

# your home and garden

## Dream Renos

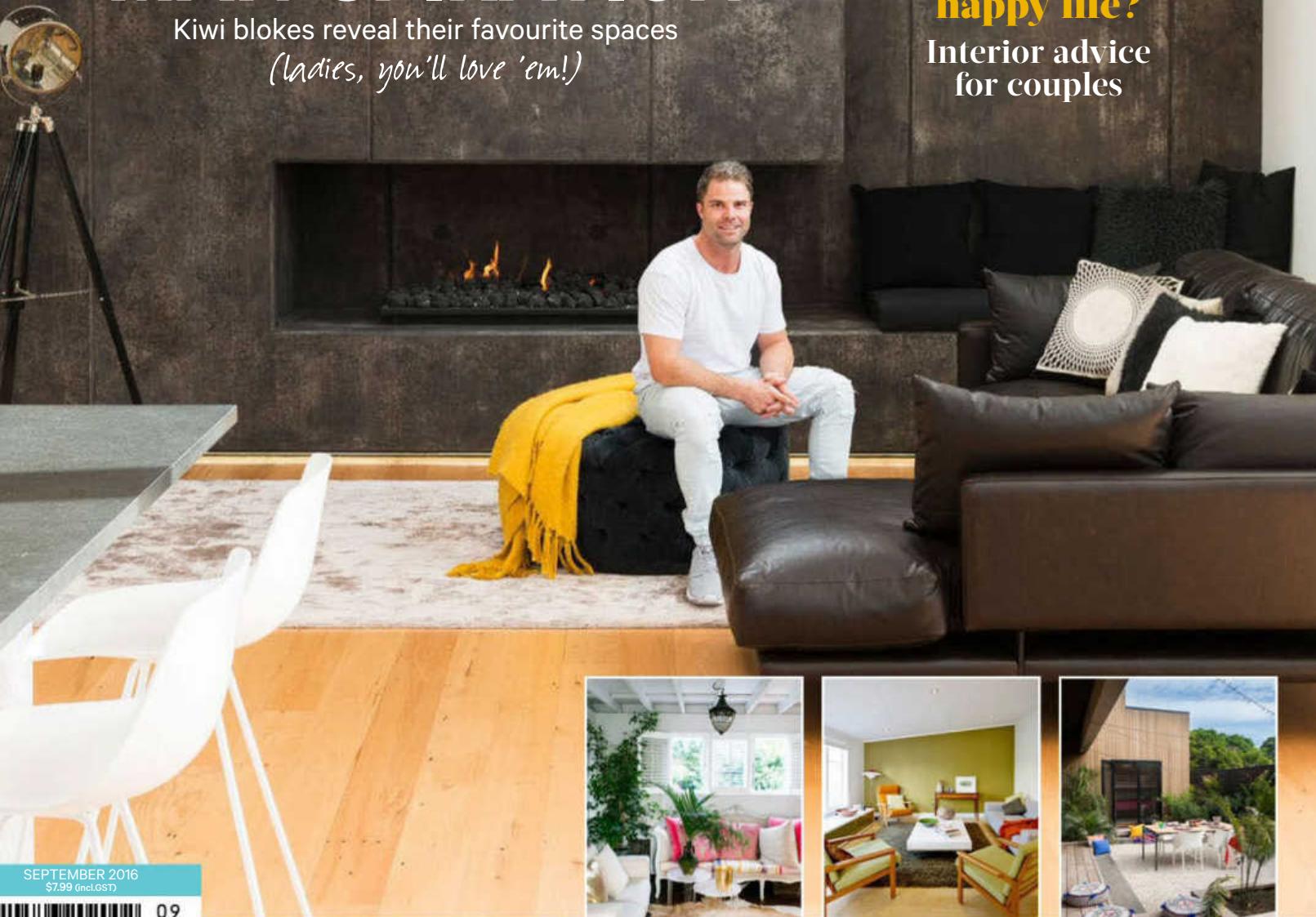
**EXTRA!**  
32 PAGES OF  
*THE BLOCK NZ*

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From little & lovely to 'blow the budget'!

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for couples



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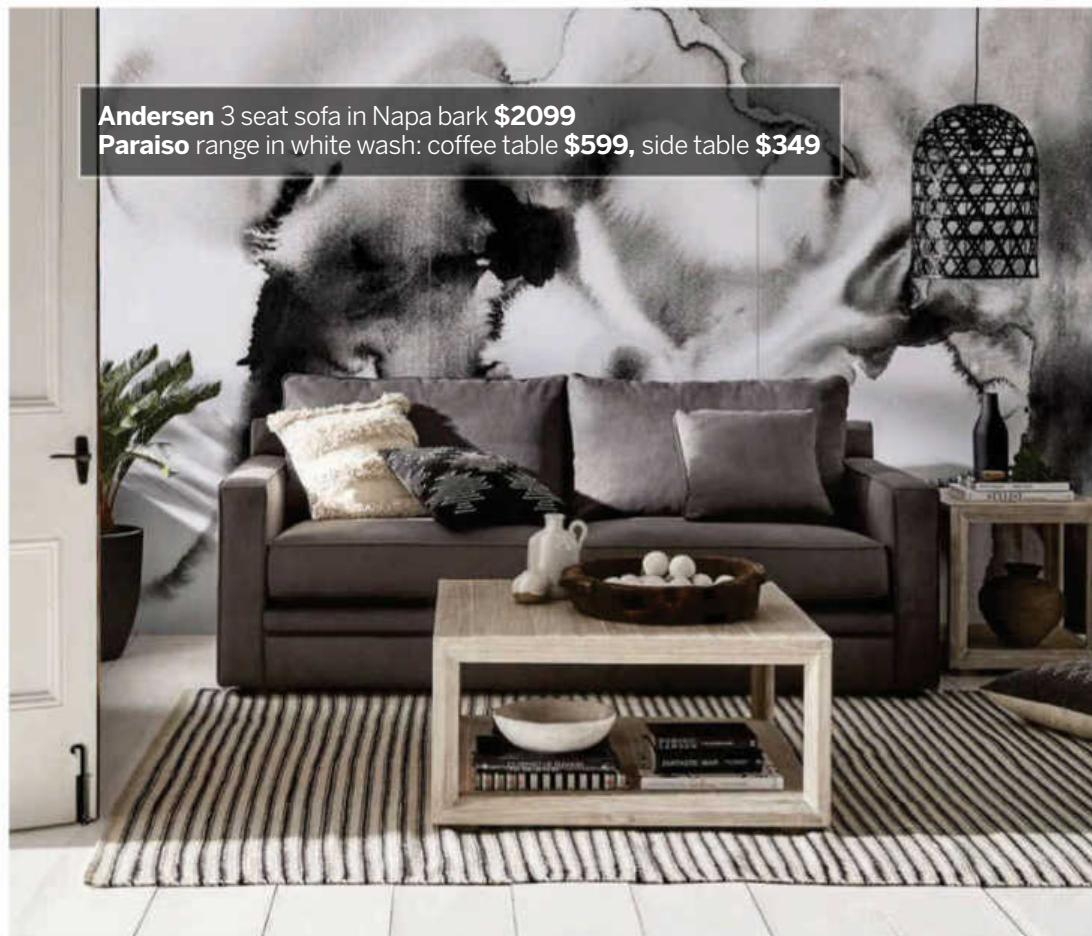
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MMNZ17IBA REV

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**Get the cover look** A villa renovation is the ideal canvas for blending old with new. In Adam Thomson's Auckland villa, heritage features such as wooden flooring and decorative ceiling roses frame the contemporary furnishing inside, where a dark and earthy colour scheme reigns supreme.

Photography by Helen Bankers.

**EXTRA!**  
FLIP OVER FOR  
32 PAGES OF  
**THE BLOCK NZ**

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## Matte makeover.

Drama without the dry-out. **New Clinique Pop™ Matte and Liquid Matte Lip Colour + Primer** deliver pigment-packed mattes with a fresh look, comfortable feel.

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# Hello



Chloé Fleury paper animal kits, from \$80, from Mildred & Co.



Sika Design  
Monet rocking chair, \$1197.60, contact May Time for stockists.



My Deer 'Musa' art print, \$109, from Father Rabbit.

H ave you been watching this season of *The Block NZ*? I've loved it – what an action-packed and entertaining series! The Girls vs Boys format, packed with friendly banter, has added a fresh dynamic to the show.

Kiwis are a proud bunch of DIYers – we love the satisfaction of nailing a project ourselves and proudly showing it off to our mates. We have practical minds and, if something needs doing, many of us like to think we can figure it out ourselves (even if that means having a DIY disaster and having to call in the pros). New Zealanders also love a good laugh, and the antics, challenges and dress-ups on *The Block NZ* make it a great family-friendly watch.

I wish I could congratulate the winning team, but we've gone to print just before the live auction final! So I'm crossing my fingers when I predict all the teams will make good money at auction.

There's a housing shortage in Auckland – a very sad situation for buyers – which inevitably drives prices up for vendors. These homes are in an area that is sought after by a wide range of buyers, with a lovely lifestyle on offer. The houses certainly won't be in the average first-home buyer's league but, as they're on a shared driveway and occupy small sites, they'll be more affordable than other newly renovated three-bedroom homes in the area. They're high-spec, eco-friendly and future-proofed. *The Block NZ* renovations have been done in the public eye with no corners cut when it comes to building, consent and sign-off, so buyers can be sure they're high-quality homes. The potential deal-breaker will be what the reserve prices are set at, something none of the teams can control.

Yes, my hopes are high for a great result for all four teams – they certainly deserve it after the huge amount of work they've done. But anything can happen on telly! As a souvenir of the series, we've got all the house reveals in this special flip-cover issue, complete with details of where to buy all the products. Plus, plenty of other homes showcasing the unique style and personality New Zealanders are known for. Have a great month.

Shelley

**Shelley Ferguson**  
Managing Editor



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# Social club

Interact with *Your Home and Garden* any time, anywhere through our multiple social channels – we'd love to hear from you!



## Homestolove.co.nz

### DIY projects

See how to make a cat bed for your furry friend at [homestolove.co.nz/diy-how-to/diy-projects](http://homestolove.co.nz/diy-how-to/diy-projects)



### Renter's corner

Homes to Love has loads of decor and makeover ideas for people renting their home.



## Instagram

We love seeing images from our #yourhomeandgarden community. Especially rooms you've styled, shops you've spotted, painting you've completed, or a snap of you with the latest issue of YH&G. @yourhomeandgarden



@scattered\_heart



@sweetonyounz



@mum\_and\_moss



@sailor\_and\_scout\_home

## Facebook

The posts you loved most this month on [facebook.com/YourHomeGarden](https://facebook.com/YourHomeGarden) were:



A determined young mum stamps her style on a rundown 1970s home.



A farming family start from scratch rather than renovate and the results are everything they dreamed of!

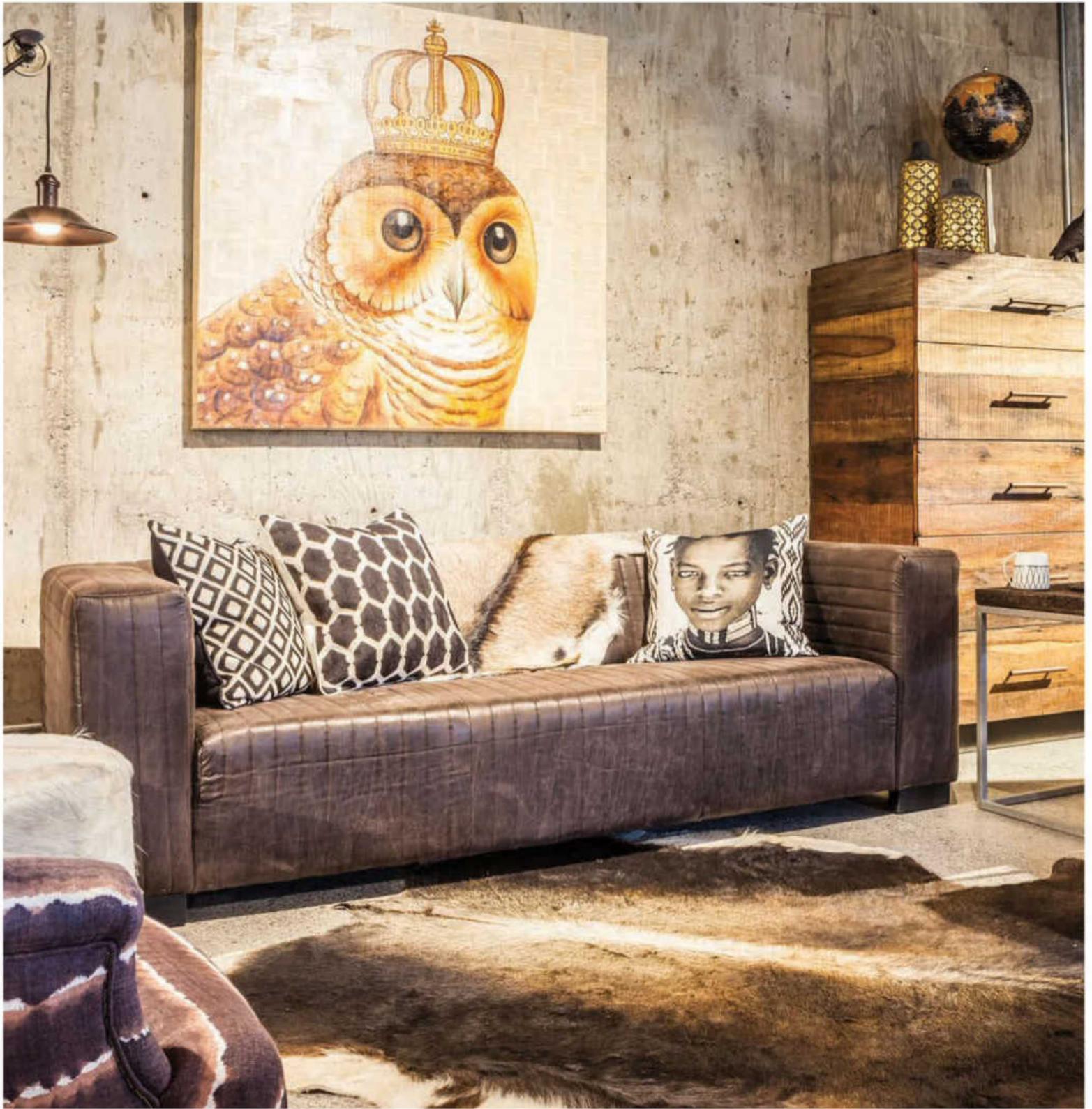


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# your Shopping

New products, places, trends and looks we love



## In the water

If you have a water-loving partner and want to introduce an interest of his into your interior scheme then look no further! You'll fall in love with the massive range of photographic images from Australian company Aquabumps. Photographer Eugene Tan travels the globe capturing surfers, waves, swimmers, sunrises and amazing beach scenes. Go to [aquabumps.com](http://aquabumps.com) to view the full range.

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**Throwback** Page 26 **We love** Page 28 **Inside look** Page 30 **Artist profile** Page 32 **Trend report: the modern man** Page 34

**SAMSUNG**

# Here's to the outcasts. **Welcome.**

Until now you couldn't add to a front loader mid-cycle. Introducing the revolutionary new Samsung AddWash front loader with innovative door. Simply add during wash. Welcome in that outcast sock and say goodbye to extra loads.

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# Fresh finds

What's new in the homewares scene – from our place to yours

Compiled by Vanessa Nouwens.

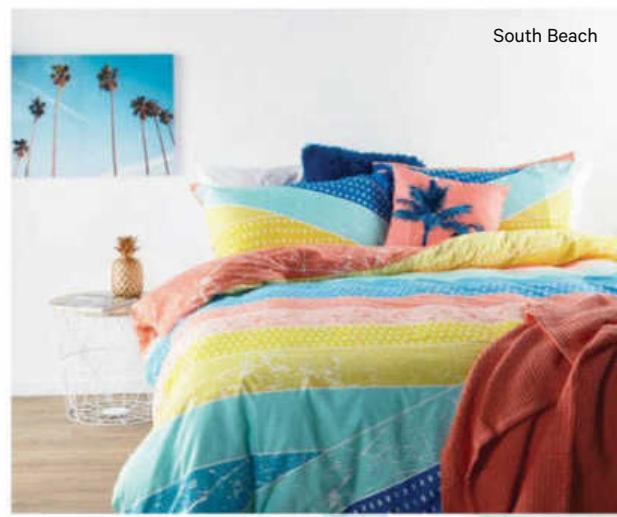
## Bargain of the month

Got a spot in your home that could do with a stylish but not too lofty table lamp? Then look no further than this on-trend concrete and glass creation from **Kmart**. At 30cm tall, this fabulous lamp could make itself at home in your living room, bedroom or study. It comes at a great price, too – just \$22.



## Around the world

Suited to many spaces in the home office, bedroom or living area, this 'Let's see it all' world map hand-drawn by Jessica Wells is presented in Tasmanian oak slats and will have everyone in the house dreaming of all the places they've seen or are yet to explore. The 100cm-by-76cm map is interactive and can be painted, dressed with sticker art, drawn on and filled in as wished, or just left blank for a stylish black and white touch. \$199 from [xohome.co.nz](http://xohome.co.nz)



South Beach

## Measure up

A family keepsake which can move and grow with your family. New to One Hundred Percent Heart is the Keepsake height chart. Made to fit on a doorframe or just on the wall, the chart can be removed and repositioned easily. It's 5.5cm wide by 190cm high and can be written on with any kind of marker. \$29.90 from [onehundredpercentheart.com](http://onehundredpercentheart.com)



## ON-TREND GOODIES

The start of each season means lots of cool new homeware goodies to ooh and aah over. One place to check out in early September is **The Warehouse**, which will be stocking its shelves with freshly sourced homeware items perfect for giving your home a refresh. This season there are three key themes: natural wonder, serenity and South Beach. Be sure to check out these exciting collections in store soon.



## RUG UP

Rugs are great for breaking up big open-plan spaces into zones. They look fab under a sofa, a coffee table and, believe or not, on top of carpet, too. This stunning, light blue, pure wool Afghan Moroccan rug is a beauty at 2.44m x 3.16m in size. This unusual and beautiful rug is constructed using the Soumak style of weaving where the tufts are pulled through to the front and made part of the design rather than being left at the back. Available at **Artisan Flooring**, POA.

## Rock your drink!

These clever 'drink rocks' keep your spirits as they should be: undiluted. The smooth, tactile shapes measuring around 5cm square and made from soapstone and marble are designed to be chilled in the freezer before being plonked into your evening tipple. These are the perfect pressie for that hard-to-buy person in your life. A total game-changer. \$69 from [leven.co.nz](http://leven.co.nz)



## SEEKING A SIESTA

Spring is the perfect time to give your bedroom an update with fresh bedlinen. This 100 percent linen Sunset duvet set from **EziBuy**'s spring collection will have you dreaming of summer nights ahead. The sizing goes right up to super king, with prices from \$289.99-\$329.99. Be sure to check out this and other designs in the new collection online and in stores from mid August.



## CUSHY NUMBER

If comfort combined with style is what you are seeking then this rocking Dondolo chair by Claudio Bellini is sure to be a winner with everyone in the household. The polypropylene shell is covered in a soft fabric with lots of padding for enhanced comfort. \$395 from **zuca.co.nz**

## BURNING SCENT

A new addition to the Smith & Co collection by **The Aromatherapy Company** is the exclusive tea chest candle range. Each candle is presented in a reusable wooden box and offers the perfect harmony between tea, flower and fruit. \$34.99 from selected stores nationwide.



## So smooth

Ironing is a chore most of us dread but the new Russell Hobbs Smooth IQ may change your thinking. This iron is smoothing a new path in the world of creases with its 'wrinkle defence system'. Using similar technology to that in hair straighteners, the Smooth IQ soleplate is infused with the mineral tourmaline to reduce static and friction and create super-smooth results. It's also infused with unique fabric-softening agents to help prevent wrinkling. With powerful steam and improved glide-ability, this iron should have your clothes and bedlinen pressed in no time. RRP \$229.99 from major retailers; **russellhobbs.com**

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SAVE OR SPLURGE

# Plant it

Bringing greenery into your interior is a no-brainer and there are so many stylish ways to display it.

Here's our pick of the pots!

Styling by Catherine Wilkinson. Photography by Wendy Fenwick.

SAVE

SAVE

Terracotta pots, \$2.71 each, from Mitre 10.

1

SAVE

George & Co Wild Thing planter, \$42.90, from Iko Iko.

2

4

3

5

SAVE

Garden pots, from \$18 each, from Father Rabbit.



**1 SAVE** Brass pot, \$9, from Kmart. **2 SAVE** Speckled pot, \$25, from Junk & Disorderly. **3 SAVE** Dipped concrete planter, \$10, from Kmart. **4 SAVE** Anne Black hanging pot, \$49, from Source Home + Object. **5 SAVE** Brass hanging planter, \$9, from Kmart. **1 SPLURGE** Pilar Wiley planter no. 6, \$215, from Garden Objects. **2 SPLURGE** Dipped planter, \$46.50, from Junk & Disorderly. **3 SPLURGE** Hanging Gidon Bing ceramic pot in almond white, \$70, from Garden Objects. **4 SPLURGE** Hanging brass planter (medium), \$69, from Shut The Front Door. **5 SPLURGE** Potted echeveria, \$24.95 small, \$29.95 large, from Freedom. Brass garden **scissors**, \$55, from Father Rabbit. Brass **mister**, \$60, from Garden Objects. **Wall** painted in Resene 'Pearl Bush'. Plants not included (except for the echeveria, far right).



splurge

# MAKE AN ENTRANCE

Set the scene from the outset and transform the entry to your home into a warm and welcoming space which functions well for all your family's needs

Styling by Alex Walls. Photography by Bayly and Moore.

