

Special issue
Melbourne's Top 100

the
(melbourne)
magazine



Bright lights, big city
Melbourne's most influential, inspirational,
provocative and creative people for 2011

the
(top 100)
2011

**2011
MEMORABLE
MOMENTS**

March 27
Precocious formula one star Sebastian Vettel, 23, upstages Red Bull teammate and great Australian hope Mark Webber, dominating the Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park. (Webber finishes fifth.)

April 6
Youth worker Les Twentyman is a victim of those he's trying to help, when youths steal his credit card and go on a \$1220 late-night spending spree.

**Amy Muir and
Bruno Mendes**

architects



Rolling up their sleeves: They might be architects, but Amy Muir and Bruno Mendes often feel disconnected from the physical building process. So when the couple bought a rundown 1880s cottage in South Melbourne six years ago and decided to redesign it, they opted to get their hands dirty. The Law Street House was built almost entirely by Muir, 36, and Mendes, 34, on weekends over three-and-a-half years. The original structure was levelled because of termite damage and the tiny site (93 square metres) has access from the front only, but with sweat and tears and help from Bruno's dad, Joaquim, they finished in February. The couple formed a practice, Muir Mendes, this year, and their house won an Australian Institute of Architects award and a commendation at the national level.

Amy on Bruno: "Bruno's very straight down the line. He's an absolute perfectionist ... But because he's a doer, he'll jump into a task straight away, and there'll be moments where the thinking doesn't happen, so something has to be undone and done again."

Bruno on Amy: "Amy is much more considered. I do like doing things, making them, and it's sometimes my downfall ... But I think she's good at putting the brakes on and going, 'Hang on a second'. She's a bit more of a lateral thinker ... Her expectations are probably – at times – unreasonably high. But without that, I have to admit we wouldn't have achieved what we did with Law Street."



**Anna McLeish
and Sarah Shaw**

film producers



International recognition: Based on the story of South Australia's "bodies in barrels" murders, *Snowtown* has been called one of the most chilling Australian films ever made, yet producers Anna McLeish, 37, (left) and Sarah Shaw, 29, say they weren't sure if the locally infamous material would resonate abroad at all. Until Cannes, that is, where the film was awarded the President of the Jury Special Award Grand Prix in May.

Nervous start: Their big fear was the reception *Snowtown* would receive on its debut in Adelaide, where the story is set. Yet it won the audience award at the Adelaide Film Festival. "So it was really rewarding to see it embraced," McLeish says. "I think, in a way, South Australia took ownership of it, which was a really great outcome."

Anna on Sarah: "Sarah brings a never-say-die attitude, a huge amount of passion and hard work. The glass is always half full with her, and she has an absolute hawk-eye for detail ... She also brings a new hair colour into our world every few months, so that's always great fun. It's hard to find a weakness, but I'd say her sense of direction – you've got to be prepared to navigate when you're in the car with her."

Sarah on Anna: "Anna's greatest strength is her ability to remain calm and level-headed in the face of extreme chaos, which is the complete opposite to me. She does have a short-term weakness we dubbed "pregnancy brain". She had two children in the course of us partnering up, and during "pregnancy brain" moments, anything can happen ... Jane becomes Jan. All kinds of weird and wonderful things occur."

Snowtown has been regarded by some as compelling, by others as repellant; The Age film expert Philippa Hawker found it "bleak, harrowing and quietly assured".