the same size as mine, size 10½!"

**How do you select the properties you choose to feature?**

"The criteria for selection is based on the design being unique and not being seen on *Grand Designs Australia* before, the owners being happy to share a story, and the location having some point of difference."

**What if some of the projects aren't completed in time?**

"In series one we started with thirteen houses and got nine across the line.

Learning from this experience, we started with more than we needed in series two, knowing some may not make it for various reasons [such as] budget, weather, relationship or building issues."

**What makes a "grand design"? Is it all about the money?**

"A grand design is not defined by the cost of the project. Some of the houses selected have modest budgets. Likewise, it is not the size of the project that is important. Generally it's how brave the owners are in thinking outside the square. *Grand Designs* is much more than [just] the buildings. It's about the people."

**This series you have focused more on properties in the southern states. Do housing designs differ depending on where they are in the country?**

"Because our country is so vast, the architecture has regional differences. Our cultural aspirations also change dramatically between places. Compare a house in the rainforest near Cairns, Queensland to another house in historical Battery Point, Hobart. The lifestyle and constraints around these buildings produce completely different outcomes. The architecture [this season] has more emphasis on insulation, heating systems and more robust, durable materials. They connect to the ground more positively."

**What are the most innovative design trends you are seeing in Australia now?**

"There is a big trend for a low carbon footprint and low operating costs. People are going underground in earth-sheltered housing, using inventive insulation systems, spending big money on smart glazing systems, looking for locally sourced materials with low carbon miles and low embodied energy."

**What are your hopes for the future of Australian architectural design?**

"I hope ideas are generated to suit local conditions – with design input from



## Housing highlights

What's in store for season two? Take a tour through the highs and lows of a build modelled on the swinging sixties

After years of renovating houses and selling them, Nick and Anna McKimm are ready to build a permanent home base. They're completely convinced that they have what it takes to build a modernist '60s family home in Melbourne's funky Brighton – after all, Nick is a builder by trade, and Anna is a design enthusiast. But juggling the demands of their three young children with a build that drags on and on ends up taking its toll on the couple. Can they deliver their vision and stay true to the style they love?

professionals who understand climate and indigenous building techniques. *Grand Designs Australia* has the ability to showcase how our cities can be used more effectively. How people can live more densely yet maintain a degree of design individuality." ✉

AIMEE CHAN

**GRAND DESIGNS AUSTRALIA  
– SEASON TWO**

**SERIES RETURN** Thursdays from April 5 @  
8.30pm, The LifeStyle Channel [106]

**SERIES LINK** **HD** **ON DEMAND**