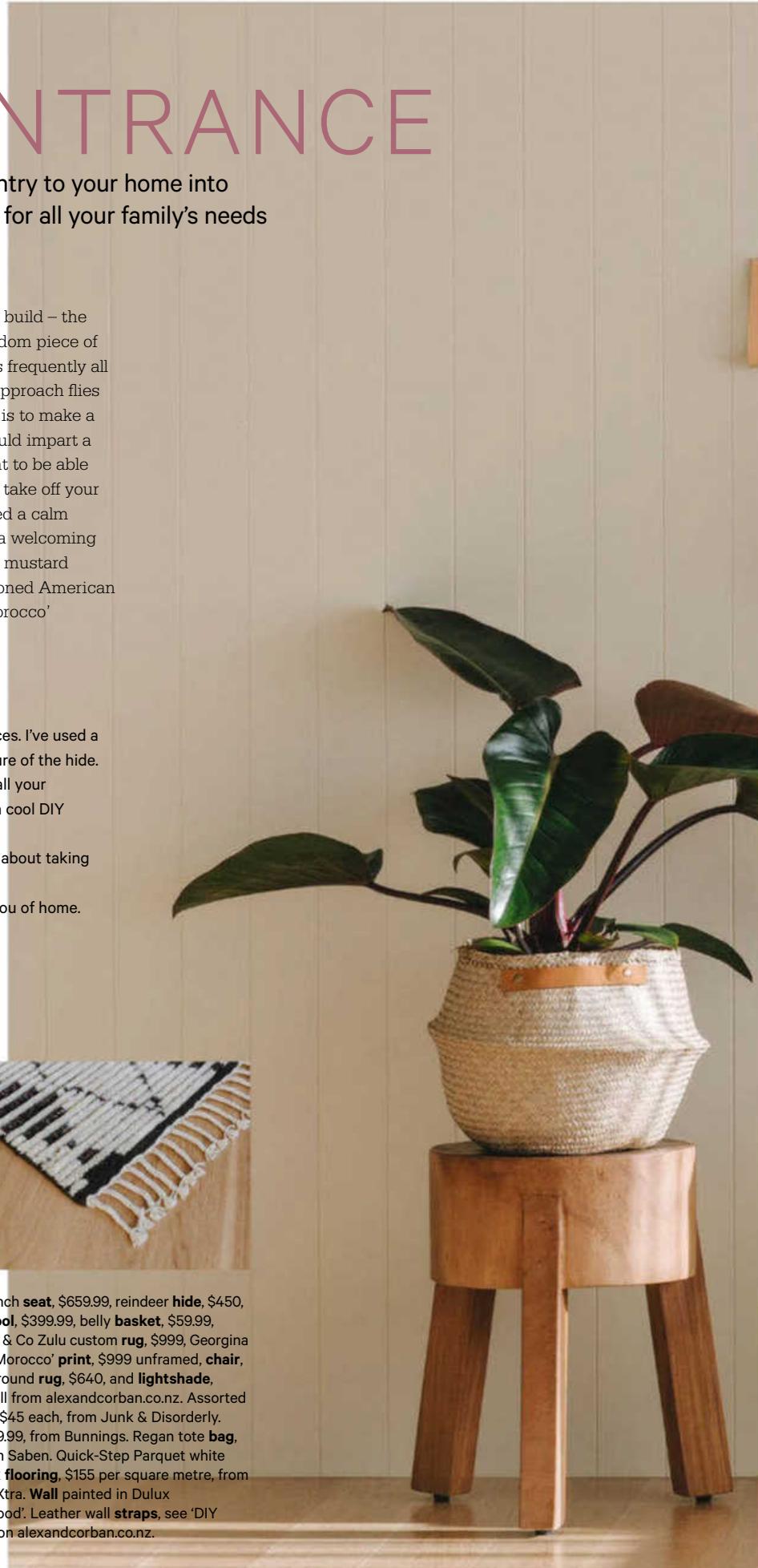
**D**uring a renovation or re-styling of a house – or even a new build – the entryway and hallway are often given little thought. A random piece of art or a hall table may be added to fill the space, but that is frequently all the attention these areas receive. However, this careless approach flies in the face of common sense: after all, we all know how important it is to make a good first impression. Personally, I think the entrance to a home should impart a feeling of comfort and safety. When you cross the threshold you want to be able to leave all the stresses of work and the busy-ness of life at the door, take off your shoes, hang up your bag, and relax. For this entranceway, I combined a calm and neutral colour palette with some quality decor pieces, creating a welcoming ambience which invites you to kick back and unwind. The very soft mustard cream hue of Dulux 'Collingwood' pairs beautifully with the warm-toned American oak floor. My favourite element in this ensemble is the gorgeous 'Morocco' photographic print by Georgina Skinner.

## Entryway essentials

- > **Direct your guests** Use a hall runner to help direct guests into living spaces. I've used a gorgeous Zulu patterned rug (see inset) to match the artwork and the texture of the hide.
- > **Hang up your worries** As you enter the house you need a place to leave all your essentials (and collect them again on the way out). We have come up with a cool DIY leather-strap 'hook' that you can hang bags, umbrellas and hats from.
- > **A place to sit** Take a breath and take off your shoes. I have a general rule about taking your shoes off at the front door, so having a bench seat is a nice addition.
- > **Artistic touch** Find a piece of art that makes you feel calm and reminds you of home. You want to make sure that you feel welcomed in a comfortable way.



Vaasa bench seat, \$659.99, reindeer hide, \$450, Roger stool, \$399.99, belly basket, \$59.99, Armadillo & Co Zulu custom rug, \$999, Georgina Skinner 'Morocco' print, \$999 unframed, chair, \$999.99, round rug, \$640, and lightshade, \$159.99, all from alexandcorban.co.nz. Assorted clay jars, \$45 each, from Junk & Disorderly. Plant, \$59.99, from Bunnings. Regan tote bag, \$512, from Saben. Quick-Step Parquet white oak plank flooring, \$155 per square metre, from Flooring Xtra. Wall painted in Dulux 'Collingwood'. Leather wall straps, see 'DIY projects' on alexandcorban.co.nz.





# Sit back & relax

Whether it's needed for seating in the lounge or to furnish a reading nook or cosy spot by the fire, the perfect comfy chair is waiting with open arms



## Shopping tips

- > **Establish the use** for the chair. Is it going to be used daily as extra seating, or only a couple of times a week as a reading chair, or will it be purely decorative?
- > **Ideally, an armchair** should last for many years but the choice of fabric will determine its longevity.
- > **If you have the space**, armchairs look fabulous teamed with a good side table and floor lamp – and don't forget to add a nice cushion, too.

**1** Vcool armchair, \$2299, from Nood. **2** Imola chair, from \$3431, from BoConcept. **3** Eddy chair, \$1795, from Bauhaus. **4** Banjo loveseat, \$3200, from St Clements.

**5** Nelson occasional armchair in saddle tan, \$1299, from Freedom. **6** Asta chair in grey, \$99, from Mocka. **7** Eternal lounge chair, \$2295, from Republic Home.

**8** Manor chair in black Heritage Carriage leather, \$3809, from Dawson & Co. **9** Chardonnay chair, \$1550, from Misc Hamilton. **10** Beaumont chair, \$725, from Zuca. **11** Fender chair, \$1809, from Simon James Design. **12** Spencer chair in blue, \$1694, from Forma.



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## ON TREND

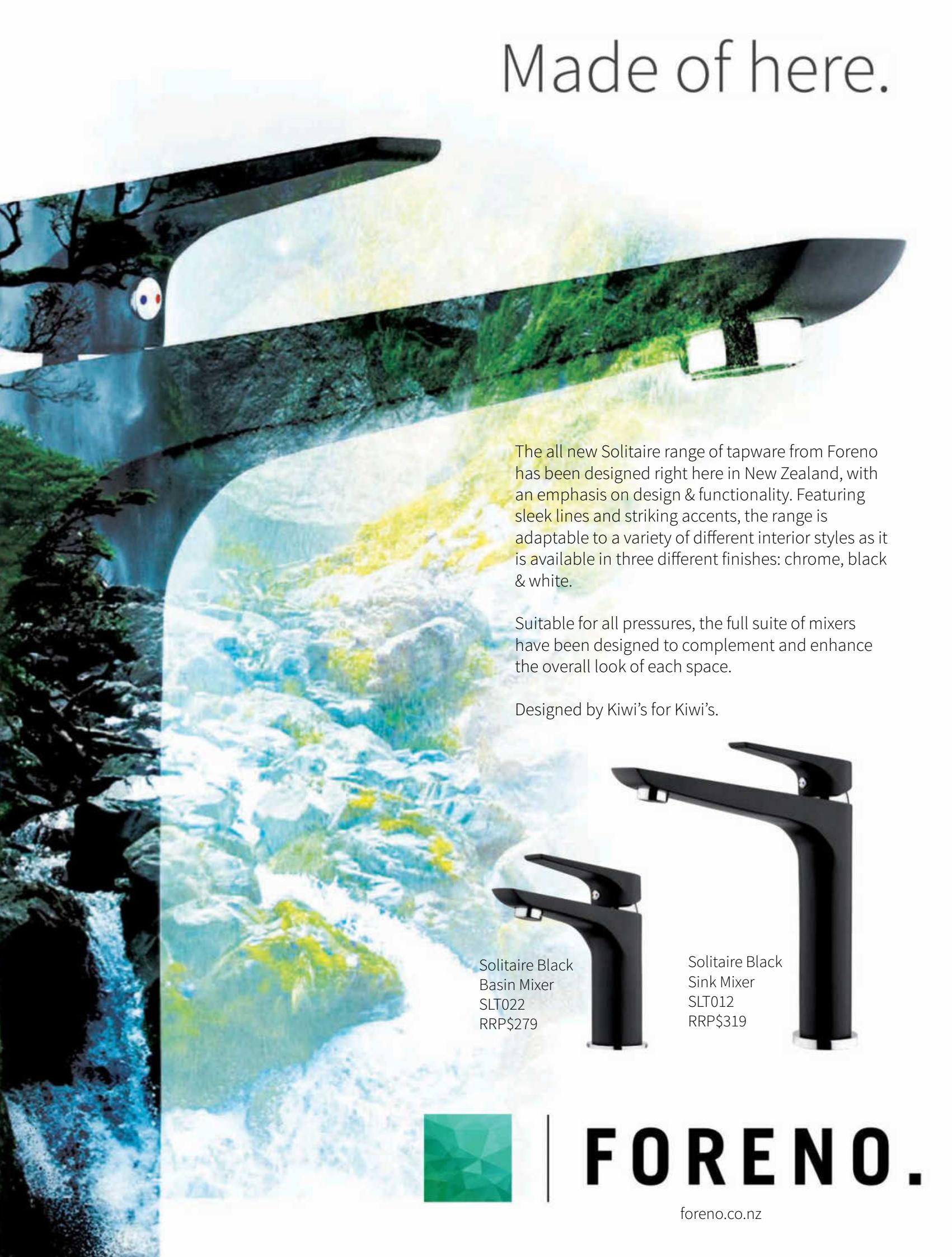


## A masculine moment

Whether it's for the office, bathroom, man cave or the great outdoors, shopping for the stylish men in your life has never been easier thanks to a handful of brands celebrating the male mojo

Styling by Tanya Wong. Photography by Melanie Jenkins.

# Made of here.



The all new Solitaire range of tapware from Foreno has been designed right here in New Zealand, with an emphasis on design & functionality. Featuring sleek lines and striking accents, the range is adaptable to a variety of different interior styles as it is available in three different finishes: chrome, black & white.

Suitable for all pressures, the full suite of mixers have been designed to complement and enhance the overall look of each space.

Designed by Kiwi's for Kiwi's.



Solitaire Black  
Basin Mixer  
SLT022  
RRP\$279

Solitaire Black  
Sink Mixer  
SLT012  
RRP\$319



# FORENO.

[foreno.co.nz](http://foreno.co.nz)

Dome basket **pendant**, \$249, from Freedom.

## THROWBACK



Hanging pod **chair**, \$936, contact May Time for stockists.

Apple farmers **basket**, \$189, from Everyday Needs.



Vertice rattan **basket**, \$98, from French Country Collections.



Vertice storage **box**, \$115, from French Country Collections.



PET Lamp **pendant** by Hideaki Hosokawa, \$669, from Backhouse.

**Room divider**, \$399, from Freedom.



Laundry **basket**, \$79.99, from Trade Aid.



Cane trays, **\$57.60** set of two, contact May Time for stockists.

**A**ny nature-loving interiors addict will be enjoying the variety of cane furniture and homewares on offer right now. Made from the peeled-off bark of vine-like rattan palms, cane is used for a variety of purposes around the world, including weaving chair seats and backs and binding furniture arms and legs. Whether it's a furniture set, a feature pendant light or simply a basket to keep your firewood in, cane will give your home a touch of bohemian and Balinese retreat!

Franco Albini **ottoman**, \$1210, from Tessuti.



Albany **chair**, \$389, from French Country Collections.



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Luxury Cleansing Wipes  
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paseo.co.nz

WE LOVE

# Comfy corners

This sophisticated nook has plenty of drama with dark wood and brass, which is softened up with cosy throws and amber tones

Styling by Catherine Wilkinson and Shani Luckman.

Photography by Melanie Jenkins.



Twist lamp  
by Monmouth  
Glass Studio,  
\$425, from  
Tessuti.

1 Brass pot, \$9, from Kmart. 2 Liquor, POA, from Glengarry. 3 Vintage books, \$3 each, from Junk & Disorderly. 4 Izola Stein by Good as Gold, \$95, from Source Home + Object. 5 Guaiac Wood Flame candle, \$39.99, from The Foxes Den. 6 Duck, \$25, from Junk & Disorderly. 7 Vintage beer crate, \$12, and bottles, \$1 each, from Junk & Disorderly. 8 Ay Illuminate water bottle, \$197, from Tessuti. 9 Ay Illuminate drinking glass, \$52, and Monmouth drinking glass, \$55, both from Tessuti. 10 Wooden tray, \$65, from Junk & Disorderly. 11 Charcoal beige crosshatch pom pom throw, \$389, from Father Rabbit. Vintage radio, on loan. Wall painted in Resene 'Groundbreaker'.

Vintage leather  
chair, \$2500, from  
The Vitrine.

Park Avenue  
bookshelf, \$999,  
from Freedom.

Vintage rug,  
\$1200, from  
The Vitrine.

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# GYPSY CARAVAN

An outdoor space previously occupied by food trucks and street food vendors has morphed into a whimsical cave full of flowers, lanterns and other-worldy charm

Text by Kristina Rapley.

Husband-and-wife hospo dream team Annelise and Ryan Clarke have transformed the space formerly occupied by The Street Food Collective (which they own, as well as restaurant Miss Moonshine's) into a pop-up restaurant offering North African, Greek, Turkish and Moroccan fare.



The indoor dining area is festooned with hanging lanterns and trailing greenery above the floral Axminster carpet, purchased from Trade Me and cut up into large rugs. Bead curtains hanging from the exposed ceiling beams set the scene for romance and mystery.

Annelise and Ryan did the fit-out themselves, with lots of help from friends and family. The table above is adorned with a runner made by their good friend Raewyn Bayer and the plates are by Studio Ceramics.



Top right: The beautiful 'gypsies' who look after customers. Left: Benches softened with cushions made by Raewyn Bayer, with 'Herbie the Bar' (painted by James Nicholls of Art by Tuss) in the background.



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# Glenn Jones

Kiwiana with a contemporary, clever twist and just a hint of nostalgia – Glenn hits the nail on the head with his quirky designs

Text compiled by Kristina Rapley. Photography by Larnie Nicolson.

**Glenn, tell us about your journey with Glenn Jones Art...**

The business is just over two years old. After my wife Julia and I had our second child, we wanted to create a business that would allow us both to work from home. I was already working from home and Julia was on leave from her project management role. I'd recently started working on some Kiwiana art print ideas so creating a business where I got to do the art, and Julia could apply her skills running the business (all the stuff I hate doing), seemed like a good direction. We now have a four, two and one-year-old, so although this was just supposed to be a part-time project, it's grown much bigger than expected. Lots of long, busy days!

**Tell us about your US-based T-shirt business Glenn Tees...**

In 2004 I found out about a T-shirt competition website called Threadless.com, based in the US. I liked the idea of having a creative outlet outside of my design day job, so I started submitting designs. By 2007 I was the highest selling designer on that site and a year later I was flown to Texas by my now-business partners, who were totally set up for production, shipping and customer service, so I decided to quit my day job and see what happened.

**What's happening with it now?** Eight years later, we've sold hundreds of thousands of tees and had some incredible experiences along the way. One of those was when the character Sheldon on *Big Bang Theory* wore one our tees just for a few seconds at the start of a show. People instantly started googling it which caused a chain reaction of thousands of sales in hours. And the crazy thing was that because the show is hugely popular and is syndicated in the States, it appeared hundreds of times over a week and the sales just kept going. The business has also created amazing freelance experiences working with brands like Google and job offers from companies like Facebook. And this all came from just drawing, which is what I've always loved doing. So I'm glad I decided to quit my day job and give it a go.

**Describe your style...** Clean and simple with a twist.

**Why do you think your designs strike a chord with your customers?** Generally, I think they evoke memories from childhood and I often try to do it with a unique funny spin, so they make people happy. We get great feedback telling us this, which is always nice to hear.

**Where do you find inspiration?** Everyday life. I like taking the familiar and putting my own spin on it. My kids are definitely contributors too – my four-year-old has plenty to say and she's great for talking with about ideas! ●

## Nouveau Style Tip:

Give your laundry the attention it deserves. Laundries are a well-used and functional space, but they don't need to look utilitarian – so why not make it inviting? With a bit of attention to detail it might just become one of your favourite rooms in the house.



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Breathe new life into your home and create a functional and stylish space with our NZ made Nouveau laundry cabinets. Available exclusively at Mitre 10 MEGA.



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**Nouveau Style Tip:**  
Using a classic black and white monochromatic look allows you to be bold and dramatic. Using accentuated patterns, a splash of chrome, black sinks and tapware you can transform the room. And if you want to soften the look, some timber shelving or fresh green foliage will do wonders.

If your laundry is in need of a refresh, visit [mitre10.co.nz](http://mitre10.co.nz) or your nearest Mitre 10 MEGA and select from our great range of cabinets, benchtops and accessories to complement your style. Our in-store designers are on hand to help you create your dream laundry.

[mitre10.co.nz/nouveau](http://mitre10.co.nz/nouveau)

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# THE MODERN MAN

The contemporary man cave has moved on from beer-crate seating and decorative car parts. Here we capture six gorgeous modern gents in their ultimate man spaces

Styling by Amber Armitage. Art direction by Tanya Wong. Photography by Wendy Fenwick.

## The minimalist

"I'm constantly on the move so this space fits me to a tee. Whether I'm running out to have lunch with my wife or heading off to a meeting, I'll always stop in the hallway to get myself organised. The black, white and soft colours create a relaxing environment before the day's commotion begins."

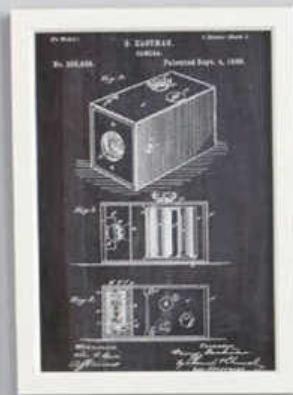
Tim Webber, furniture designer



## The techie

"This room lets me relax and enjoy myself. It's comfortable, warm and clean. I love knick-knacks and gadgets but need everything to be neat and in its place. It's a great space to listen to music, read a book, jam on a game or browse photos from a recent shoot."

**Clint Chang, IT project and systems manager, photographer and tech connoisseur**



## The workshop guy

"This is the ultimate man space for me as it brings together a number of elements that I really love: refurbished items made from wood and metal, the modern vibrant wall colour, and the polished concrete floor. I like places that feel like they have been lived in rather than clean lines and sterile spaces."

Luke Seeney, senior brand manager for Jack Daniel's and North American Whiskey at Hancocks



\* Get the look on page 40.

## The hunter-gatherer



"I love this room because it's comfortable, warm and cosy, with soft furnishings and rich leather. I'm anti-minimalist, so this style suits me well. There are lots of eclectic bits and pieces to remind me of travels and good times, and it's a great space to have a few drinks in and maybe a few more of those good times."

Dariush Lolaiy, co-owner of game restaurant Cazador



## The surfer dude

"I grew up living and breathing '80s surf and skate culture – the ocean and the outdoors are my playground. This laidback, cruisey man cave where I can have a few beers, listen to sounds and relax while dreaming about my next surf mission is my ultimate chillout zone."

Steven Ferguson, surf lifesaving coach and ex-Olympian  
(and YH&G editor Shelley's hubby!)



# THE MODERN MAN

## CREDITS

### The minimalist

**Wall** painted in Resene 'Half Opal' (top) and Resene 'Eskimo', **floor** in Resene 'Black White'. Dome Ampel **pendant**, \$1250, Notch wall **hooks**, \$190 set of three, Floating **bench seat**, \$1089, Menu Chunk of Black Marble **candleholder**, \$165 large, Menu Chunk of White Marble **candleholder**, \$129 small, all from Tim Webber Design. Olio stoneware **mug**, \$25, from Everyday Needs. Scent of Home Mr Moss **candle**, \$115, Penguin **book**, \$13.99, Rains Breaker **jacket** (on wall), \$165, wall chart **map** of Auckland, \$215, Garment Project classic lace-up **shoes**, \$250, all from Father Rabbit. Rig leather **bag**, \$589, from Saben. **Tokyobike CS**, \$1290, from Blend Store. **Goat skin** dyed grey, \$172, from Lapco. Plants, stylist's own. Clothes, leather satchel and other books, model's own.

### The techie

**Wall** in Resene 'Mischka'. Paper Collective Bearded Man **print**, \$179, from Father Rabbit. Welcome **tray** (holding watch), \$29, No 1 white/tan leather **watch**, \$359, both from Good As Gold. A & Co Berber Weave Fez **rug** in natural, \$1995, from The Ivy House. Austin entertainment **unit**, \$2859, from Tim Webber Design. Let's Make Today Extraordinary **mug**, \$24.50, from Toodles Noodles. Leather utility **roll** (underneath wallet on unit), \$185, from Walter Crow. Felt storage **bin**, \$80, from Mood Store. Reproduction Eames lounge **chair** (comes with ottoman) in walnut, \$2800, and Calvo **side table** by Lee Kirkbride, \$600, both from Homage. Photography print on wall, clothing, leather bag, cameras, toys, wallet, books, Kindle, headphones, watch box (on top of unit), all model's own. TV and plants, stylist's own.

### The workshop guy

**Wall** in Resene 'Streetwise'. Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select Kentucky Straight Bourbon **Whiskey**, \$59.99, from Glengarry. Bang Bang **pegboard**, \$390, from George & Willy. Heat **lamp** (on floor), \$265, tool **box** (on shelf), \$305, workshop **drawers** (on bench), \$145, all from Flotsam & Jetsam. Enamel **mug**, \$16.50, Palomino **pencils**, \$6 each, Dear Maison **notebook**, \$29, Izola Scout **soap** (top box on shelf), \$49, scrub **brush** (bottom box on shelf), \$8, beeswax **candles**, \$38 for 12, Noble maple **syrup**, \$44.95, all from Father Rabbit. Sea Salt **soap**, \$18.50, from Everyday Needs. Tobacco **mandle**, \$26, from William & Emerson. Outdoors five-panel **cap**, \$109, Stanley classic **lunchbox**, \$125, shoe **brush** (on shelf), \$55, all from Good As Gold. Tailors Spinner **stool**, \$499, from Republic. Vintage Belgian beer table, POA, and vintage factory **baskets**, POA, from The Vitrine. Retro Lynn Railway **cup and saucer**, \$52.50, from Studio Ceramics. Sori Yanagi **kettle**, \$269, from Everyday Needs. Vintage tools, bag, clothing and apron, model's own.

### The hunter-gatherer

**Wall** in Resene 'Burnt Sienna'. **Floor** in Resene Colorwood 'English Walnut'. Cowhide patchwork **rug**, \$810, from Lapco. Zanjan **vintage rug** (around 120 years old), POA, and 1940s leather **armchair**, POA, both from The Vitrine. Trentham **sideboard**, \$999, from Early Settler. Pallares Solsona kitchen **knife**, \$35, and Duralex amber **glasses**, \$7 each, from Father Rabbit. Menu Wine Breather **decanter**, \$188, and Menu WW stackable **glass** (in his hand), \$47, both from Simon James Concept Store. Steen **candlestick** in powder black, \$58, from Tessuti. Olio stoneware **jug**, \$119, from Everyday Needs. Leather pouf, silver tray and gold bowl, stylist's own. Taxidermy duck, cigar, chopping boards, brass vessels, peacock feathers, clothing, all model's own.

### The surfer dude

**Wall** and **floor** painted in Resene 'Black White'. Nature Boy **armchair**, \$1350, from St Clements. A & Co Petunia **rug**, \$765, from The Ivy House. Bamu canvas overnight **bag**, \$269, from Citta. Willow weave **towel**, \$65, from Everyday Needs. Locker **shoe rack**, \$1995, from Republic. **Paddle ball set**, \$65, from Good As Gold. JWDA concrete **lamp**, \$380, from Tim Webber Design. Desert Blue A4 **print**, \$49 unframed, from Amber Armitage. NZ Surf Quest **poster**, \$50, from Endemic World. Potted plants and wooden box under plant, stylist's own. Surfboard, skateboard, guitar, trophies, clothes and jandals, all model's own.

