BY ALANNA SMIT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNA KERN

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My island home: Alanna Smit on juggling three kids with a successful interior business

It's no surprise that Alanna Smit's home is a haven is considered and curated. The Vancouver Island-based interior designer has mastered the art to combining function and style when a room is family-living, and the end result speaks for itself...

Alanna Smit is a Vancouver Island-based interior designer, mother to three kids under five and the creative force behind one of the country's most popular interiors blogs. Her home is the epitome of what we love to see when it comes to family living, and the end result speaks for itself.

Although her motherhood journey was somewhat unexpected as it was, Alanna followed her passion for interior design and has created a successful career for herself in the process. The end result was both 'unexpected' and perfect for a mother of three kids under five. Alanna's home is the epitome of what we love to see when it comes to family living, and the end result speaks for itself. Not to mention, her kids have some very lucky parents.

Read on to learn more about the inspiring and balancing mother-of-three who has the perfect combination of style and substance in her home, and in her life. Alanna's home and work are inspiring, and your bookmarks' ready (like...

Words: Nicole Bennett | Photography: Anna Kern | Styling: Alanna Smit | Via www.alannasmit.com.au

How would you describe yourself in three words?

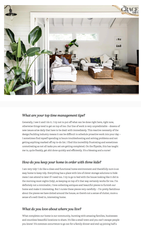
Passionate, hard-working and family-orientated.

What has been the most challenging part of motherhood?

Motherhood came suddenly and very unexpectedly to me (at age 20 by 21 today), so I was prepared for the first time we'd be having a baby to literally take – surgical out of the equation. Then, I was pregnant with twins. Needless to say, I learned to 'go with the flow' pretty quickly! The most challenging? For me, not knowing.

What qualities do you always try to foster in your children?

Kindness, empathy and a sense of adventure. I want them to be curious about the world around them and to be open to new experiences. I also want them to be confident in who they are. Appearance and material things are not important to me, and I want them to know that. I want them to be kind, to be open-hearted, to be open-minded and to be confident and assertive.



What are your top time management tips?

Honestly, I am a work in it. I try to start off early on the days right, make lists, prioritise and then get to it. I'm a big fan of 'eat the frog' (do the hardest thing first) and I was obsessed an daily that I use to be held to task until completed. This mental ownership of the day helps me to stay on track and to not get distracted by the many things that pop up. I recommend to the myself spending an hour to maximising and working productively and then giving myself a bit of a 'do list'. I find this is wonderful for staying work-orientated, and then I can also enjoy the rest of the day with my family. I'm not perfect at this by any means, and I definitely get side tracked and distracted, but I'm getting better at it every day.

How do you keep your home in order with three kids?

I'm very lucky I do it like a show and I've purchased homes environmental and beautiful, and to me that's important. I'm also very lucky that I have a husband who is very tidy and who helps with the mental load. Of course, I do a huge chunk of the household cleaning, but