

# Joint venture

## MATT RILEY

Owner of Tonic Design and Tonic Objects

### WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

We have just launched JOYNT, the first collection of custom-made plywood pieces from Tonic Design (architecture and interior design studio in Fortitude Valley) that are easily delivered in a flat pack, ready to construct, and quickly formed by hand.

### HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

The idea was born out of a desire to create unique furniture and homeware pieces that also reflect sustainable principles, which were custom designed by an architect without the high end price tag. Because each piece is made up of a series of parts, multiple types of ply finishes can be interchanged to make pieces unique to each person if required. For example, a beech top with dark legs.

### WHEN WAS TONIC DESIGN BORN?

About 15 years ago now. Our design philosophy encourages client involvement from end to end, giving the opportunity to ask questions, and perfect the design to reach a conclusion on time and on budget.

### YOUR 'AHA' MOMENT?

I was 15 years old and I ... had taken a keen interest on a building being built in my neighbourhood. It was essentially a very modest square box made of shiny Zincalume steel. There was a small posse of neighbours

who had made their discontent of the building well known. However I admired it for its daring and simplicity of form. When I found out it was an architect's own studio, that was it for me – I wanted to become one.

### WHO ARE YOUR HEROES OF DESIGN?

I am a big fan of the modernist movement, particularly European architects like Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Gropius. I also like Herzog & de Meuron (and) the ideals of the mid-century modern movement. My first job was with Gabriel Poole and I can honestly say that he has been my biggest architectural mentor.

### MOST RECENT 'HOME' PURCHASE?

We just recently purchased 10ha of vacant and unkempt land near Samford – this will hopefully be the place we build our forever family home.

### WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Music, artwork, nature. I love to travel. However my drive and determination are found in my family. My wife and I have four amazing children and being able to look them in the eye each day and give an honest account of myself is the best way to stay on an even keel.

[www.tonic.cc](http://www.tonic.cc)

LEESA MAHER

Picture: AAP/Ric Frearson



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