### The gentleman

**Background** stained in Resene Colorwood 'English Walnut'. Eames folding **screen**, \$2300, 1950s Italian bar **cart**, \$1850, Alf Svensson leather **armchair**, \$3250, John Reynolds 'Solo' **rug** for Dilana, \$4715, all from Mr Bigglesworthy. Crane Brothers Biancoli suit **jacket**, POA, and Crane Brothers Made in Italy Cadenza **shirt**, POA, both from Crane Brothers. Dalmore King Alexander III **whisky**, \$369.99, from Glengarry. Cognac **glasses** by Norman Copenhagen, \$147, from Design Denmark. CS **planter** in charcoal, \$425, Monmouth Glass twist **lamp**, \$425, and Monmouth Glass Dome **lamp**, \$900, all from Tessuti. All other items, model's own.

## The gentleman

"We live in a complex, fast-paced world so it's nice to have somewhere to chill and relax. This space is masculine and luxurious, the perfect man spot for contemplation and taking it easy with a glass of your favourite or a good book."

Dan Eagle, co-owner of mid-century modern furniture and restoration company Mr Bigglesworthy





**“It’s amazing  
for covering grey!  
My hair is shiny and  
healthy-looking.”**

Joanne from Tauranga used  
3.6 Crimson Promise

**9/10**

New Zealand  
women would  
use Garnier  
Nutrisse again\*

# It's all about BROWN

Brown is the new black this season! But don't just go brown, go deep, rich, natural-looking brown

**B**rown is beautiful – and the latest hair trend is for lustrous brown locks! If you colour your hair at home, achieving that great brunette look is all about using the right shade and the right hair colouring product.

During a recent Garnier Nutrisse trial\*, Kiwi women were asked to try one of Nutrisse's 11 brown shades and talk about what they look for when buying a permanent hair colouring product.

It's no surprise that a lot of women make their choice based on the product's effectiveness – 71% of Kiwi women, in fact\*. The same percentage of women also choose products based on value for money, which makes sense too. It's also no surprise that 74% are looking for excellent grey coverage, but the largest number of women, 80%, make a purchase based on whether the product has the shade they want.

The women were thrilled

with the results, commenting on Garnier Nutrisse's value for money, excellent grey coverage, pleasant fragrance and the long-lasting, beautiful shades. One participant said that her hair usually feels dry and brittle after colouring, "Nutrisse left my hair looking and feeling radiant." Another said, "As an ex-hairdresser, I'm not easily impressed by hair colours, but Garnier Nutrisse hasn't faded a lot and my hair is really soft afterwards."

So what makes Garnier Nutrisse such good value for money when it comes to at-home colouring products? Nourished hair means

**"The colour match was spot on. My hair feels soft and beautifully conditioned. The grey coverage is impressive."**

**Jo from Hamilton used 6.0 Acorn**

better colour, and Garnier Nutrisse has an anti-dryness formula enriched with three amazing oils: avocado, olive and shea. The formula works to protect hair against dryness and adds shine, leaving the hair silky and glossy – your hair will look healthy and nourished for up to eight weeks! Nutrisse delivers a 100% grey coverage with a non-drip formula and a pleasant fruity fragrance.

With 11 beautiful brown shades including the fabulous new 3.23 Sparkle Browns Dark

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*Creme*



Quartz, and 22 shades in the range, it's easy to find the right Garnier Nutrisse hair colour for you.

Your hair is your best fashion accessory, so whether you're loving the latest hair trend and going gorgeous brown or simply matching your natural shade to cover those greys, it makes sense to use quality at-home colouring care.



RRP \$14.99. Available in 22 shades.

Always do a skin allergy test at least 48 hours before using this product. For more tips, visit garnier.co.nz, the GarnierNZ YouTube channel or call the Garnier Advice Line on 0800 427 6437.



## KITCHEN TECH

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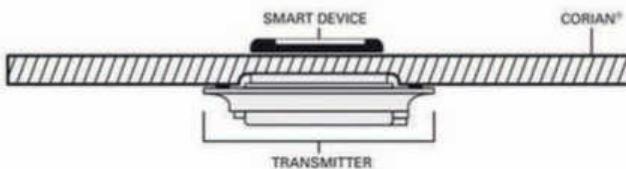
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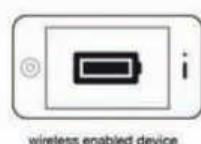
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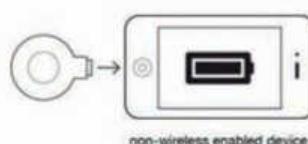


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wireless enabled device



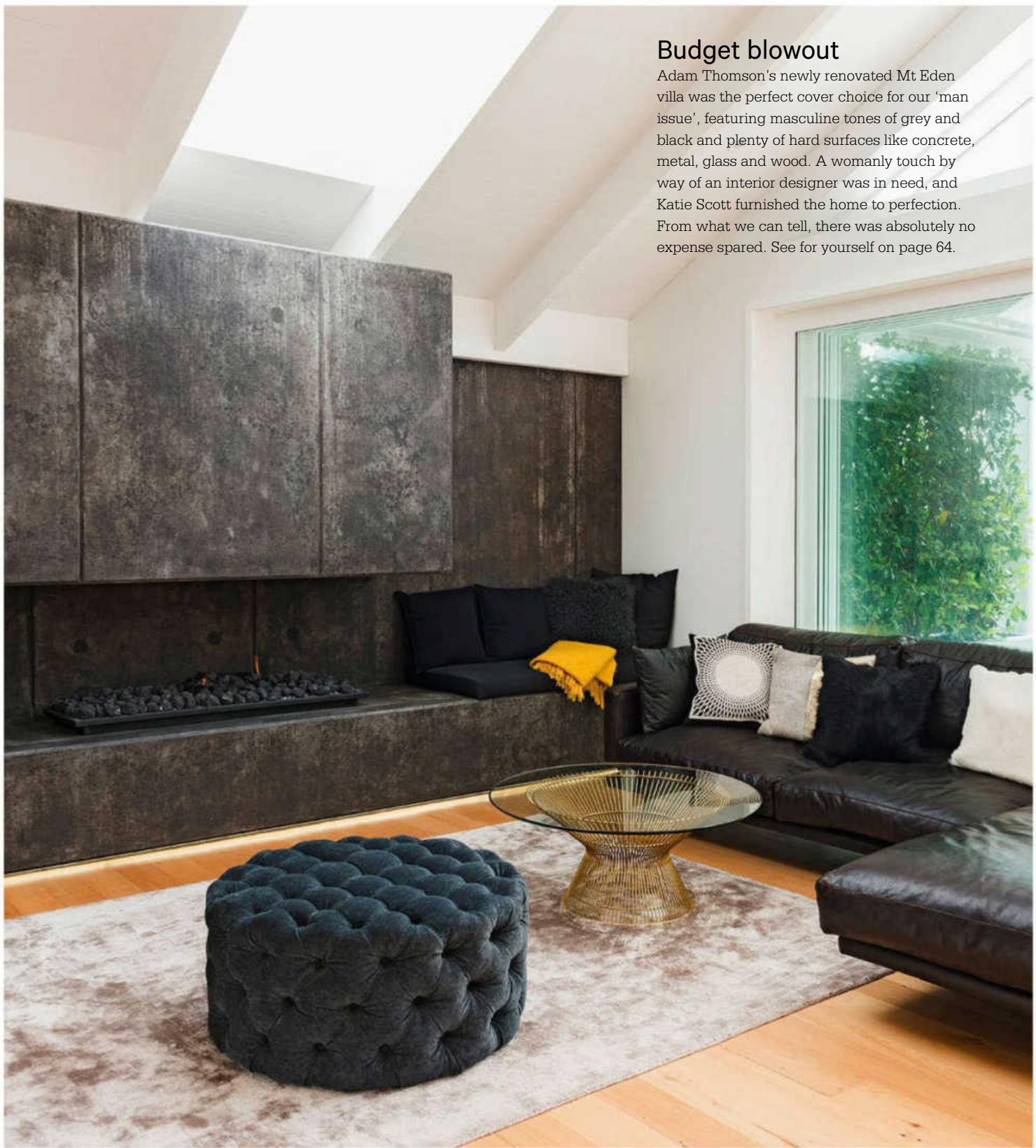
non-wireless enabled device



For more information, call Evolution of Surfaces – the New Zealand Distributor of Corian® - on 0800 CORIAN | 0800 267 426 or check out [corian.co.nz](http://corian.co.nz)

# your Homes

Creative and inspiring New Zealand homes with heart



Photography by Helen Bankers.

## Budget blowout

Adam Thomson's newly renovated Mt Eden villa was the perfect cover choice for our 'man issue', featuring masculine tones of grey and black and plenty of hard surfaces like concrete, metal, glass and wood. A womanly touch by way of an interior designer was in need, and Katie Scott furnished the home to perfection. From what we can tell, there was absolutely no expense spared. See for yourself on page 64.

**A hands-on approach: one man's trash is another's treasure** Page 46 **Made of home: an artist's abode** Page 50  
**Benefits of the doubt: a retro dream realised** Page 54 **Bachelor pad: no expense was spared on this major reno** Page 64  
**Old-world charm: a French cottage for one** Page 74

# A hands-on approach

The saying “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” certainly rings true for  
Paul Roest from Industrial Design NZ

Text by Debbie Harrison. Photography by Helen Bankers.





**Y**ou've probably seen some of Paul Roest's wood creations without realising it. He's crafted tables, chairs, bar leaners, entertainment units, shelving, bedside tables and office furniture for many supermarkets, cafes, retail stores, beauty salons and individual clients. He's built conference tables for SkyCity, lunchroom cafe-style tables for Air NZ and stunning rustic store counters for franchise Habitual Fix. That chunky table John Campbell records his *Checkpoint* show from? Yep, that was Paul, too.

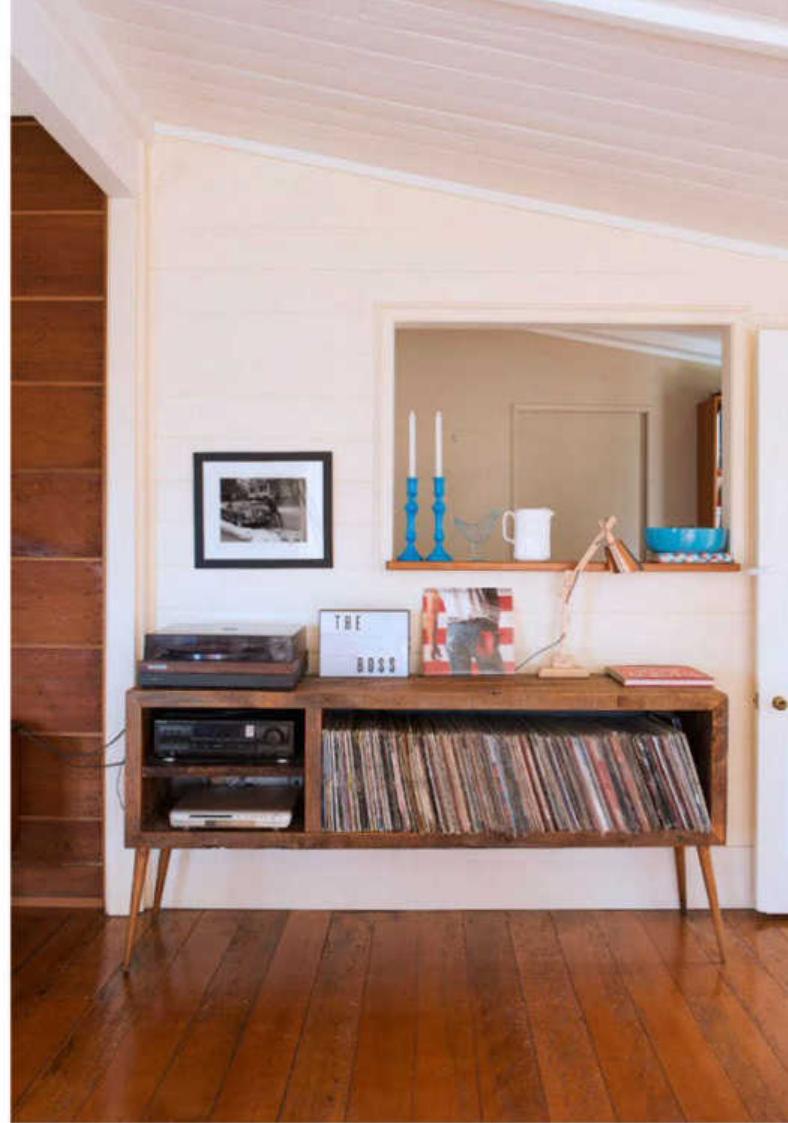
Paul Roest's business was unwittingly started by an old pallet. Well, that and Instagram, that glorious rabbit-hole of design and inspiration. Paul spied the pallet at his dad's farm and, spurred on by other creations he'd seen on his overseas travels and during nights scrolling social media, he decided he could do something with it. He whipped up a coffee table, which elicited so many oohs and aahs from visiting friends that he made another one and chucked it on Trade Me. And another one. And another one. Fast forward four years and he now employs three full-time employees and more part-timers in his Industrial Design NZ business, working more than full time to create fit-outs and furniture for awesome New Zealand businesses that want something a bit different with a history behind it. Paul's moved on from pallets, instead using reclaimed timber such as Oregon and rimu, salvaged from renos, demos or the backs of people's farms.

"I've always loved the idea of making a product out of something that essentially has no value, then turning it into something that does," he says. His master's in environmental science gave him a real awareness of how much material goes to landfill and the desire to repurpose materials.

"You see an old crappy pile of timber filled with nails sitting outside, but when you strip it back there is such beauty within. I love that every nail hole and dent tells a story of its past life. When pulling out nails that are sometimes 60-80 years old, I wonder to myself, who hit that nail in with a hammer all that



Paul uses his grandfather's tools, which his dad brought with him when he emigrated from Holland. Paul is hugely inspired by craftsmen and innovators worldwide. "I think cafes and restaurants all over the world just have such cool ideas and I love how everyone pushes the boundaries with design and materials all the time," he says.



time ago and are they still alive now? It's so cool that it gets to have a new life as a piece of furniture."

He's also big on upcycling, searching for old furniture that was hand-built with solid wood and carpentry skills, complete with dove-tailed joints, which he can strip back and give new life to with the right paint or stain. Looking around Paul's Kaukapakapa home, northwest of Auckland, which he shares with wife Silvana, 33, and one-year-old daughter Mila, it's blatantly obvious he's a keen DIYer with a penchant for wood.

The huge coffee table, vinyl music station, firewood box, round occasional table, the upcycled blue cabinet in the dining room, the pretty set of drawers in Mila's bedroom (lovingly brought back to life with a serious sand and paint job) – everywhere you look, there's a unique piece of furniture which Paul has toiled over.

"I think more than 80 percent of the furniture in my house has either been completely built from scratch or upcycled by me. It's a bit of an addiction," he laughs.

There's plenty to fuel that addiction on the horizon: as well as a steady stream of work through Industrial Design NZ, Paul and Silvana are about to start building their dream home. In typical DIY style, Paul will be making all the bathroom vanities, wooden feature walls, flooring, shelving, internal barn doors, front door, indoor and outdoor dining tables and outdoor seating. Silvana's only request is for a huge set of custom-made shelving in the library/music room. Having been collecting items for the new-build for the past five years and with an Instagram feed full of inspiration, Paul's ready for it. ●



Paul spends a lot of his time sourcing materials that catch his eye and stockpiling them – they need about six months to dry out before they can be used. The day's offcuts of timber are brought home and put in Paul's custom-made rustic firewood box (pictured above) to use to keep the family warm on winter nights.



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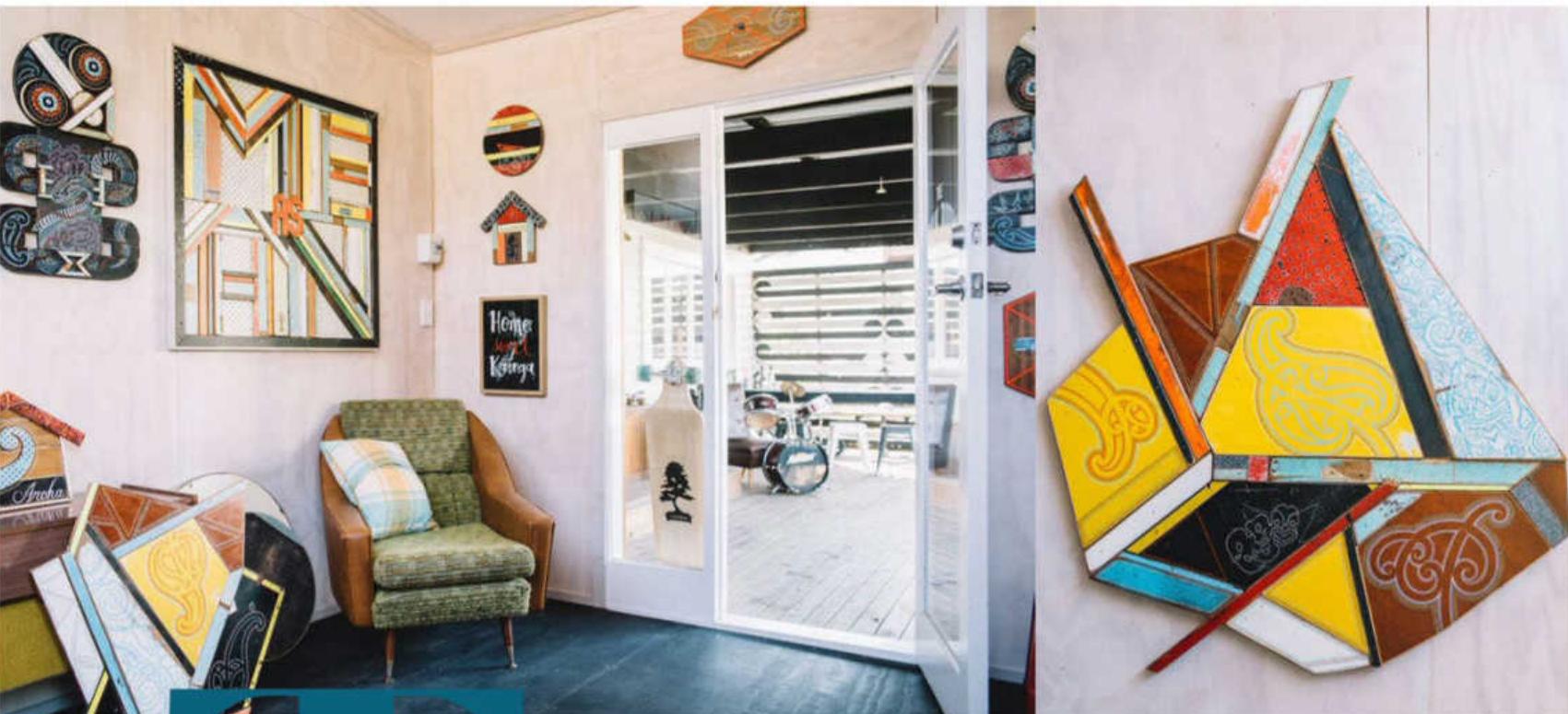
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# Made of home

In true Kiwi style, when Tony Harrington needed a space to display his artwork, he called in a mate and they built it themselves

Text by Vic Bibby. Photography by Florence Charvin.



Tony Harrington creates striking artwork in a variety of mediums, most of them involving recycled timber and Resene testpots. Growing up in Hawke's Bay, he attended a typical bicultural provincial school, and it was through his schooling, friends and extended family (plus time spent travelling overseas) that Tony developed a great respect for and appreciation of the Maori culture. Much of his work is influenced by traditional Maori art forms as well as the rural and coastal Kiwi lifestyles. The results are intriguing, satisfying fusions of Maori and Pakeha culture that provide the viewer with a truly Kiwi perspective tinged with nostalgia.

A number of galleries throughout New Zealand carry Tony's work, including The Poi Room, Moko Artspace, Kura Gallery and A+E Gallery. His own studio, The View Room in Napier (available to visit by appointment), allows him to showcase and rotate a variety of pieces.

Tony graduated from the Eastern Institute of Technology in 2004 with a degree in visual art and design, majoring in 3D and furniture design. He puts his talents to good use not only

in his artwork but also in his workspace and the unique home he shares with his young family. Together with his good friend builder Mark Kopu, he transformed the tiny sleep-out at the back of the house into The View Room. After extending the roof, they lined the room with plywood and clad the exterior in black-stained ply and Zincalume.

The deck came next and his much-talked-about 'koru fence'. Nothing escapes Tony's creative eye – what began as a simple barbecue bench is now a functional outdoor bar complete with built-in ice bucket, workbench and thatched roof. "The View Room and deck have been a welcome addition and a revelation to the backyard," says Tony. "I can sit here, enjoy a quiet ale and the artistic inspirations just flow!"

The backyard has come a long way since their arrival nine years ago when a solitary bush was all there was to be found. One of the latest additions to this space, and a favourite of daughters Lily and Ella, is the outdoor bath behind the studio.

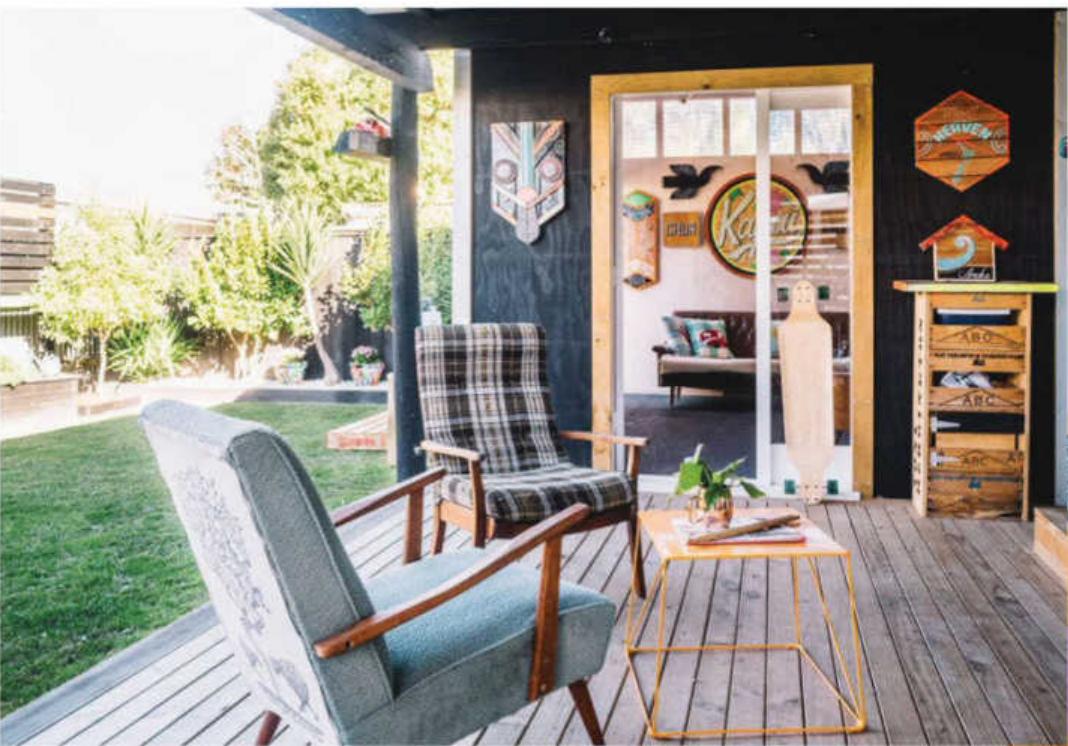
Tony draws inspiration for his creations from many sources. "I am inspired on a daily basis by what I am experiencing in my environment, what I am reading, listening to, seeing, and by just being," he explains. A lover of typography, he often takes pop culture and song lyrics and reinterprets them in his artwork.

**THE VIEW ROOM** A former sleep-out in Tony's backyard is now a showcase for his art, much of which makes good use of recycled timber and Resene testpots. The gallery opens onto a spacious deck built by the handy artist.



## Meet & Greet

**Tony Harrington**, 43 (artist), **Lisa Harrington**, 42 (social worker), **Ella**, 10, and **Lily**, 7, plus Puss Puss the cat.



**“I can sit here, enjoy a quiet ale and the artistic inspirations just flow”**



Re-purposing demolition timber means his ‘canvas’ doesn’t always start out blank. Remnants of paint left behind inspire him about what has been before, and provide added depth and layers to his art. “These works carry with them literal and conceptual stories of the past combined with current-day references to living in bicultural Aotearoa,” says Tony.

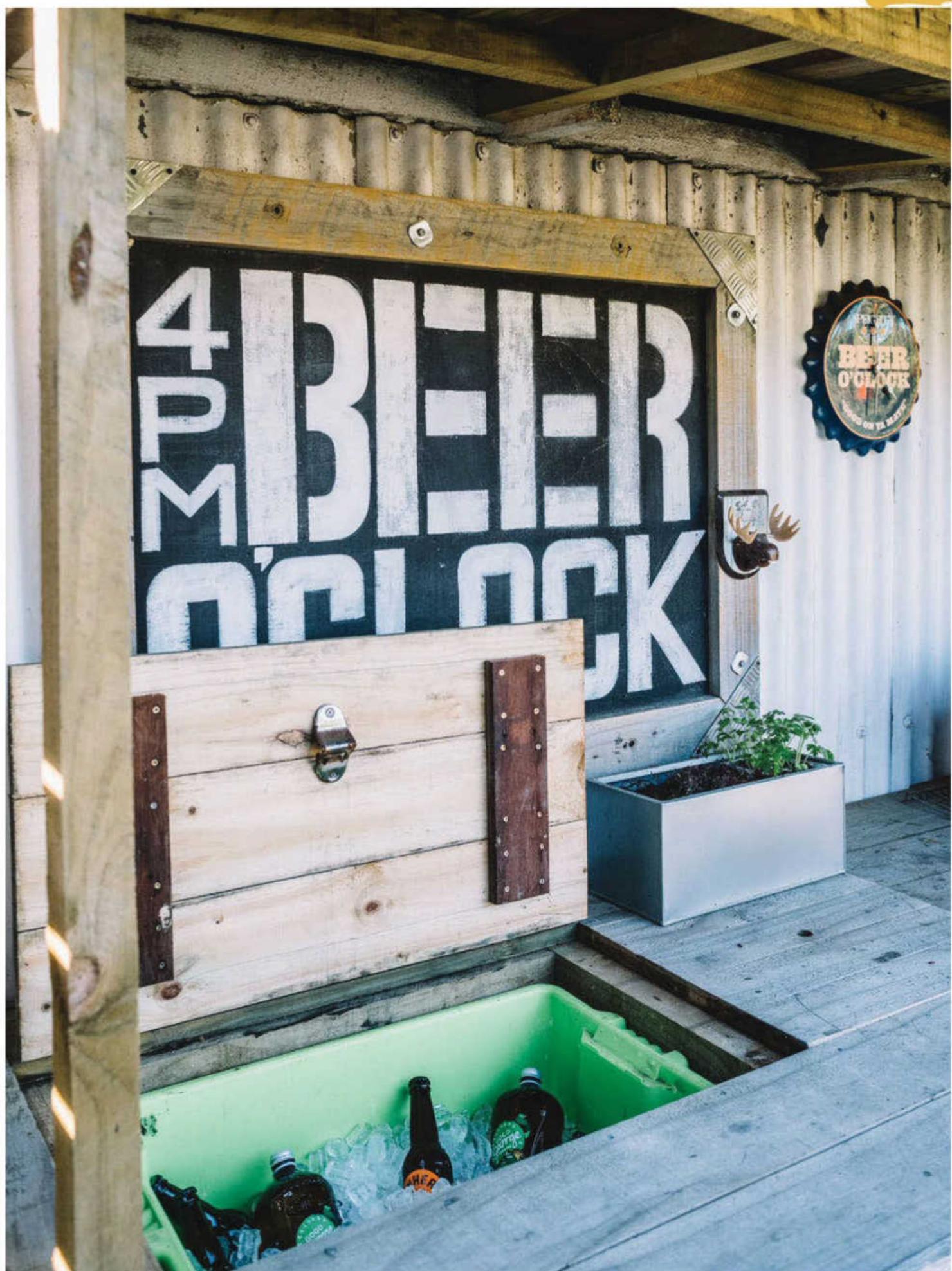
Along with the ale and old paint, fellow New Zealand artists such as Shane Cotton, Colin McCahon and Dick Frizzell have all played a part in Tony’s artistic vision, he says – not to mention the impact of urban and graffiti art, which have long intrigued him.

As a child, Tony was always drawing and painting, and at high school his teacher encouraged him to pursue a career in art. But he didn’t feel ready, choosing instead to travel and work in a number of different fields before deciding to take up art once more – luckily for us. •

**FROM TOP** A peek into The View Room; the outdoor bath behind the studio is the most recent addition; Tony’s colourful koru fence is a talking point at gatherings; the barbecue bench that morphed into an outdoor bar complete with built-in ice bucket (opposite page).

Find more backyard inspiration at

[HOMESTOLOVE.CO.NZ](http://HOMESTOLOVE.CO.NZ)



# BENEFITS OF THE DOUBT

Not every home purchase is based on a mutual, love-at-first-sight reaction – sometimes it takes a change in circumstances to clinch the deal

Text by Ady Shannon. Photography by Kate Claridge.



**THE EARTHQUAKE** After the 2011 earthquake, their fully renovated cottage was so damaged it became one of the first in the region to be demolished. The pair rented for the next 18 months and began working on plans to build a new home on the site. But, in a surprising twist, just two weeks before their land was deemed unsuitable for a rebuild, the hill home Steve had always fancied came back on the market. "Steve wanted me to revisit it," Shelly says. "I was reluctant at first; I'm not a believer in going back. But Steve has vision and could see us there." They ended up making an offer and the home was soon theirs.

They moved in at the end of 2013 and over the following two years worked tirelessly to turn Steve's vision into a reality, modernising and modifying the stylish 1970s house into their ideal family home.

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS** Finding your dream home is often all about good timing. For Christchurch couple Shelly and Steve Galbraith it was more about biding their time. In 2008, when the couple were looking for a new family home, they considered buying a quirky, architecturally designed Port Hills home built around 1970. The angles, pitched rooflines, high ceilings, wooden interior linings, unusually shaped windows and multiple levels appealed to Steve but not so much to Shelly. "I loved the private setting, the views and the all-day sun, but I was not so taken with the funky and outdated architecture," she says. Instead, they chose to buy a lifestyle property and set about taming the land and renovating the site's 100-year-old cottage. But along came a very large spanner in the works...

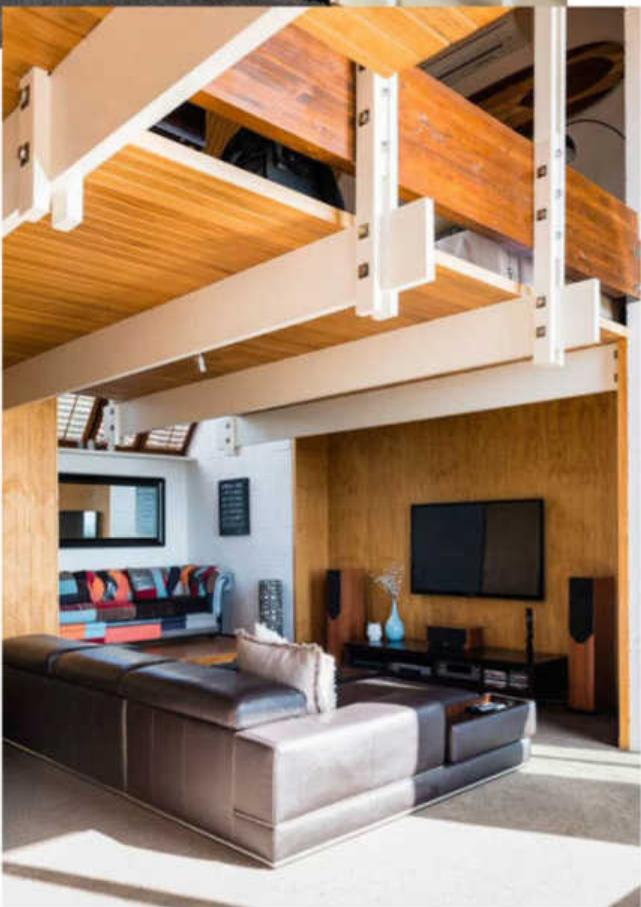


**LOUNGE, LIVING** On the street-entry level, a mezzanine lounge (left) opens to the pool and looks down onto the dining and living area (above and opposite). New furnishings were especially chosen to suit the era of the home, which is early 1970s.



## MEET + GREET

**Steve Galbraith**, 50 (owner and director of Galbraith Engineering), **Shelly Galbraith**, 47 (homemaker and casual ANZ customer-service representative), **Millie**, 17, and **Gus**, 15, plus Archie their ancient dog and Suki the cat.

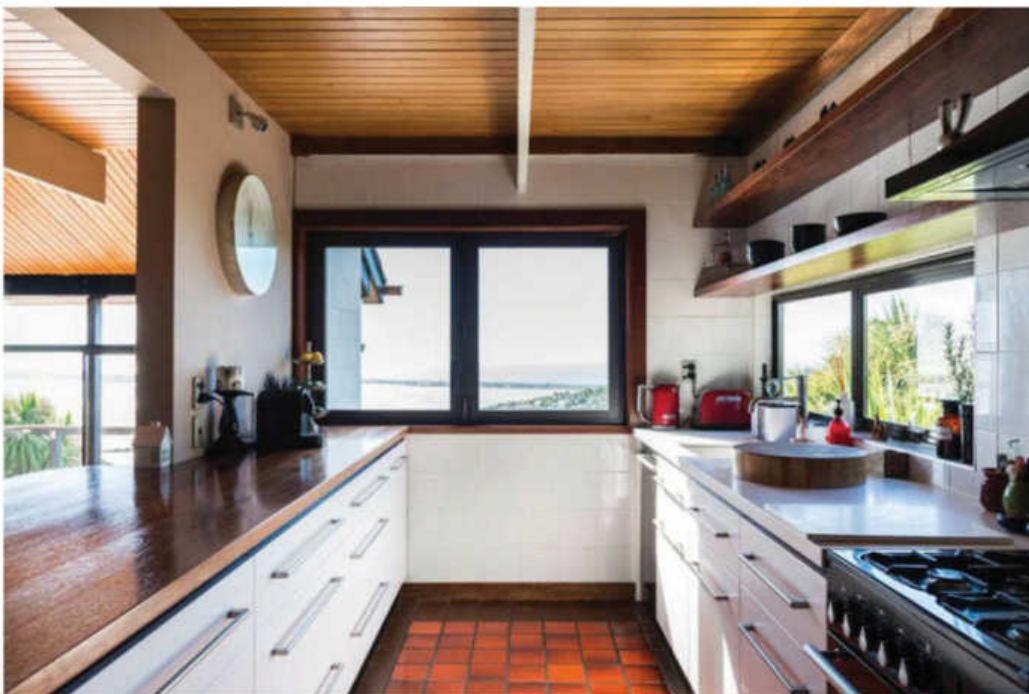


**LIVING** At the top of the steel-framed circular staircase, simple pendant lights do not interfere with the grid lines made by the interior cladding. Steps from the dining area lead to a sun-drenched, sunken lounge where floor-to-ceiling windows offer magnificent views and a woodburner provides winter warmth.

**OLD MEETS NEW** The distinctive, circular steel staircase, oversized round windows, angles galore, steep roof pitches and rim-lined ceilings have all been retained. The kidney-shaped pool, kitchen and floor coverings are new. The laundry has been remodelled to double as a scullery and a variety of new claddings now overlay the block walls in order to accentuate and define the many nooks, seating zones and chill-out spaces within the three-level home.

The kitchen was the first area scheduled for a makeover. "I had already bought a Falcon double oven and fridge in anticipation of the refit," Shelly says. Those glossy black appliances were the starting point for kitchen designer Jude Porter, who suggested offsetting the ebony finish with white lacquer cabinets. A wooden benchtop bridges the gap between living room and kitchen and a composite-stone bench lines the back wall. The small, square, burnt-orange-coloured floor tiles have been retained. "Lots of people said we should change them but we really like them," Shelly laughs. Some features and furnishings did have to go, though, including a wooden farmhouse table from their former cottage; it has now been replaced with a generous dining suite better suited to the double-height, glass-enclosed dining area.





**KITCHEN, DINING** The galley kitchen has been entirely refitted with white joinery and black appliances although the original flooring has been kept. In the dining area, a double-height atrium supplies volume, sunlight and views.

## GET THE LOOK



'Huia Feather' **print** by Rakai Karaitiana, \$295, from The Poi Room.



Koura 750 **pendant** light by David Trubridge, \$972, from Essenze.

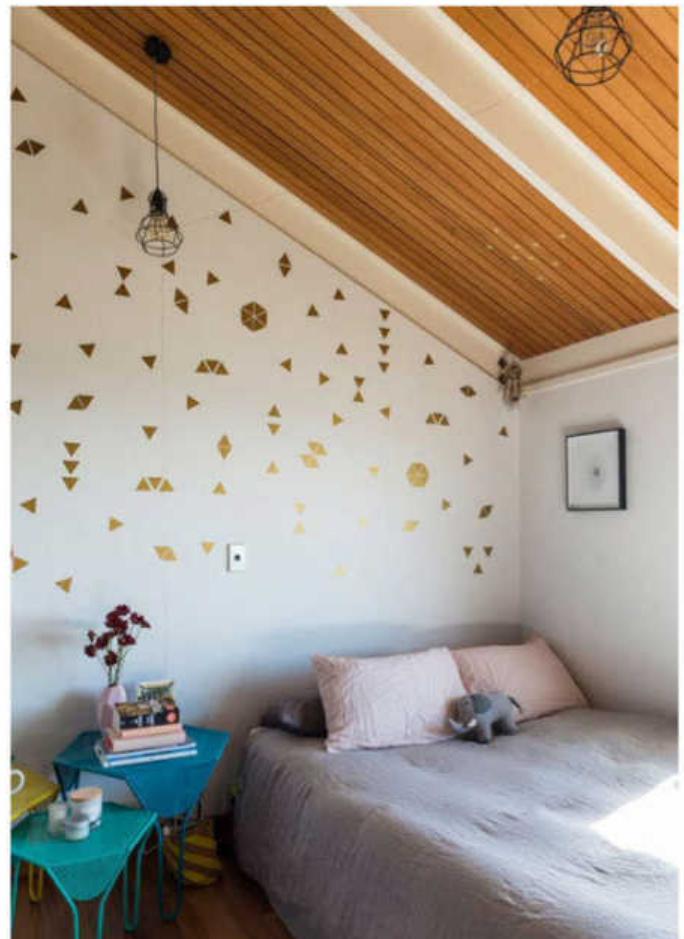
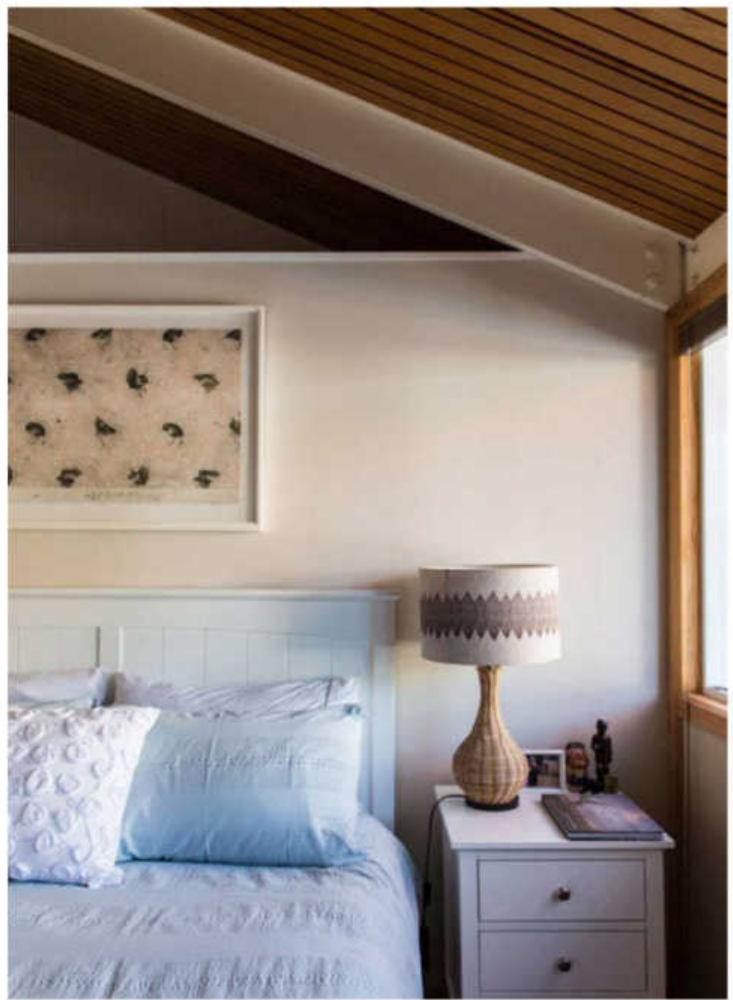
Haven Home Clara dining **chair**, \$239.99, from Farmers.



**STYLING** Steve and Shelly both agree that the architectural style has presented opportunities and challenges. "Pictures don't look great on block walls; things and installations look better," Shelly says. The 'things' that have earned their spot on the white blockwork include a moose head, custom-designed mirrors, indigenous art and a large wooden surfboard purchased on a recent trip to Hawaii. "Occasionally Steve takes it off the wall and out on the waves," Shelly smiles.

Bold embossed wallpaper enhances the curved and angled walls, and practical uses have been found for the unusually shaped spaces – the cavity under the stairwell is ideal for storing wine, which is handy to the cabinet and bar Steve has built on the opposite wall. On a platform slightly elevated from the television zone, a tapestry-covered couch sits under a glass canopy where the afternoon sun spills in. Down two steps and there's the fireplace, framed by soft couches and glass walls – the perfect spot, Shelly says, for curling up with a good book all year round.

**BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS** Three bedrooms and two bathrooms are located on the main, street-entry level. The spaces have been redecorated to suit the style and era of the home with strong, geometric shapes evident in every room.





## STYLE SECRETS

► **Try it out for style** If possible, buy with a right to return. Many times we saw treasures we thought looked terrific on the shelf or shop floor, only to find the piece was not suited to our interior. Go with what you think you like but don't be afraid to choose again if your first pick is not right.

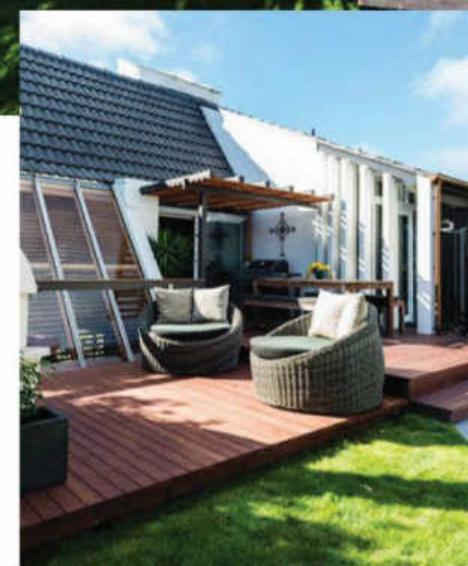
► **Mix it up** Try to retain original features where possible and, if necessary, soften or change the look by adding contemporary elements. The combination of old with new highlights and accentuates architectural and design features.



## OUTDOOR LIVING

The outdoor area at the front of the house was in need of a major makeover. A deck was the first thing built and this provided a walkway to the front door. "We had always wanted a pool, and we thought that as this area had all-day sun and was sheltered and private, we'd go for it," says Shelly. Unfortunately, it became a massive budget blow-out as the pair underestimated how much it would cost to clear the area, but they agree the end result has been totally worth it. "We use the pool so much over the summer and it has made the entrance to our home so welcoming," Shelly says.

Sliding doors open to a generous deck and pool area where a table, chairs, loungers and an outdoor fire invite alfresco dining year round. During winter, the family love to gather in the lower pit around the fire, sitting on couches covered in a wide corduroy. The view from the front deck looks out over the estuary and towards the Kaikoura Ranges.



**THE END** "It was a strange time in our lives when we bought this house," Shelly remembers. "We had just been red zoned, thereby losing our home and a lifestyle that we loved." While hesitant at first, she admits the whole makeover process has been a lot of fun – especially designing the kitchen, choosing wallpaper, buying testpots, painting, staining and selecting furniture. "It did need a lot of work and was clearly going to be a big project, but Steve had a vision and was excited about changing the house that nobody was a fan of, into a home that we'd be proud of. I knew that he would achieve this, and he has." ●

> Get the look on page 146.

# SHOP THEIR STYLE

Natural fibres, muted blues and greys and strategic flashes of bold wallpaper let the architecture speak

Ebony **rug** in carbon, \$899, from Freedom.



Black retro **stool**, \$382, contact May Time for stockists.



Shell **bowl** by Royce McGlashen, \$160, from The Poi Room.



Morgan **coffee table**, \$699, from Nood.



LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? TURN TO PAGES 146 AND 147.



Collapsible **baskets**, from \$80 each, from Father Rabbit.

Black and white **wallpaper** 2559-52, \$94.99 a roll, from Resene.

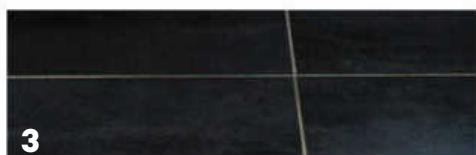


Citta Muster **cushion**, \$108, from Crave Home.



Your Home and Garden Alvor **throw**, \$199.99, from Farmers.

## FINISHES



**1 Ceilings** are original 50mm rimu planks.

**2 Outdoor roof cover** made from pine slats stained with Forestwood wood stain in Redwood from Mitre 10 MEGA.

**3 Bathroom floor tiles** are Rockcrete black tiles from Midas Tiles.

## HONESTY BOX

+ **Any DIY or reno disasters?** Our original plan was to have dark brown wallpaper in the dining area. When it was finished, all you could see were the join lines so we had to take it all down and replace it with a lighter wallpaper.

+ **What was the biggest mistake you made during the makeover?** Underestimating the amount of rock and the amount of time it would take to dig the hole for the pool.

+ **What would you never do again?** Buy a house that needed a new kitchen. The whole process took longer than we thought. We spent a lot of time cooking in the laundry or eating out!

## COLOUR PALETTE

**DULUX**  
'Bethells Beach'



**RESENE**  
'Drought'

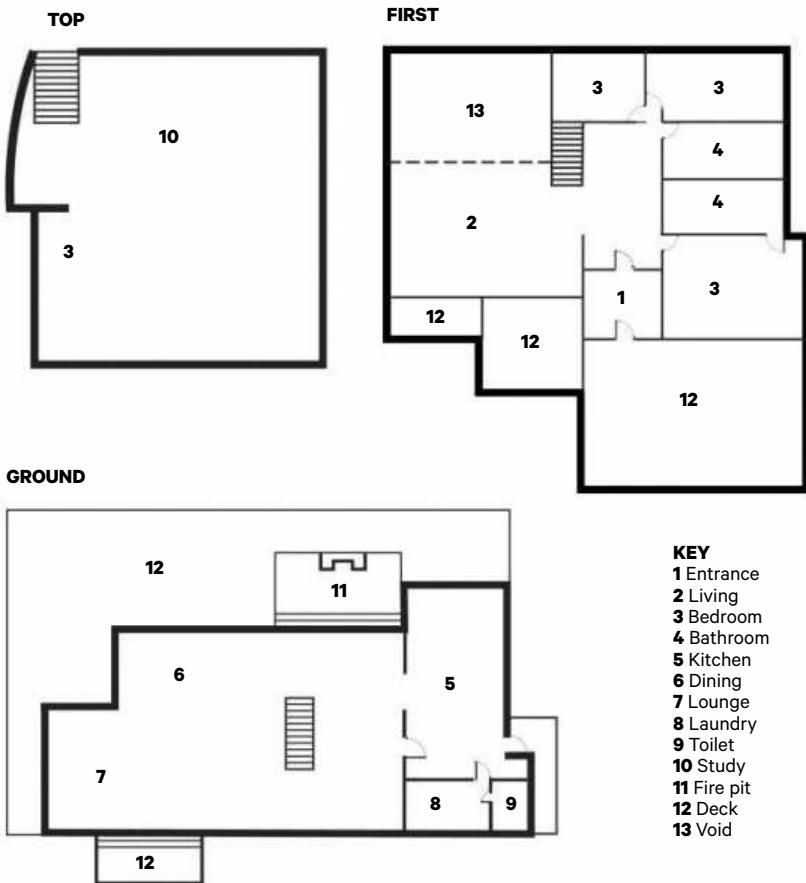


**DULUX**  
'Waitoa Quarter'

## CONTACTS

+ **Shops** Casual and Country, Corcovado and The Ivy, all in Christchurch.

## FLOOR PLAN



## BUDGET

Shelly: We have never kept a record of what we have spent over the years of renovating our home, though we do know that the biggest expenses would have been the pool area and the kitchen. We did splurge on the black kitchen appliances, which we are really pleased with. Our biggest saving was on labour as Steve completed most of the work himself.



Floor plan not to scale.

### YOU CAN DO THIS...

- 1 Choose a wardrobe panel or the back of a bedroom door.
- 2 Sand thoroughly, using first rough and then smooth sandpaper. Wipe off all dust.
- 3 Apply three coats of chalkboard paint, drying in between coats.
- 4 You can also apply a layer of magnetic paint beforehand for a magnetic chalkboard.
- 5 Chalkboard paint comes in many shades, so choose one to suit the colours in your room.

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# Bachelor pad



Luxury, opulence and style aren't words you'd usually associate with a bachelor pad, but this stunning Auckland home is certainly an exception

Text by Debbie Harrison. Photography by Helen Bankers.

**The ultimate man cave** Adam Thomson's home in Mt Eden, Auckland, would have many a man swooning. Cowhides and leather couches. A primeval-looking fireplace set into a cleft in a concrete-slab wall, and even a clandestine chute in the bedroom to send socks and jocks direct to the laundry below. Masculine tones of grey, black and marble clothe the interior – with not a skerrick of pink or paisley anywhere. This incredible home is so manly that it's almost a surprise to learn it was designed by a woman, interior designer Katie Scott.

"Adam rang me when it was a shell of a villa, literally stripped out like a carcass, and said, 'I'm struggling, I need some help,'" Katie says with a laugh.

**The reno** Adam wanted to restore the character of his 100-year-old villa while adding a contemporary twist. He'd been searching for a house with a north-facing living area at the back, something which lent itself to open-plan living that could flow out seamlessly to a sunny and private backyard with a pool. He also needed plenty of garaging for his boy toys. When he found the ideal house in mid 2014, Adam decided he needed someone to help him achieve the look.

"I knew what I wanted, but not how to get there so I surrounded myself with people who knew what they were doing," he says. Those people turned out to be Katie and Dave Moonie from DSM Construction. Their task was to build an open-plan living space at the rear of the villa, gut the rest of the house, create three-car garaging, landscape the section and add a to-die-for spa and pool. Easy, right?



## MEET & GREET

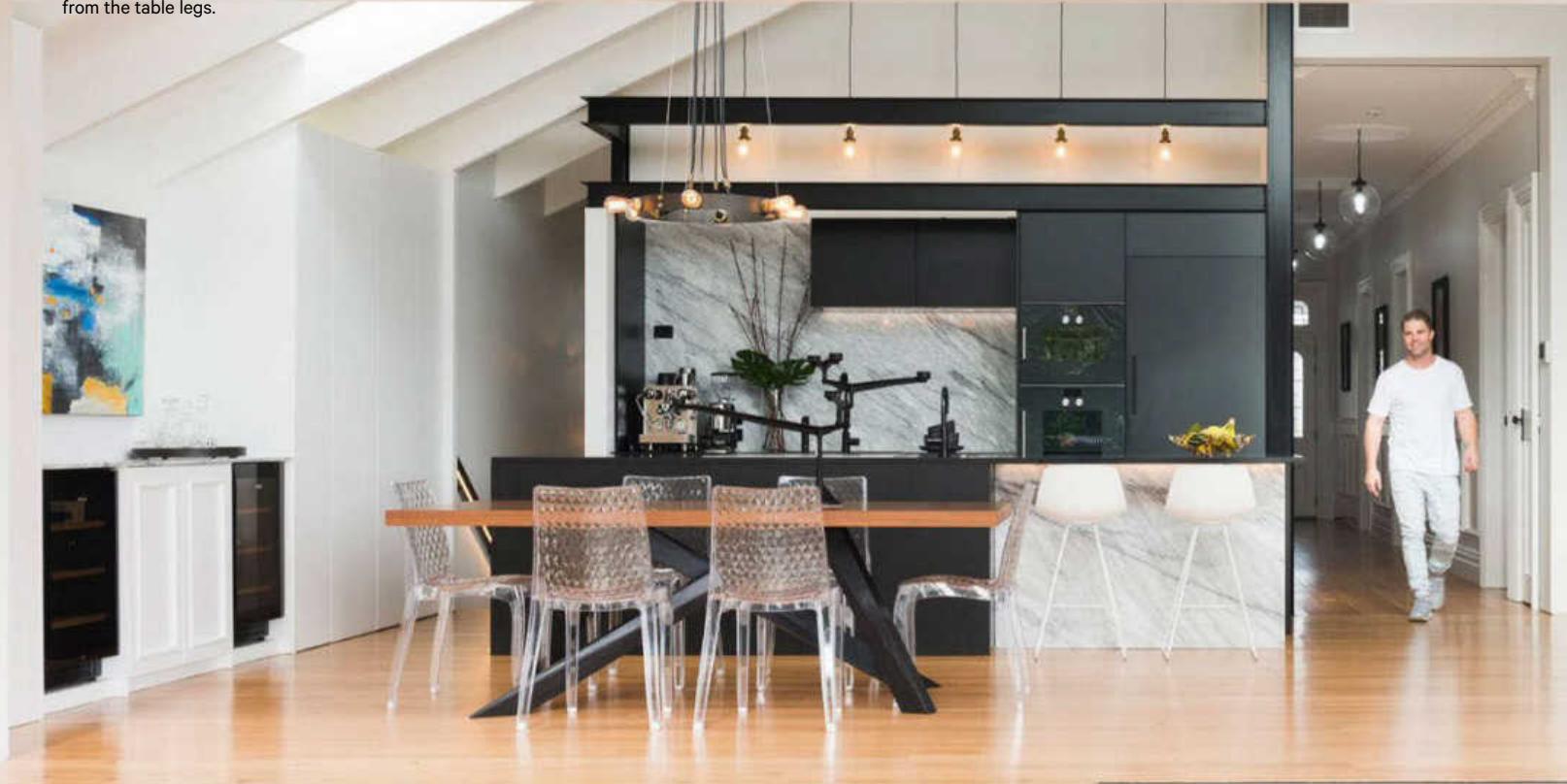
**Adam Thomson, 32 (real estate director).**

**OPPOSITE** The pressed-tin ceiling in the theatre room was painstakingly restored – it was a mission but so worth it. The gun artwork was custom made for Adam and based on one that appeared in the movie *American Psycho*. **THIS PAGE** It took a week of hand-staining by interior designer Katie Scott to achieve the right colour for the wall of concrete slabs in the living room.

#### KITCHEN AND DINING

Adam saw a photo of the 'chandelier' on the UK website Buster + Punch and sourced it in New Zealand. It was made to hang at around 1.5 metres so the electrician spent a few days extending it and modifying it to fit the 5.5-metre-high ceiling.

Transparent chairs were chosen so as not to detract from the table legs.

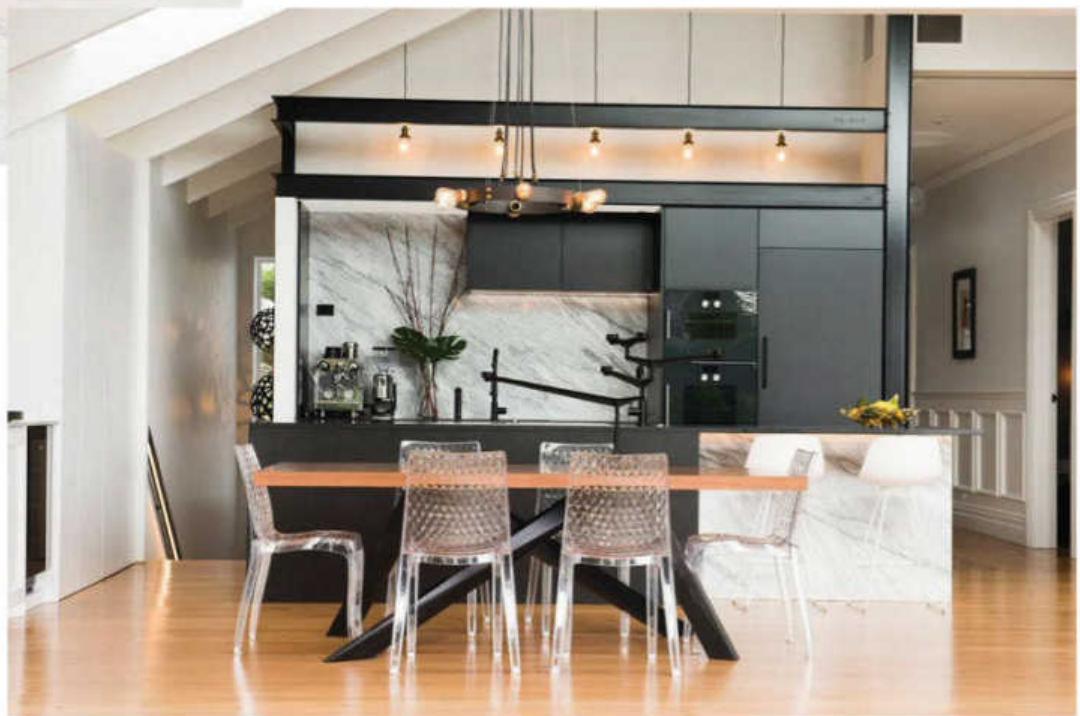


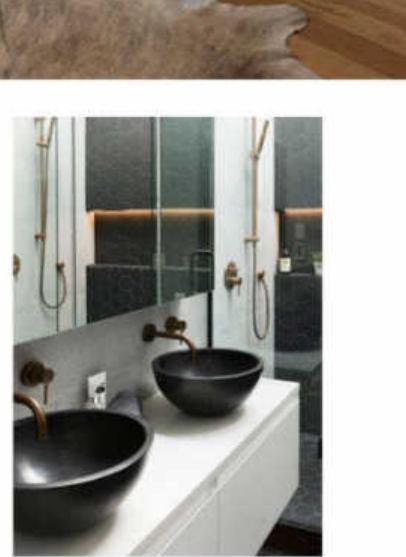
**The open-plan area** It's no wonder the new addition to the house is Adam's favourite space. With its natural light, timber floors, industrial-style kitchen, jaw-dropping concrete fireplace, feature lighting and high exposed ceilings, it looks like it could be a loft in New York. It's sophisticated, visually interesting and full of character. Although it is undoubtedly masculine, the hard edges of the steel beams, marble and concrete are softened by beautiful texture and tones – a velvet ottoman, lambswool cushions, cowhides and linen. These touches of softness give the space its luxurious feel.

Adam wanted a really cool fireplace for this room and Katie took the brief and ran with it, going even bigger than the architect's original plans so that it encompassed an entire wall. The fire surround was created from pre-cast concrete panels which slotted into place like a giant jigsaw puzzle. In an experimental moment, they added oxide to the concrete before it was cast – it came out a bit blotchy so Katie spent a week with a sponge and some black oxide liquid, hand-finishing it. The massive I-beams which line the ceiling are purely for aesthetics. "They're not part of the house or structural. I just like the offset angles and the industrial look they add," Katie says.

**Old & new** Like many villa renovations, the result was going to be an intriguing mix of modern and traditional. Adam quite liked the idea of the surprise element: walking through the front door into a traditional-style home and then being blown away by a modern masterpiece at the other end of the hallway. But Katie and Adam didn't want the juxtaposition to be harsh; the transition had to be gradual, which they achieved through subtle touches such as using the same flooring from the hallway to the rear of the house (they found recycled kauri from another villa to use in the new addition), adding plaster ceiling domes in the living areas to match an original one in another room, and using panelling all along the hallway. The same paint tones were used throughout.

**The kitchen** "It's very Adam," says Katie. "Strong and bold. Concrete and metal. There was some great engineering involved and I really had to think outside the square for it. I couldn't do a plain old white kitchen – it just wouldn't fit him or the space." Katie used strong colours to help define the kitchen area within the rest of the room. Not afraid of some hard work to get the necessary look, Katie added a hand-welded beam which extends into the kitchen at a right angle, to draw the eye and bring out the incredible height of the ceiling. Thanks to some designer magic, the shape of the beam also echoes the fireplace.





**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT** Hidden speakers in the theatre room provide cinematic acoustics; the master bedroom's walk-in wardrobe and ensuite are hidden behind panelling.



**The style** Adam wasn't designing his villa to fit in with trends or for resale – this was to be his dream home, in his style. Unlike women who can usually rattle off at least five words to describe their particular style, Adam has a less-is-more approach: "I don't know how to describe it – or if I even have one. Black and white works well for me," he offers. So Katie used a variety of methods to get to the crux of his aesthetic, providing ideas for him to veto or sign off on.

"Adam wanted it to be different and a bit 'stand-out'. He knows what he likes when he sees it. He likes the regal look but also the industrial look, so I had to create it," she says. Adam browsed online a lot, bought every magazine he could, took plenty of mental notes when travelling – especially in hotels – and made purchases along the way. "It was hard as we were choosing everything without seeing the space in reality," he says. "I couldn't picture the finished product so I had to trust Katie a lot."



## KATIE'S STYLE SECRETS

> **I don't like cutting off** tiles mid-wall in bathrooms – if you have high ceilings, I reckon you should boast about it. You lose the feeling of the height if you stop halfway up. So we went the whole hog, tiling all the way to the top to make it feel grand. It also exaggerated the angles. It probably didn't make me popular, though. I think the tiler's only just talking to me again now!

> **Designing for males vs females:** With design, you don't design for a guy or a girl; you design for the person. It was awesome working with Adam and having to think about things a bit differently and being given the freedom to do so. Women generally take ownership of their house and have ideas whereas Adam was more wanting ideas to be brought to him, which was fun.



**MASTER BEDROOM** Adam's bedroom features the screenprint 'After the Ball' by Dick Frizzell. Katie used oversized furniture to reinforce a masculine vibe. A custom-made bedhead to fit the king-sized bed and a matching seat add further impact as well as practicality.

## GET THE LOOK



Duchess queen **bedhead**, \$449, from Freedom.



Columbus 46 five-light **pendant**, \$399, from Lighting Plus.



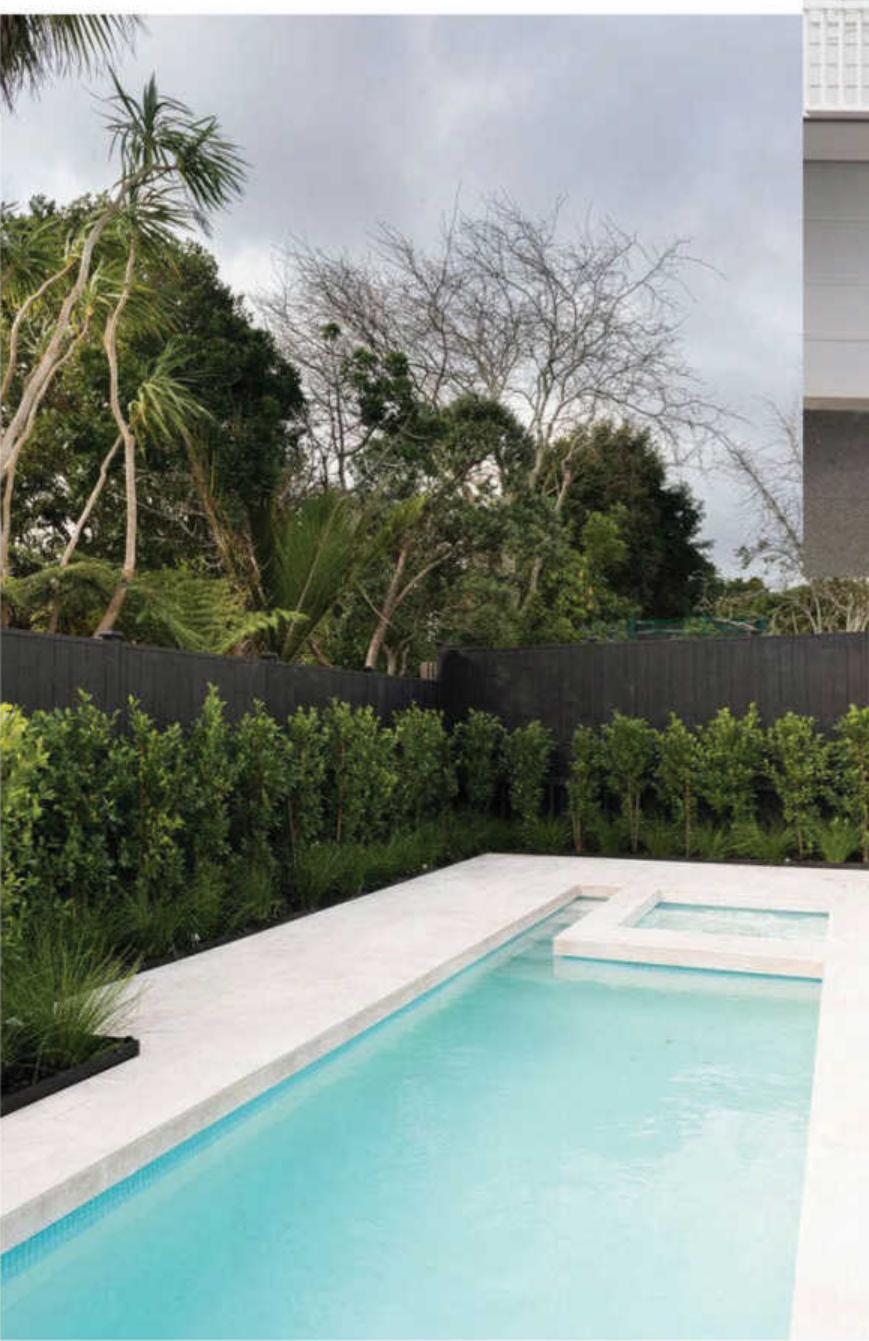
Black slate natural narrow **tiles**, from \$67.85 per square metre, from Artedomus.



**GUEST BEDROOM, BATHROOM** The guest bedroom has a more feminine feel with walls painted in Resene 'Surrender'. Floor-to-ceiling tiles in two different shapes and colours add interest and emphasise the soaring ceiling height in the bathroom.



**EXTERIOR** Adam retained the traditional look for the exterior, although careful excavation was required to create three-car garaging below. The pool and spa, edged with easy-care griselinia, will be well used this summer.



**The bathrooms** Adam loves the feel of high-end hotels and wanted to replicate that feeling in the bathrooms. Katie achieved this with floor-to-ceiling tiling – a real luxury – and brass tapware, which although contemporary in shape has a classic feel that suits the age of the house. She also eradicated anything shiny and chrome in the ensuite – anything that wasn't brass (the toilet push panels, heated towel rails and shower hardware) she got electroplated in black.

**The summer ahead** Summer will see this renovated villa hosting plenty of pizza-and-pool parties. After a year-long renovation, Adam's looking forward to "wearing it in" and getting some real enjoyment out of it at last. ●

> Get the look on page 146.

Find more renovations to inspire you at  
**HOMESTOLOVE.CO.NZ**

# SHOP THEIR STYLE

An elemental palette of dark hues, concrete and wood is lifted with sweeps of white and layers of luxurious texture



Antilia porcelain hexagon Nero **tile**, \$89.93 per 100, from Artedomus.



Carlton **sofa**, \$6379, from BoConcept.



Sadie **painting** in blue, \$499, from Freedom.



Kobe floor **light**, \$279, from Freedom.



Elegance **rug**, \$2539, from BoConcept.



Brilliant Paige **pendant** in brushed nickel, \$64, from Bunnings.



Etoile velvet **ottoman** in black, \$425, from Interior Design Online.



Spin table **candelabra** by Tom Dixon, \$1160, from ECC.



Ami Ami **chair**, \$470, from Kartell.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? TURN TO PAGES 146 AND 147.

## CONTACTS

- + **Interior designer** – Katie Scott 022 0905 253
- + **Architect** – Jack McKinney from McKinney + Windeatt Architects
- + **Builder** – Dave Moonie at DSM Construction
- + **Kitchen** – Prestige Kitchens
- + **Electrician** – Dean at DT Electrical
- + **Landscaping** – Justin at JB Landscaping
- + **Home theatre and security** – Matt and Jim at EAV
- + **Concrete panels for fireplace** – Paul Romanes at Concrete Structures
- + **Timber floors** – Shaun at Abstract Floors
- + **Sourcing items** – Wendy Coleman at White Villa
- + **Bathroom fittings** – Josh at Elite Bathroomware
- + **Shops** – Plumbline, Homage, Withers & Borwick, Forma, SM Interiors, Furtex, Mr Ralph, ECC Lighting, David Trubridge, Bioattic Ponsonby, Mish O'Neill and Lester Hall for art prints.

## BUDGET

### How did your budget compare to your actual spend?

**Adam:** It blew out and cost double what I'd initially expected. **Katie:** Villas can be the hardest to renovate as you never know what you're going to unearth. This was practically a rebuild. The bathrooms were on budget but the kitchen blew out with the Gaggenau appliances.

**Any splurges?** Adam: Heaps! The kitchen (having to do it twice to get it exactly how I wanted) and the appliances. The excavation to create a three-car underground garage was expensive, too.

**Any bargains?** Adam: I wish!

## FINISHES



1



2



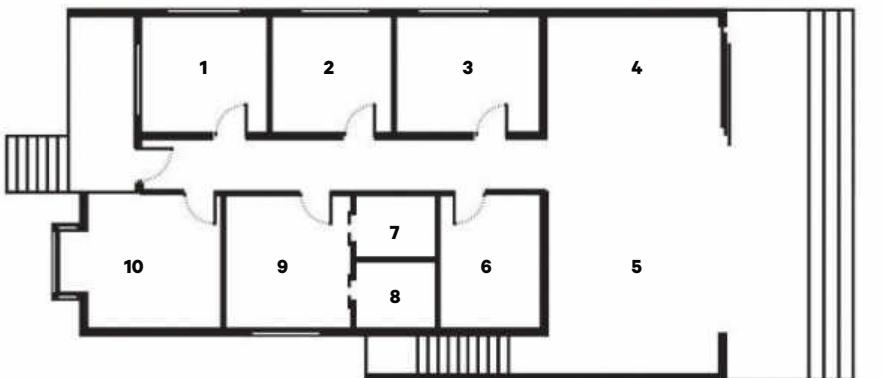
3

**1 Fireplace wall** Pre-cast concrete panels from Concrete Structures, hand coloured with oxide stain.

**2 Flooring** Recycled kauri from Abstract Floors.

**3 Pendant light in dining area** Buster + Punch light from ECC.

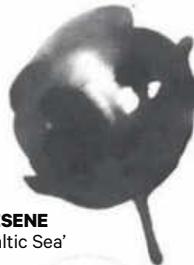
## FLOOR PLAN



**KEY**

- 1 Office
- 2 Spare room
- 3 Bedroom
- 4 Living
- 5 Kitchen and dining
- 6 Bathroom
- 7 Wardrobe
- 8 Ensuite
- 9 Master bedroom
- 10 Theatre room

## COLOUR PALETTE



**RESENE**  
'Baltic Sea'



**RESENE**  
'Surrender'

**RESENE**  
'Sea Fog'

**SPARE ROOM** Sometimes all you need is a comfy seat, a gorgeous rug and some moody art.



Floor plan not to scale.

## HONESTY BOX

- + **Most memorable moment?** Adam: Coming back from a month in Thailand at Christmas and finding Katie and builder Dave had moved me in – they'd even made my bed. Unfortunately, the first kitchen company let us down but seeing the pool filled and the house pretty much finished was such a relief and a sense of accomplishment. Katie: Watching the pre-cast concrete fireplace being craned over the roof – I was scared and excited all in one.
- + **Worst renovation moment?** Adam: Finding out the concrete wall being craned in had damaged the neighbour's property. I felt terrible as it must have been hard enough putting up with a rebuild next door for a year.
- + **A renovation tip for others?** Adam: If the zoning allows you to demolish, consider building a new villa rather than restoring one to this extent. It will be cheaper and quicker.
- + **Best lesson learnt?** Katie: When you want to push the boundaries with design and do something different, you need tradespeople who will go the extra mile to help you achieve it and who are skilled enough to make it work. Even the best design idea will never look good if it's executed badly. I was really lucky in that respect to have Dave and DSM Construction to help me do that with this project.



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# Old-world charm

The saying “good things come in small packages” rings true with this perfect little bachelorette pad by the beach at Mt Maunganui

Text by Sue Hoffart. Photography by Rachel Dobbs.

**L**earning to live in a small space is a bit like remembering how to ride a bike, thinks Julie Duncan. In both cases there have been a few wobbles and a little discomfort. Then some necessary adjustments, followed by a rapidly growing, gleeful sense of freedom.

The pharmacy owner-turned-florist bought an old-fashioned bike immediately after acquiring her tiny house on a back section two streets from Mt Maunganui’s coastal playground. The cottage was supposed to be an occasional bolthole, a practical stopping-off point closer to youngest son

Liam’s boarding school in Cambridge and an escape from multiple business and social commitments in Opotiki. But Julie became smitten with the lifestyle, discovering cafes and shops, movie theatres and a glorious beach within walking or cycling distance. Following an amicable marriage break-up, the holiday home became her permanent abode and the bike her favourite transport mode.

“I hadn’t ridden a bike since I was in primary school,” Julie says. “I got on it to see if I could ride it and realised I had my helmet on back to front,” she laughs.



## Meet + Greet

**Julie Duncan**, owner of floristry and antiques store Myrrh.

**DOWNSIZING** Initially, living on a smaller scale proved both puzzling and liberating. Where was she supposed to keep her books and magazines? Or her clothes? How could she entertain in a one-metre by one-and-a-half-metre living space?

So she stacked books on the floor and gave away surplus clothing, along with all her magazines and extra stored items. She invited groups of friends to meet in local restaurants or cafes. And she opened a shop selling cut flowers and antiques and filled it with crystal and other treasures she couldn't keep at home.

"There simply isn't space for stuff and you. It definitely makes you live more simply and say, 'Actually, I don't need a whole lot of stuff.' And it's okay to love stuff and not take it home, or to give it away."

"I came from a very beautiful, large house on the beach with five bedrooms and three bathrooms and I did miss parts of that. I kind of miss the big parties we used to have. We'd often have 15 or 20 people for dinner."

"I always used to say, 'I love that little house, it's such an escape, but I could never live there. It would drive me nuts; it's far too small.' Now I've lived in it full time for two years, I've just kind of grown to be so comfortable, though I still think it would be hard to live here with somebody else."

**LIVING** Flowers and books from Julie's shop, Myrrh, sit on a zinc-topped wooden table from Zinc Plus in Wellington.



"It's something that happens. It's like seeing a person you never saw before - you could be passing on the street - you look at each other for a few seconds, there's a kind of recognition. Like you both know something, but then the next moment the persons gone, and its too late to do anything about it, but you remember it because it was right there and you let it go, and you think 'What if I had stopped and said something?'"  
It might happen only a few times in your life."



**LIVING** Julie found her words of inspiration (by Elmore Leonard, from his novel *Out of Sight*) in a magazine and had a sign shop print them onto a transfer for the wall. The antique French chairs, which were found in a store in Tauranga, were re-covered by Julie in Designers Guild silk.



**KITCHEN, DINING**  
While Julie loves the butler's sink in her new tongue-and-groove kitchen, she admits the white ceramic surface shows every mark. An old apothecary's mortar and pestle sits alongside a Tony Sly ceramic bowl and a vintage French bowl from Myrrh. Light filters through loose-weave linen curtains (from The Importer) into the dining area.



**HOME-MAKING** Early on, Julie envisaged renting the cottage to holidaymakers and fostered a deliberately romantic vibe with comfortable beds, good bedlinen and a pair of wrought-iron chairs on the upstairs balcony. This worked equally well once she started offering the place, free of charge, to female friends and friends of friends who needed to escape and recharge.

When she decided to move in permanently, Julie realised some things had to change, starting with the kitchen. She installed a dishwasher and a decent stove, new cabinetry and benchtops and a charming old French armoire – taken from the pharmacy in Opotiki – to hold glassware.

"I felt I needed to anchor myself here. I thought having a new kitchen would make the place a real home, that a proper working kitchen would make me cook more."

She laughs. It didn't really work. While the renovation does make the place feel more homely and practical, she still eats out more often than not.

**A TOUCH OF GRUNGE** When she bought the cottage, it sported black beams and dark furniture, but Julie prefers a lighter, more modern look mixed with a bit of grunge. "It's like dressing in a raggy old pair of jeans with a smart top."

So the beams were painted white and the house filled with far less sombre belongings. Now, a pint-sized second-hand dining table is surrounded by flashes of gold and pink and sparkling chandeliers. White curtains and shutters were added and the mustard-coloured exterior window trims were painted pink.

Modernising the bathroom is the final chore on her renovation wishlist.



**WHAT'S IN A NAME?** When Julie bought the house, it was marketed as "The French Cottage" for its French oak floors and pint-sized, old-world charm. Her visiting Italian teacher was not impressed.

"Marco used to come here and teach me. After a few lessons, he said, 'Oh, Julia, it's a problem for me, coming here. The French Cottage? I don't like it.' So I said, 'Fine, let's make up a new name.' We spent a whole lesson working out what we were going to call the place and came up with La Casa de Giulia Tocco Italiana – the house of Julia, a touch of Italian." And the name has outlasted her lessons.

"My Italian's hopeless. Marco said, 'You're my favourite pupil but you're my worst advertisement.' So I gave him a glass of red wine and said, 'I don't think this Italian is really going to work.'"



## GET THE LOOK



Velvet light pink **cushion**, \$155, from Republic Home.



Medium **glass dome** on metal stand, \$173, from CC interiors.



*Your Home and Garden Arica* glass **candle**, \$39.99, from Farmers.



When Julie bought the house, it was marketed as "The French Cottage" for its French oak floors and pint-sized, old-world charm



**BEDROOMS,  
BATHROOM** France rules in the two upstairs bedrooms, with their French flax linen and cushion covers made from old French tea towels. Even the Ecoya candle is French Pear. The bedside table, lighting and bathroom cupboard are also French imports.

**EXTERIOR** Madder & Rouge cushions adorn the vintage wrought-iron chairs on the Juliet balcony off Julie's upstairs bedroom. A friend who practises feng shui advised her to paint the trim a soft pink, which makes a pretty contrast to the black.



### Style secrets

- > **The first rule is** declutter, declutter, declutter.
- > **Live simply** – shop less and only buy if it is useful or it is absolutely beautiful.
- > **Buy food often**, in small quantities. And buy it fresh.
- > **Live alone!**

**GIRL POWER** Julie claims tradesmen who laboured in the kitchen were terrified by the overt femininity of their working environment.

"They'd never seen anything like it. But the grandkids come and stay and they love it because I'm not actually precious about stuff and also, I think, because it's a bit like a big doll's house."

Julie and ex-husband Kerry Nott have seven adult children between them. She says Kerry hated the cottage for its dearth of sea views, low sloping ceiling and the absence of a television.

"It's not really a man's house and anyone who's taller than five foot four can't really live in it," she laughs. "I'm living quite a humble life, a smaller, semi-solidary life. And it's all mine." •

> Get the look on page 146.



*"I'm living quite a humble life,  
a smaller, semi-solitary life.  
And it's all mine"*



# SHOP THEIR STYLE

Simple white walls and shutters frame a deliciously feminine ensemble of French fabrics, gilt and glass



**Khaki velvet cushion**, \$59, from French Country Collections.



Toile de Jouy Pastoral Landscape **cushion**, \$51.80, from zazzle.co.nz.



Mercator Nizzari **pendant light**, \$139, from Bunnings.



Vintage-style **bottle**, \$23, from CC Interiors.



**Bourgie lamp** in white, \$825, from Kartell.



Stone **stool** in metallic, \$528, from Kartell.

Crosby cafe **table**, \$795, from French Country Collections.



French **sofa**, \$2995, from Interior Design Online.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? TURN TO PAGES 146 AND 147.



## HONESTY BOX

**+ Best bits?** I love living in this town. It's not big but it has everything you need and the beach is world class, beautiful. Now I have the shop, I have less time but I still ride my bike on a Sunday.

**+ Worst bits?** Not having a large kitchen to play in and not having enough room for my family to stay.

**+ DIY disasters?** None. I turn them into features!

**+ Best memory?** Quiet times and no TV.

**+ Best lesson learnt?** You can make a small space a very beautiful, intimate and welcoming home.

## CONTACTS

**+ Suppliers** Modern Kitchens, Tauranga, modernkitchens.co.nz, 07 575 4844; painter Bryce Rahman, 027 242 2537; The Importer, Tauranga, theimporter.co.nz; Window Treatments, window-treatments.co.nz.

## FINISHES



1



2



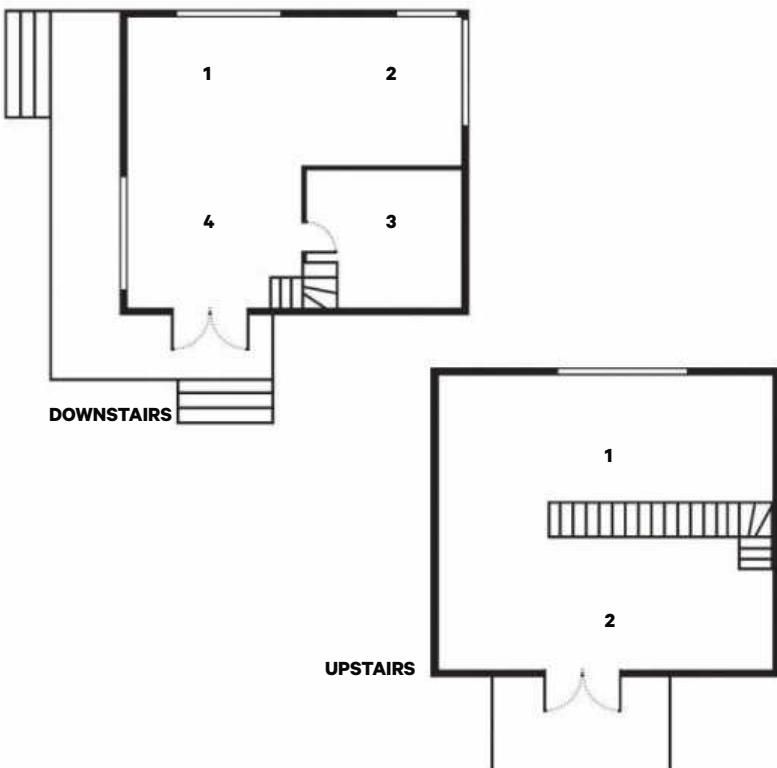
3

**1 Kitchen cabinetry** White tongue-and-groove kitchen cupboards by Modern Kitchens.

**2 Dining room curtains** White linen curtains from The Importer.

**3 Living-room shutters** White wooden shutters by Window Treatments.

## FLOOR PLAN



Floor plan not to scale.



**LEFT**  
Tiaras, beads, jewellery-stuffed trinket boxes and a beautiful antique dome and crucifix beg for closer inspection in one of the bedrooms.

## COLOUR PALETTE



**RESENE**  
'Treehouse'



**RESENE**  
'Blossom'



**RESENE**  
Waterborne Woodsman  
'Sheer Black'

## BUDGET

Before I bought the house, Kerry (my ex-husband) sensibly had wanted me to look at a good brick-and-tile investment. But that was never going to work. For the same price – \$300,000 – this place was very quaint and different. But, I admit, much less practical. It was built mostly out of recycled materials, including the beautiful French oak floors. In actual fact, it had already been sold at auction but the buyers couldn't find the money and I was next in line. To start with, renting it out as a holiday home helped to pay the rates and expenses.

I've spent \$65,000 on renovations, \$30,000 of which was on the kitchen.

## NEW VALENCIA SINGLE DRAWER VANITIES

The new Valencia single drawer vanity provides ample storage, with a clean, classically modern look.

Available in two sizes: 900mm and 750mm (wall hung only) with partitions and generous drawer depth for storing tall bathroom products upright.

Available in classic white and timber look salty elm and scorched oak finishes.

**RRP: from \$699**



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REMOVE FACE & EYE MAKE-UP  
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[NIVEA.co.nz/micellar](http://NIVEA.co.nz/micellar)

NIVEA = reg. TM of Beiersdorf AG, Germany. NIVEA is New Zealand's No. 1 Facial Cleansing Brand based on 12 months of national scan data for grocery retailers in New Zealand to 3 June 2016.

# Small on effort ... BIG ON CARE

Sensitive skin? NIVEA Sensitive 3 in 1 MICELLAR WATER is an especially caring micellar water for sensitive skin – tried and tested by New Zealand women!

It's transforming beauty routines around the country. The answer to convenient make-up removal (use it anytime, anywhere, no water required!), **NIVEA Sensitive 3 in 1 Micellar Water** washes away skin impurities without harsh rubbing.

The 3 in 1 formula thoroughly cleanses the skin, gently removing make-up from the face and eyes. It contains a lightweight grape seed oil and pro vitamin B5 to moisturise the skin, leaving it feeling fresh and hydrated.

A group of Kiwi women put it to the test by making the switch to NIVEA Sensitive 3 in 1 Micellar Water. Here's what they had to say:

**"I loved that my skin didn't feel thirsty afterwards – the NIVEA Micellar Water took care of everything!"**

Amy from Oamaru

**"Easy and no need to rinse – Micellar Water streamlines my beauty routine."**

Jeena from Auckland

## 9/10

women say that NIVEA Sensitive 3 in 1 Micellar Water is gentle on their skin and effectively removes mascara!\*

**"It left my skin moisturised and hydrated. I felt fresher after taking the day's make-up off."**

Kasey from Upper Hutt

**"My current make-up remover needs a bit of rubbing. NIVEA Micellar Water works easily – no rubbing, no harsh ingredients and skin feels hydrated after use"**

Jade from Birkenhead

**"My favourite thing about this product is its gentle but highly effective way of removing my make-up, even stubborn waterproof make-up. The proof is on the cotton pad after a gentle swipe of your face, the make-up is on the pad, no longer on your face!"**

Tanya from Auckland



[NIVEA.co.nz/micellar](http://NIVEA.co.nz/micellar)



# Switch On and **WIN!**

Enter the draw to win a house-lot of switches and sockets worth up to \$5,000, plus \$1,000 towards installation costs.

If you're building, renovating or just want an upgrade, now's a great time to enter the draw to win a full set of switches and sockets from our premium range. At PDL by Schneider Electric we have a switch for every style and personality.

Enter the draw at

[switchonandwin.co.nz](http://switchonandwin.co.nz)



\*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

Life Is On



by Schneider Electric

# your Renovation

Expert advice on home alterations, extensions and updates



## Feline the heat

Who knew radiators could be so cute! Central Heating New Zealand supplied all the radiators for the homes in this year's *The Block NZ 'Girls vs Boys'* and we were tickled pink by this little number when we saw their range. While most homeowners prefer their heating to blend into the background, others like to make a design statement and Central Heating New Zealand's general manager, Tony Vine, tells us there are many design options on offer now. The Schema Cat radiator pictured here is part of the Schema Collection from Ridea – and we think it would make the purrfect addition to any cat-lover's home!

# THE NEW RETRO

This home and office combo has had a major facelift and is now a fresh, contemporary and modern space with a nod to the past

Text by Annick Larkin. Photography by Emma MacDonald.



## MEET + GREET

**Andrew Barron**, 41 (managing director and owner of The Timber Barron, a global timber exporter).

## THE ORIGINAL HOME

A unique property in Freemans Bay became the ideal work-from-home space for Auckland Andrew Barron. The weatherboard villa had always been set up as an office downstairs, with the upper level serving as a potential living space. Due to the villa's unusual configuration there were a lot of interior windows – "There was even a window looking into the bathroom and shower from the top of the stairs, which was pretty inappropriate," laughs Andrew. Also, the kitchen and bathrooms were tired and in dire need of an upgrade.

## PROBLEM

**The upstairs kitchen** and bathrooms were very basic and needed modernising.

**The downstairs office space** had a lot of interior windows that were completely redundant. The kitchenette was tiny and the old-school fluorescent tube lighting was far from easy on the eye.

**The upstairs interior windows** failed to provide privacy from the downstairs office space.

## SOLUTION

➤ **Upstairs, Andrew installed** a contemporary kitchen as well as a luxurious new bathroom.

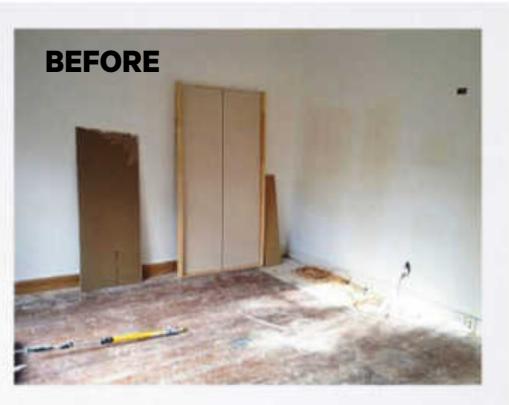
➤ **The downstairs interior** windows were removed to create an open-plan office space. Contemporary and functional lighting was fitted throughout and a new kitchen installed.

➤ **The interior windows** were removed and replaced with walls.

**1** **OPORTUNITY KNOCKS** Andrew first moved into the building in 2009. Initially, he only rented the upstairs level to live in, using one of the bedrooms as his work office. In 2011, he took over the lease for the entire building, and two years later jumped at the chance to purchase it. "For me, this was a great opportunity for a couple of reasons: first, to be able to live upstairs from the office in central Auckland; and second, I've always wanted to own a villa," he says.

**2** **STRESS LESS** Some people may say that renovating a house is one of the most stressful things you'll ever do. But not in Andrew's case. Although he had been involved in previous renovation projects, this time he decided to employ interior designer James Peters to project manage the renovation. James and his builder and painter did all the work on the project. The upstairs renovation took about seven weeks, during which Andrew stayed at a friend's place nearby. The downstairs project took five weeks, with the office temporarily relocated elsewhere.





## EXPERT Q&A

**INTERIOR DESIGNER  
JAMES PETERS OF  
INTERIOR SOLUTIONS**

**How did you interpret the client's brief?** The client's wish was for a light, bright space. He's a progressive thinker and a successful businessman with a contemporary outlook. I sensed he wanted an understated home, not flashy but imaginative, without being extreme. Not a bland, colourless, safe environment.

I chose feature colours of Resene 'Fire' (a burnt brick orange), Resene 'Moroccan Spice' (a rich bitter brown) and Resene 'Himalaya' (a spicy green-bronze) along with Resene 'Mongoose' (a warm pale brown).

I hope the colours depict his personality and vision in both his personal and business life. He was the perfect client who wanted me to push the boundaries a little and ultimately trusted my judgment. I suggested he also invest in some mid-century furniture – both old and new – for his upstairs domain. Going back some months later to help place some art was a joy as I realised the client was exceptionally happy about what we had achieved together.

**What was the biggest challenge with this project?**

The upper floor was a challenge as the rooms had different windows at different heights and it was quite a plain space. I removed windows and awkward structures and installed a new kitchen. Luckily, I work with a great painter (Peter Witton) and builder (David Hansen of Earlswood Builders), who are highly professional and have great input.



**3**

**UPSTAIRS** In the residential part of the house, Andrew wanted to maintain the traditional 'villa' look, so he ripped up the carpet to expose the beautiful, but battered, rimu floor. He had the floorboards sanded and polished, returning them to their former glory. The old kitchen was removed and replaced with contemporary white gloss cabinetry and a granite benchtop. In the lounge, James encouraged Andrew to think about introducing colour. "Initially, I wanted to keep it very simple in the living spaces, mostly using white as that is what I knew growing up," explains Andrew. "However, James really pushed me to try some new things, and one piece of advice that he gave me on colour was to use strong but muted tones."

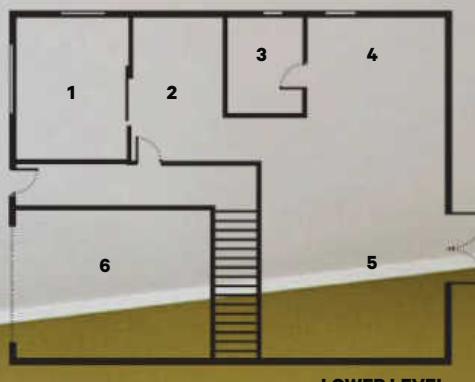
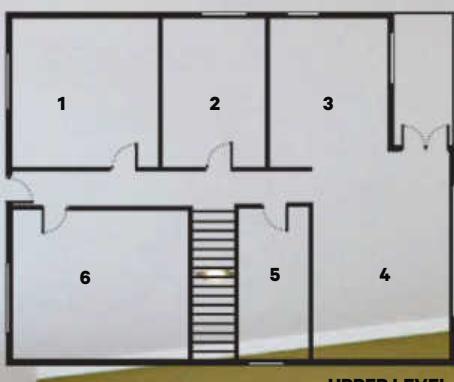
**4**

## STRONG & MUTED

The retro look came about as a natural part of the design process. Andrew chose to use American white oak ply on the ceiling in the kitchen and bathrooms as well as oak flooring in the lounge, kitchen and dining area. He has combined mid-century and Scandinavian furniture, giving the living spaces character and warmth.

The colour palette upstairs is a clever combination of Resene 'Alabaster' with retro greens and burnt oranges. Olive green feature walls painted in Resene 'Himalaya' appear in both the lounge and master bedroom, and the colour pops up again in the kitchen splashback. For the bathroom James suggested using Resene 'Fire' – a rich earthy red – above the similarly toned mosaic tiles. This burnt red-orange hue is carried through to the downstairs hallway and into the adjoining office space.

## FLOOR PLAN



## KEY - UPPER LEVEL

- 1 Bedroom
- 2 Office
- 3 Kitchen & dining
- 4 Living
- 5 Bathroom
- 6 Main bedroom

## KEY - LOWER LEVEL

- 1 Front meeting room
- 2 Reception
- 3 Toilet
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Main office area
- 6 Garage



## 5

### HOMEWORK

Andrew travels overseas frequently for business, so this unique home-and-work abode is ideal as he can simply lock it and leave. "Now that the renovation is complete I come home to a place that is peaceful and comfortable," says Andrew. "It really inspires me and I always look forward to being there."

## 6

### OLD VS NEW

Andrew has always been drawn to houses with character. "I like older, villa-style buildings. I love polished wooden floors and I like to blend the old with the new, keeping it simple with clean lines," he says. "Less is more." He has also introduced new technology such as economical LED lighting, heat pumps and an alarm system that he can work from his phone.





**7 | SAVE VS SPLURGE**  
 Although Andrew admits getting an interior designer on board was a major splurge, he says it was the best thing he could have done. "It saved me a lot of time. First, it cut out a lot of the work in getting the right types of materials, ie what worked and what didn't work for the space. And second, James came up with many ideas that I would never have considered had I been doing it all myself. He pushed me to try new ideas and, in every case, I was happy with what he came up with." Andrew says James' team were reliable and efficient, meaning the project was completed on time with no mistakes or hold-ups, which perhaps explains why he found the project a relatively stress-free experience.



# Renovation Worksheet

## BUDGET

> Andrew's initial budget was \$60,000 for the upstairs living space but he quickly realised \$120,000 was more realistic. "Once we got started, I kept increasing the scope and deciding I wanted more things done," he says. The office reno came in at around \$40,000.

**TOTAL** approx \$160,000

## CONTACTS

**Interior designer** – James Peters  
**Interior Solutions** 021 438 178  
**Builder** – Earlswood, 021 0220 8649  
**Electrician** – Eleca, 021 056 6136  
**Paint** – Resene ColorShop, resene.co.nz  
**Painter** – Peter Witton, 021 117 9155  
**Floor sanding** – Wood Floor Solutions, woodfloorsolutions.co.nz  
**Wall insulation** – Insultech, insultech.co.nz  
**Ceiling insulation** – Smart Energy, smartenergysolutions.co.nz  
**Lighting** – LED downlights by Decor Bellini Lighting, lumenworks.co.nz  
**Shutters** – Sante Fé, santafeshutters.co.nz



## SUPPLY SHOP

### LOUNGE

**Flooring** – European oak from timberfloorsdirect.co.nz  
**Lounge chairs and lamp** – Karakter, karakter.co.nz  
**Paint** – Resene 'Alabaster', feature wall in Resene 'Himalaya'

### KITCHEN

**Handleless cupboards and drawers** – Trendwood Kitchens, trendwood.co.nz  
**Lighting** – Decor Bellini Lighting, lumenworks.co.nz  
**Tapware** – Reece Plumbing

### MAIN BEDROOM

**Wardrobe** – Innovative Interiors, innovativeinteriors.co.nz  
**Headboard** – made of plywood, from Impey's, impeys.co.nz

### STAIRWELL

**Carpeting** – sisal supplied and installed by Artisan Flooring, artisanflooring.co.nz



Living area flooring



Kitchen tap



Kitchen lighting



Bedroom headboard



Stairwell carpet



Living room feature wall

8

### DOWNSTAIRS

All internal windows were removed and an oversized sliding door was installed in the front office, allowing privacy if required. "The rest of the time, the slider stays open to create a bigger, more light-filled space," explains Andrew. An internal wall separating the kitchen from the office space was demolished and a new kitchen was installed, and all the lighting was replaced and rewired. "We did away with the fluorescent tube lighting and introduced pendants in the main working area and LED lighting elsewhere," says Andrew. Lastly, the entire space was repainted and American white oak panelling was installed in the reception area, nicely linking to the oak flooring and features upstairs.

## TIMELINE

MID 2013	1 APRIL, 2014	14 APRIL, 2014	16 JUNE, 2014	1 SEPTEMBER, 2014	30 SEPTEMBER, 2014
Purchased the building.	Concepts presented by designer for upstairs area. Plan decided.	Work began and Andrew moved out.	Majority of work completed upstairs. Andrew moved back in.	Work on the office area began.	Work on office area completed.



# style from the FLOOR UP

Whether you are looking for flooring for one room or a full home renovation, we know you want top quality, real choice and real inspiration, as well as expert advice so it's done right the first time. Your local Guthrie Bowron team are ready to help, so pop in and let's chat\*! Need some inspiration now? Check out this look online.

Irvine –  
Westminster,  
Silver Chalice

We have a fabulous range of solution dyed nylon and wool carpets, gorgeous wood and laminate flooring as well as a stunning range of vinyl\*. Our expert team in store will work with your needs and recommend your ideal flooring solution.

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\* Travel distance parameters may apply for in-home measure and quote.



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# Garage workshop

All too often a dumping ground for miscellaneous junk, a garage can be both well-functioning and pretty. Yes, really!

Text by Annick Larkin.

The garage is often a poorly organised receptacle for the unwanted, the unloved and the unused. Furthermore, the family car tends to jostle for space amid Christmas decorations, gardening paraphernalia, sports equipment and power tools. But with our expert advice, even the most uninspired of spaces can be readily transformed.



## PLANNING

Natalie Jane, owner/director of professional organising service Be Organised, has some great advice when it comes to planning your garage space. She suggests that before decluttering we get a clear vision of how we want the space to be organised, and recommends having a decent clear-out each season.

**CLEAR OUT:** "Once you have a vision for your garage space, put a date in your diary and stick to it," Natalie says. She also recommends having banana boxes as well as black plastic bags – and even a Flexi Bin if you think you will need it. Label your banana boxes with 'Donate', 'Relocate', 'Sell', 'Recycle', 'Fix' and 'Give to a Friend' and use the plastic bags and Flexi Bin for rubbish.

**ASSIGN ZONES:** Natalie says it is important to create zones for items. This not only makes it easier to find them, but by putting 'like with like' you create an ordered space. "Everyday items should be in your 'prime space' and occasional items placed up high or lower down."

**WORK AROUND CARS:** Are you envisioning being able to park your car in the garage, or do you want to use the garage for storage only? Maybe you want to set up a gym in there, or use it as a creative space? Natalie recommends folding workbenches as they are hinged and can be lifted up to create a usable

workspace, or folded down when not in use.

**CREATE A BUDGET:** Keep the budget in check and, if you can, work with storage you already have. "Many people make the mistake of blowing their budget by spending too much on storage before they have even begun."

## BUILDING

Dan Gudsell, managing director of Abodo – the company providing the exterior timber cladding on the homes of *The Block NZ* 2016 – suggests lining and insulating the walls and ceilings of a garage to help create an effective and efficient design aesthetic. "Built-in cabinetry, shelving and hooks are ideal design solutions for getting bulky equipment like bikes off the ground and will free up floor space."

## CABINETRY AND SHELVING

Mitre 10 has a multitude of affordable storage cabinets and shelving options. The ever-popular Mitre 10 Muscle Racks can be used to store up to 200kg per shelf – perfect for bulky items and tools. They can also be assembled side by side to create a workbench. The Mitre 10 Elfa garage storage range can be customised to suit your needs with pegboards, tool clips and hanging hooks to tidy up even the most disorganised of spaces.



**ANNICK LARKIN**  
Writer/stylist

Mitre 10 Muscle Rack shelving units configured with a galvanised-steel storage box (RRP \$22.47). The shelving starts from RRP \$129 each.





Photography by Prue Ruscoe, Brett Stevens/bauersyndication.com.au.

## LIGHTING

As a general rule of thumb, garages require good overall light, as well as decent task lighting for different zones, such as a tool bench, laundry or games corner. If you want to add a little more personality to your garage, why not follow interior designer Alex Fulton's advice and add a little something special to your space? "Fairy lights, marquee signs and neon lights are much easier to get hold of these days, so using these to help define a space or draw attention to a specific area is an easy and inexpensive design fix."

## DESIGN

From the outside, garage doors can be unsightly, but Dan Gudsell from Abodo has a clever solution. "Consider a hidden garage door that can be built into the wooden facade of your home for slick, clean lines." As for the inside of your garage, that doesn't need to be bland or unsightly, either. Here are designer Alex Fulton's neat tips on how to create an interior space with wow factor:

### USE YOUR WALLS (AND CEILING SPACE)

Maximising space is a must for garages. Pegboard is a cheap and easy product to paint and hang. Use shelves, hooks, pipes, chains, plastic bins, jars, baskets, and get creative.

**TRY OLD PRODUCTS IN NEW PLACES** A fun space lends itself to using everyday products



in a novel way. Try carpet on the walls or blackboard paint on the ceiling. Paint is an easy way to add colour or pattern, so don't limit your inner Picasso to just the walls.

**REUSE AND UPCYCLE** Giving new life to shabby old furniture has got to be the best way to save pennies and dust off your artistic flair. There are a number of easy-to-apply spray paints on the market which give great coverage and a

professional look to old, tired pieces.

**TEAM DESIGNING** Think like a designer. Sit down with your 'clients' (the people who will be using this space once it's finished) and get a brief from them. Then work out what it will be used for and how it will function. Set yourself a budget and make it a family project to work on together to produce a place that will suit everyone and their needs.

Cozy winter evening.

Nana's turn. Triple word score.



## The great indoors by Weathermaster

For your windows, letting the Whisper shades down is the equivalent of pulling on a cosy jersey. Whisper's cellular honeycomb design traps a layer of air that prevents heat loss, keeping your home cosier and your power bills smaller. Choices include blockout, translucent or textured fabric and two cell sizes – 10mm and 20mm.

### Other ways to insulate your windows

There's more than one way to warm up your winter. Other Weathermaster options include rollershades, roman blinds, venetians and pleated blinds.



Weathermaster  
rollershades



Weathermaster  
shutters



Weathermaster  
aluminium venetians

Call 0800 10 27 10 for a free consultation  
[weathermaster.co.nz](http://weathermaster.co.nz)

**Weathermaster**



Mitre 10 Warrior modular garage organiser, 2.9m tall by 2.1m wide, RRP \$1191.

## TOOL STORAGE

Mitre 10 and Bunnings have some great storage solutions for your tools which are very affordable. Anything from a pegboard to wall or modular cabinets, hooks, sturdy storage boxes and bins and shelving units. The Mitre 10 Jobmate garage tool organiser (pictured in the set-up above) is the perfect option for tool storage and can either be wall-mounted or fitted on top of a work bench.

## GENERAL STORAGE

Karen Hansen, national sales manager of Lundia, suggests taking advantage of any underutilised wall space, including under windows. "Choose a shelf depth that will accommodate most items, but will still allow corridor space in front." She also suggests installing adjustable shelves to help define 'zones' for certain items and functions, such as camping equipment, garden utensils and tools. Natalie Jane from Be Organised recommends Wardrobe World storage designs for those with a tighter budget, but if you are wanting a complete fit-out and budget is not a problem, she suggests you check out the storage solutions at Gladiator Garage. If you're looking for a simple and inexpensive option, Mitre 10 has a large range of hobby boxes and stackable fish bins.

## LAUNDRY

If you are short on space in your home, the garage can be a great place to site your laundry. "It's important you plan for adequate storage and organisation such as overhead shelving or cubbies, under-bench storage, a freestanding storage unit or even a trestle table," says Natalie Jane. She also suggests housing your laundry behind bifold doors to create a streamlined look.

Interior designer Alex Fulton thinks this would be a good opportunity to have some fun with your whiteware – "Use wall decals to add some pattern and colour. Make a feature of what you can't hide and turn the mundane into a design statement." If you have an unvented dryer in your garage, Garage specialists Garador recommend using the ventilation mode on their garage-door openers, as well as keeping the garage door slightly open.



## SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Getting sports equipment off the ground is a great way to free up valuable garage floor space. Graeme Thompson, owner and managing director of Rack It Up, suggests you get as much as possible off the floor by installing racks. ‘This maintains the longevity of your sports equipment as well as keeping the floor clear.’ Rack It Up has durable, easy-to-install horizontal sports storage racks for just about every sport imaginable, with new vertical storage for fishing gear about to hit the market. If racks aren’t your thing, Mitre 10’s storage lockers are ideal for storing fishing rods, cricket equipment, skis and poles.



garage door and opener starts at roughly \$2000 for a single-car garage.

## THE GARAGE DOOR

With the difficulties facing many of those trying to buy their first home, and more families choosing to stay under one roof for longer, the garage is becoming more than just somewhere to park the car. Garador (garador.co.nz) says it is seeing a growing trend of homeowners replacing the old garage door with an insulated one. There are plenty of design options out there, but the company says the sectional door (made up of four or five panels which rise vertically and then slide back along the roof interior) is in hot demand and there’s a move towards minimalistic styles and darker hues. The cost to install a sectional

## FUTURE PROOF

Stacking the family cars on top of one another may sound pretty ‘out there’ as a way of maximising your garage space, but it’s a growing trend, says Bob Haswell, managing director at Car Parking Solutions. Bob says they have more than 10 models to choose from; most about 2.6m wide and all with numerous safety features. Costs vary, but think upwards of \$15,000 including installation. With urban sites getting tighter, if you’re planning a new build or renovation, Bob suggests talking to your architect about increasing the height of your garage as a way to future-proof the space. “That way, you can always put a stacker in at a later time,” he explains.



Photography by Brett Stevens /bauersyndication.com.au.

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# TRADIE TALK

Even the most enthusiastic DIY'er needs to know when to get the professionals in. Here are builder Gary Rimmer's do's and don'ts...

Text compiled by Kristina Rapley.



**DO PLAN** before going ahead and ripping walls out or spending half your budget on the wrong paint colour. Put pen to paper and write down some important points about the project. Take inspiration from homes that you love and do some rough drawings of what you want the final outcome to look like. You want all the areas to tie in with one another, rather than looking like bits of this and that. Set goals, have a clear vision in mind and stay on track.

**DO STRIP WALLPAPER** Removing wallpaper is a good place to start when renovating a room and can be great training for other DIY projects – it can be a tedious job so it will teach you to stick at it! The end result is only as good as the amount of effort you have put into it. Use a steamer or water sprayer to soak the wallpaper before you start. You can hire a steamer from most hire centres.

**DO TAKE THE TIME TO PREP** Prepping and sanding are as important as the brush and roller work when painting – they should actually take about as much time as each other. Although it's tempting to just get stuck in, taking the time to prepare your surface will result in a far more polished end result. The impatient DIY'ers among us will know that this can be easier said than done.

**DO MINOR LANDSCAPING** Adding planter boxes alongside the house or driveway can add street appeal and is an affordable option which makes a lot of impact – handy if the budget is tight. It's satisfying to be able to see the product of your hard work every time you pull up in the car – you're also bound to get heaps of compliments, which is good for

**DO INVEST IN QUALITY WINDOW TREATMENTS** Try to buy quality rails and curtains. Although it can be tempting to cut costs by buying more affordable options, I know first hand how frustrating it can be when cheap versions break easily. You will usually end up replacing them not long after installation, so it's best to choose good quality in the first place.

your DIY ego. Consider plants such as buxus, liriope and corokia for low-maintenance, stylish hedging, all of which look great all year round.

**DON'T ATTEMPT ANY ELECTRICAL OR GAS WORK** no matter how minor you think it may be. Electrical work needs to be carried out by a licensed electrician, gas work by a licensed gasfitter. Something as seemingly small as changing a light bulb must be handled with care, as they can blow. If you're unsure where to start or feeling overwhelmed with the task of choosing a tradesperson, [builderscrack.co.nz](http://builderscrack.co.nz) lets you view tradie ratings to help you choose one that fits your DIY style.

**DON'T REMOVE ANY WALLS** Check if you need council approval before removing a wall, even if it's non-structural. Work needs to be carried out by a licensed building practitioner. Any non-approved work will show up on the LIM report if you try to sell, so stay safe and smart when it comes to major changes like this.

**DON'T DISMISS YOUR PARTNER'S IDEAS ON COLOUR AND DESIGN** If your partner is the one with the 'creative flair' sometimes it's best to let them run with it (in my case, anyway). However, it's good to discuss design decisions together as you may open up each other's minds to new ideas.

**DON'T GET SUCKED IN BY DIY SHOWS ON TV** Don't bite off more than you can chew. It may look easy on TV, but in real life it is usually more difficult, and takes much longer, than you think. Remember that you will have to commit to seeing the job through to the end, no matter what (although you might be able to live with that half-painted feature wall or unfinished bathroom, I can almost guarantee your partner won't see things the same way).

---

We found Gary Rimmer from Stockade Builders via [builderscrack.co.nz](http://builderscrack.co.nz), an online marketplace where homeowners can post jobs and builders and tradespeople can chase jobs, provide quotes and win work.

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- 4  CHUCK



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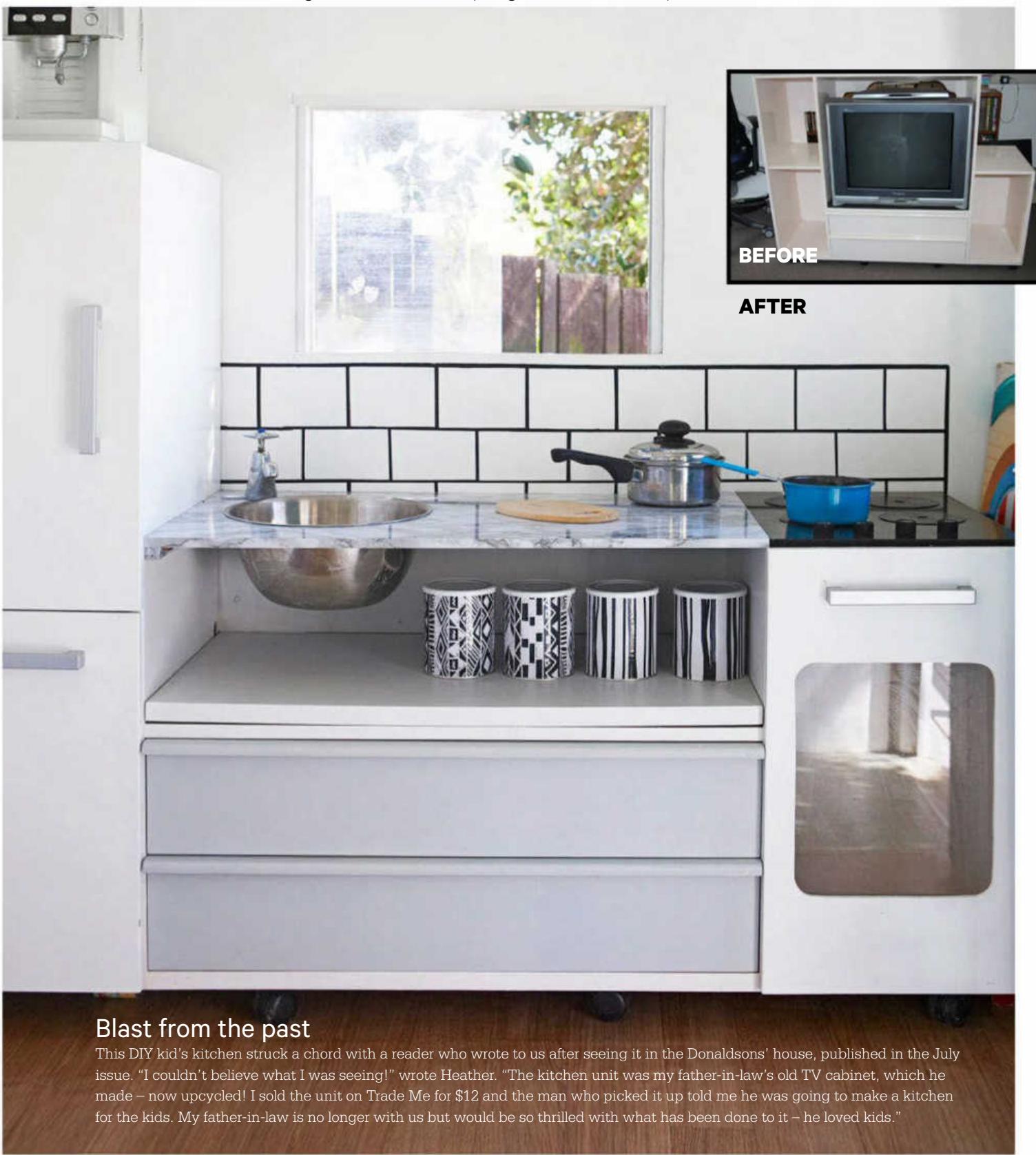
\*Our cabinetry is made with ISO14001 environmentally certified moisture resistant board sourced from New Zealand. Our hardware is supplied from sources outside New Zealand.

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[KITCHENS.PLACEMAKERS.CO.NZ](http://KITCHENS.PLACEMAKERS.CO.NZ)

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# your Makeover

Design, colour and styling advice for simple and affordable transformations



## Blast from the past

This DIY kid's kitchen struck a chord with a reader who wrote to us after seeing it in the Donaldsons' house, published in the July issue. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing!" wrote Heather. "The kitchen unit was my father-in-law's old TV cabinet, which he made – now upcycled! I sold the unit on Trade Me for \$12 and the man who picked it up told me he was going to make a kitchen for the kids. My father-in-law is no longer with us but would be so thrilled with what has been done to it – he loved kids."

# 8 tips for decorating your home together

If men are from Mars and women from Venus, how on earth are they going to agree on furnishings for their home? Happy wife, happy life?

Text by Vanessa Nouwens.



**W**e all know it's important that your home reflects the people who live in it, but it can be frustrating when you realise you and your partner's interior design preferences and styles don't quite match up as well as your personalities. If you are reading this and nodding, you're not alone! Couples won't always see eye-to-eye on every design decision, but there is a happy balance that can be achieved with a little compromise.

## COMPROMISE WITH A CAPITAL 'C'

Just like in your relationship, you both bring unique things to the decor party. When it comes to creating a home that reflects both you and your partner, compromise is the absolute key. Blending styles, tastes and needs can be tricky, however, so you need to make decisions with love and respect, finding a middle ground that you both can live with. As much as you want to love your space when you walk through the door, your partner needs to love it just as much.

## FIND INSPIRATION

A good starting point for working out a look you both like is to spend some time together on sites such as Pinterest. Collect images from magazines you both like the look of, then decide on a collective look together that you both buy into. If you're on the same page at the start, it will make the whole design and decorating process so much easier for all involved.

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

While the idea of living in a magazine or furniture catalogue is alluring, the fact of the matter is, your home should feel like yours. Think about the things that are special to you and reflect you as a couple as well as individually, and figure out how to work those elements into your home. Think about your interests, sports, music and even favourite movies. All these things can be brought into a space through sports memorabilia, old movie posters or a photographic print of a favourite beach or location.



Drinks trays as wall art, \$29 (welcome) and \$89, from teapea.co.nz.

## MAKE A PLAN BEFORE YOU BUY ANYTHING

Before you go shopping, it's a good idea to establish the deal-breakers for each other. Make a plan together and decide what items stay and what items go and what you actually need. If you're asking your partner to get rid of things, be prepared to do the same. Also, it's good to agree on a budget for items before hitting the shops so everyone is on the same page.

You often hear of situations where the man will select the electronics for the home, eg the TV, DVD player etc, and the woman will decide on the entertainment unit or cabinet that these items will be housed in. This 'division of labour' strategy is another approach to keep both parties happy.

## GO SHOPPING TOGETHER

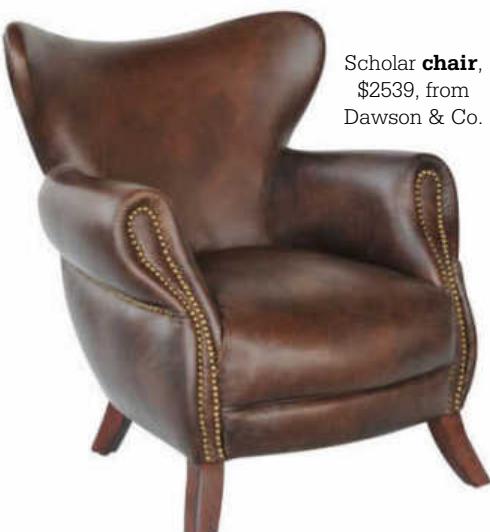
To avoid arguments down the line, you definitely need to go shopping together – especially when it comes to purchasing big items such as a sofa, dining table, chairs and beds. When you are both present you can try out furniture and agree together, which will save you time and money in the long run.

## THE ARMCHAIR DEBATE

Men love a good armchair. So if you have won the battle with the couch then, go on, let him select an armchair! Remember, it's all about compromise. Generally speaking, men tend to gravitate towards larger, more masculine furniture pieces, particularly those incorporating leather and wood details.

A classic leather lounge chair will last for years and will get better with age.

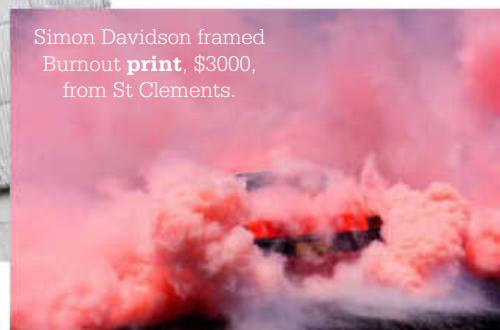
Scholar **chair**, \$2539, from Dawson & Co.



Fjord grey Cornwall **quilt**, \$389.90, from Wallace Cotton.



**VANESSA NOUWENS**  
Interior designer/stylist



Simon Davidson framed **Burnout print**, \$3000, from St Clements.



Hampton linen **quilt**, from \$279.99, from EziBuy.



'Whitey' Bondi-Icebergs **print**, from AU\$250 unframed, from Aqua Bumps.



Britta **chair**, \$129.95, from Mocka.

## GETTING THE BEDROOM RIGHT

When it comes to bedlinen, some men simply don't care what colour or style it is, while others declare that this is the one item in the house that needs to be unisex. The simple solution is to keep things neutral and play with layers and texture. Plain-coloured linen sheets and duvet, and waffle or quilted bedding, always look great and appeal to both sexes. Jersey-knit marle bedding is on trend and is also very easy to live with. Another thing to consider in the bedroom is what goes on the walls. The options are endless here but a nice touch is a blown-up photo of a place you have both visited, or a great shot of you together.

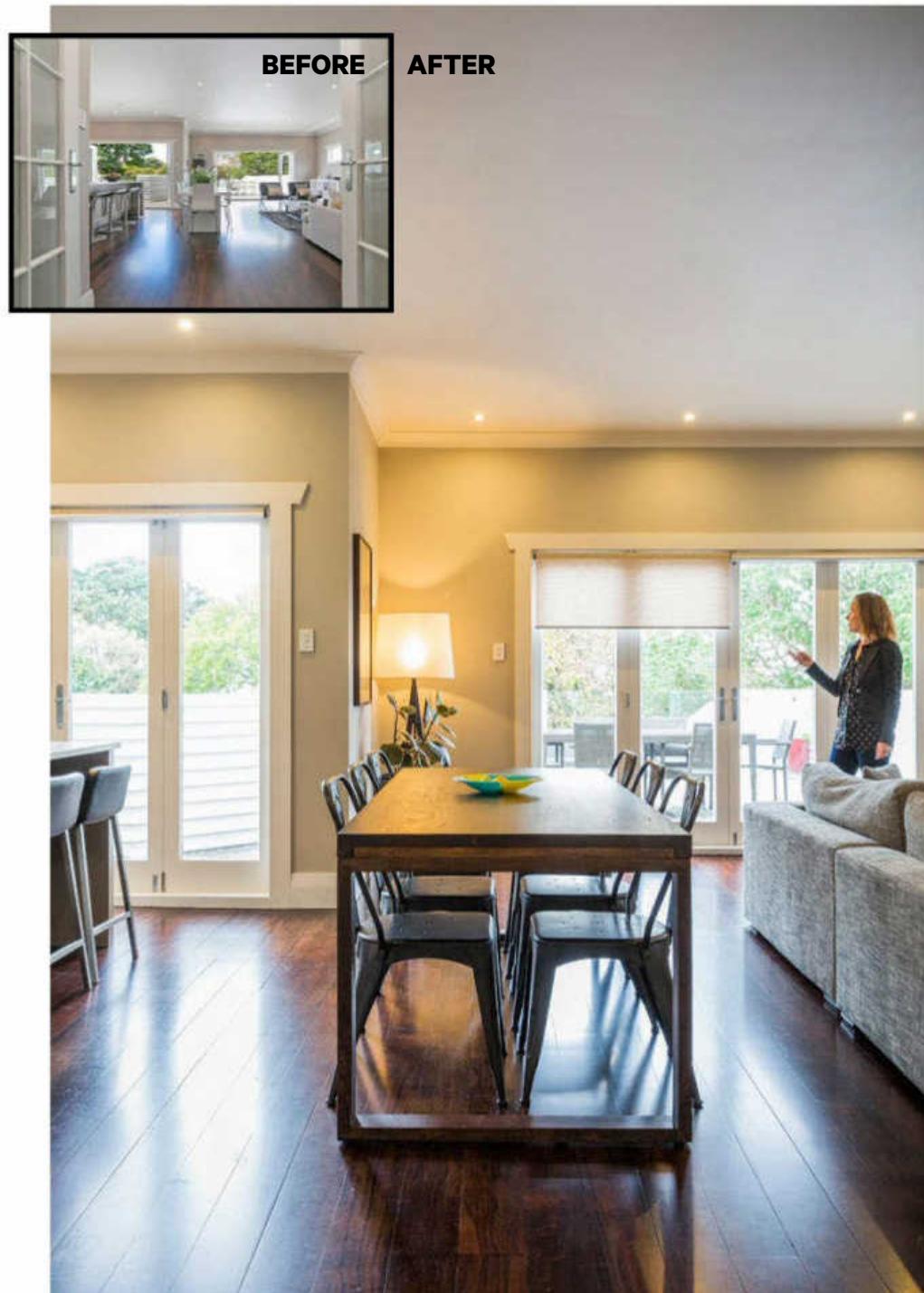
## EXPERT HELP

If you are really stuck and you just can't seem to agree on anything, then seek some expert help. An interior designer is the best option for executing different interior styles in a cohesive way and will be money worth spending.

# The Thompson home

Having gone through the process of a lengthy villa renovation, the Thompsons decided their next home project would be on a much smaller scale

Text by Kristina Rapley. Photography by Todd Eyre.



“The home already had a neutral colour scheme, so for me it was about adding personal touches such as hanging family photos and furnishing the home with new furniture to make it feel like ours”

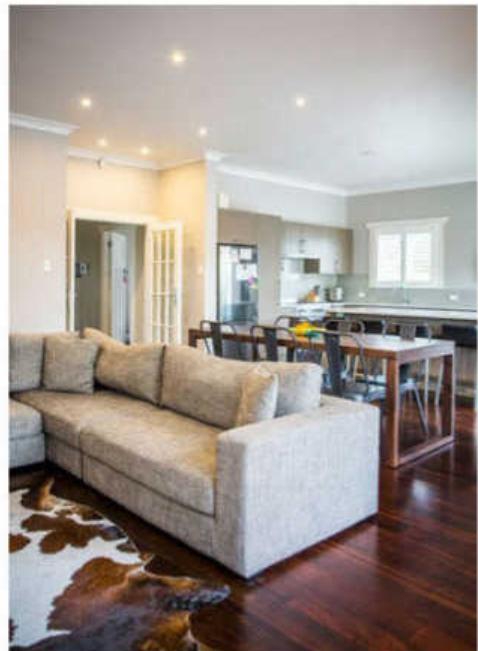
## Snapshot

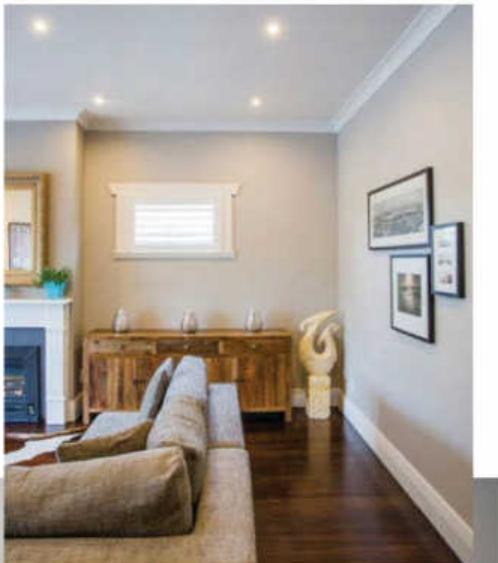
**Who lives here?** Hayley Thompson, 40 (owner of Brightshine Blinds NZ), Richard Thompson, 40 (CEO of KPEX), Finn, 7, and Isla, 5, plus kittens Tiger and Bluey. **Where is it?** Epsom, Auckland. **Lived here for?** Eight months.

## The project

**Hayley, why did you decide to purchase your home?** We loved that the house was completely finished and we didn't have to do any major work – we just had to add the finishing touches. Both my husband and I had thought we wanted a project, but we decided that buying something already done would be a better option for us than managing another renovation with two small children and two time-consuming jobs – not to mention the thought of a budget blow-out!

**What did you want to achieve out of your redecoration?** We wanted to add texture to the window coverings but still maintain the existing clean and minimalist look. Windows take up such a large portion of each of the rooms they're in, so window treatments needed to be minimalist yet give some texture and meet all our needs on a functional level – that is, privacy, light control and looking good.





## Style

### **What was the style you went for?**

Traditional yet minimalist. The shutters in particular helped achieve this look, as they've been around for a long time and still suit all different types of houses. They have modern clean lines and don't clutter rooms like lots of fabric-based window treatments tend to do.

### **Where did you shop for the other furnishings?**

After we bought this house we realised everything we owned was a completely different configuration to what we had in our previous house. We got all of our essential furniture pieces from Freedom and a fair few ornaments, too. It turned out to be quite economical as we were able to negotiate for a large order and get the best price.

"The fact that the house had no window furnishings was a real bonus for us. I love having our customers over to our house so they can see our products in situ. The blinds and shutters make it feel so homely"





## DIY details

### What made the biggest change and why?

The shutters and roller blinds made an enormous difference to the house. We were quite exposed before, but now we have privacy from the neighbours yet haven't had to compromise on light, as the shutters let a ton of it in. The roller blinds over the doors going out to our deck are also fantastic – they allow us to make the house feel cosy at night but disappear to nothing during the day. They don't detract from the indoor/outdoor flow and they're so easy to maintain – being that there is no maintenance!

**Visit [brightshine.co.nz](http://brightshine.co.nz) for more information on their shutters and roller blinds.**



"I really do think we got a lot for our money. Because the furniture we bought isn't super high-end, I don't worry about the children spilling things. It looks great and is incredibly functional, too"

## Budget

We spent \$30,000 on new furniture, window treatments (although we did get these at a special rate – one of the perks of owning the business), air conditioning, picture hanging and accessorising. The air conditioning was a bit of a splurge. It's been a game changer, though – no condensation issues and every room in the house is a consistent and warm temperature.

**TOTAL**

**\$30,000**





# Let's organise the kitchen...

It's not just for new kitchens. The Blum AMBIA-LINE divider and accessory range is an easy DIY upgrade to existing kitchens with Blum drawers.

It's so satisfying to cook in a beautifully organised kitchen. Smart cutlery and utensil dividers, kitchen accessories for knives, spices, plates and dispensers for film or foil – with Blum, everything has its place and there's a place for everything!



**'HOW TO'**

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2. Take a photo of the drawer and what you store in it.
3. Provide details to your cabinet maker or a Blum showroom and they'll recommend organisers.
4. Easily install it yourself!



[www.blum.com/ideas](http://www.blum.com/ideas) 

Showrooms: 621 Rosebank Road, Avondale, Auckland and 27 Dalziel Place, Woolston, Christchurch

# Marty's hacks

Both functional and beautiful, this DIY bench seat is the perfect piece to bring your entryway to life – and the ideal possie to store shoes, jackets and bags

Created by Catherine Wilkinson and Martin Laidlaw.

## TOP TIPS

- **You can paint** the base of the storage bench any colour you choose; it just needs a good sand and prep coat first.
- **Use the shelving provided** to section the inside, or leave it open.
- **Go for a minimal Scandi look** by leaving the pine as it is, or varnish it for a darker, more rustic or industrial look.
- **If you ever want to move the box**, take the contents out first as the backing board used on the base won't be strong enough to support the weight.

Round Joni **cushion**, \$59.99, and wooden **hooks**, \$11.99 small, \$13.99 medium, \$16.99 large, all from Shut The Front Door; pom pom **throw**, \$389, from Father Rabbit; Boyd floor **runner**, \$249, from Freedom. Scarf, speckled cushion and blanket in box, stylist's own.



**BEFORE**

**SORT IT CABINET,**  
\$80, FROM  
THE WAREHOUSE.

**AFTER**

**STEP 1** Assemble the flat-packed cabinet without attaching the hinges, door or handle. Insert one shelf or more if desired. Do not put the backing on yet. Lie cabinet on its back.

**STEP 2** Trim the pine top from 1800mm x 600mm to 1800mm x 400mm.

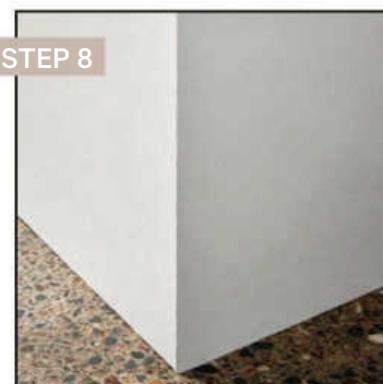
**STEP 3** Now fit the edging to three sides of the pine top (the long side which will go against the wall does not need edging). Start with a short side, gluing and pinning the edging with pin nails, and keeping it flush with the top. Continue the edging along the other two sides, mitring the corners of the edging (use a square to mark a 45° angle and cut with a saw).



**STEP 4** Give everything a good sand once the glue is dry.

**STEP 5** Screw the new pine top onto the door using 32mm wood screws.

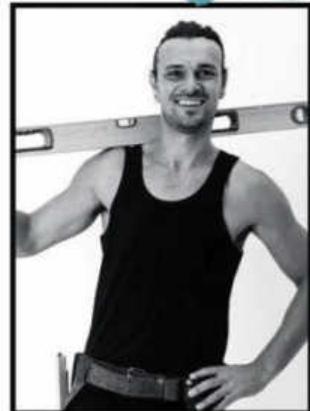
**STEP 6** The cupboard, when upright, does not have a base, so we need to create one as this will form one of the sides of the bench seat. Cut a piece of 6mm hardboard to fit flush with the sides of the cabinet. Attach with wood glue and secure along edges with pin nails. When glue is dry, sand and fill in the holes with filler.



**STEP 7** For the bottom of the storage box, you can either attach the provided backing or leave bottom-less if you prefer.

**STEP 8** Fill all screw holes with filler and give the box a good sand. Apply a base or prep coat then 2-3 coats of paint.

**STEP 9** Attach the door/pine top to the storage box with the new 175° hinges.



**MARTIN LAIDLAW**

Mean-as builder

## Tools

- Ruler
- Screwdriver
- Square
- Handsaw
- Hammer
- Electric sander
- Drop cloths
- Paint brush

## Budget

Cabinet	\$80
Pine top	\$31
(1800 x 600 x 20mm)	
Pine edging	\$13
(2400 x 40 x 20mm)	
Pine edging	\$8
1200 x 40 x 20mm	
PVA or wood glue	\$6
Pin nails	\$5
32mm wood screws	\$6
6mm hardboard	\$20*
Filler	\$9
Paint	\$30*
175° hinges x 3	\$42

**TOTAL** **\$250**

\*Price varies depending on supplier

# Room service

**CLIENT**

Jo Lee

**PROJECT**

Lounge

Dear YH&amp;G

We have just finished a substantial renovation on a house that was literally falling down in Mt Eden – nightmare!

The problem is our lounge. I am unsure whether the room will take a coffee table and, even if it did, I can't find one I like (I see a lot of designs online that I like but none available in New Zealand). Also, I have looked high and low for a rug with no success. We are unsure how big it needs to be and what shape – we are quite keen on a round one due to the placement of the door from the hallway.

The brief would be 'Scandi-modern hotel' style (it used to be retro but I think I've moved on from that) and leaning towards geometric shapes. We are happy to buy some quality items and mix them with cheaper ones.

I thought I could dress my house as we have nailed everything else, but the truth is, I can't. I have now given up and this is what my lounge has looked like for the past six months. I would love to get some help with this.

Jo

**BEFORE**

A confused renovator at the end of her tether gets a comprehensive and stylish redesign of her living room. This Scandi-modern look gives a wee nod to mid-century design for a touch of retro

Text by Tina Stephen.

**Tina says:****THE PROBLEM**

The client has a clear case of 'renovation fatigue'. She has just completed an extensive renovation on her Mt Eden villa and the living room lacks the appropriate furniture and final touches to finish it and make it a liveable and functional space.

**THE BRIEF**

To enhance the recent minimalist renovation with furniture and accessories that complement the existing colour palette and layout, and add warmth and texture.

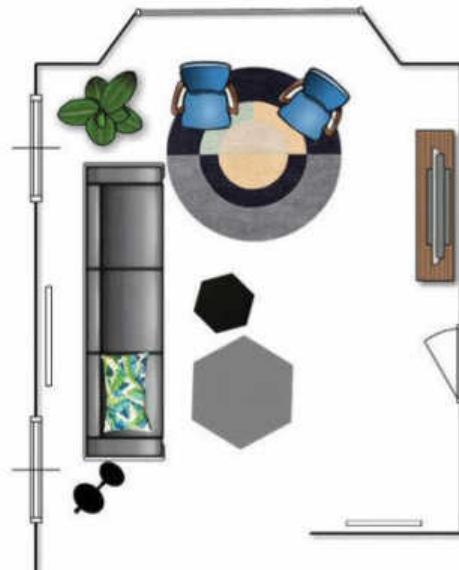
**THE SOLUTION**

- + The client had bought two mid-century chairs which she wanted to re-cover in a light teal fabric. Unfortunately, her chunky beige sectional couch did not work well with these smaller chairs or the wall colour, so we have replaced this with a more streamlined, retro-style sofa from Hunter Furniture.

- + The room lacked a layer of texture to help soften it and make it feel cosier and more complete. The access through from the hall to the adjacent dining room meant that a large rectangular rug was not appropriate, so we instead added a soft, low-pile circular rug under the occasional chairs, which helps define the area and adds warmth underfoot.

- + Another layer of texture has been incorporated via two hexagonal ottomans, which are covered in a soft, touchable, felt-like fabric. The ottomans have lockable castors for easy relocation whenever an extra surface or seat is needed. They also help break up the linear configuration of the room's layout.

- + Final touches such as cushions, side tables, occasional lighting and planters bring personality and interest to the room.

*room layout***BUDGET****TOTAL**

\$9,069

**Jo says:**

It's quite something to have someone arrange a room for you. Renovations are different as they are really what the house lends itself to, but placing items in a room is quite personal and usually comes at the end of a very expensive journey if you've just renovated.

I was interested to see that Tina used the entire space for the lounge whereas we were just using the area around the bay window, to the left of the hall door. I also like that she placed the round mat just under the occasional chairs, which I think is the perfect solution for adding texture without delineating the centre of the space (something most of us feel is necessary in a lounge setting).

Thanks so much, Tina, for your design concepts, time and effort. It's definitely worth having someone else interpret a space independently and come up with fresh ideas. It's exactly the kickstart I needed!

*colour palette*

**DULUX**  
'Southern Alps'

**MARTHA'S FABRICS**  
Vibrant woolen fabric  
in turquoise

get the look

**TINA STEPHEN**  
Interior designer

**WIN!**

Does a room in your home need a new look? Interior designer Tina Stephen will come up with a personalised design concept for one lucky reader each month. All we need are photos of the room, a description of the problems, and a brief overview of the style you'd like. Email [yhg@bauermedia.co.nz](mailto:yhg@bauermedia.co.nz) with 'Room Service' in the subject line. You can see more of Tina's work at [roomie.co.nz](http://roomie.co.nz).

moodboard

FACT FILE Palms **cushion**, \$40, from Kico; Gordon Walters **print**, \$85, from Father Rabbit; **lamp**, \$549, from Citta; small hex **ottoman**, \$199, from Freedom. Lamp, lightshade and chair, owner's own. For all other items, see above.

# Design dilemmas

Three homeowners stuck on kitchen lighting, leopard print and affordable outdoor furniture get some solid advice from Alex

Text by Alex Fulton.

## Hi Alex

We are currently doing up our kitchen and are a little stuck for ideas when it comes to lighting up our kitchen island area. We have searched high and low on the internet for inspiration but then get stuck when it comes to sourcing what we like. We are not that keen on three pendants in a line, which is what so many people have. We want to do something different but still effective for its task.  
Rich and Amber, Christchurch (via Facebook)

Lighting can make or break a space, especially in a kitchen where there are both practical and decorative needs. Finding a lighting solution that covers both bases is tricky, but well worth putting in the effort to get a look that works for you and your design/functional needs.

Asking an expert in this field is extremely beneficial as they have ideas as well as product knowledge that could save you time and internet scrolling! Tina Stephen from Roomie is a lighting specialist and she has some crazy-good ideas that will help your kitchen be different but still effective. Tina says: "Downlights are far and away the most efficient lighting for task areas, especially for island benches, but if you are keen on the aesthetic of pendants, there are a few options which avoid the 'three in a row' configuration. You could choose a tiered cluster of three at



one end of the bench, then offset that with one or two downlights at the other end of the bench (depending on the length). Another dramatic look is to play with a sense of scale, and choose two oversized pendants spaced evenly along the bench, usually on either side of the sink area." Tina also suggests having all kitchen lights on a dimmer, and to balance these with the correct amount of task and ambient light in the remainder of the kitchen and adjacent areas.

## Hi Alex

I just wanted to know if you think leopard print is making a comeback. And do you think that it would be tacky if I used it in a bedroom?

I have a massive, black-velvet, buttoned headboard that pretty much dominates the room (in fact, it's so dominant it has its own whip and riding crop! Lol). No, really, what are your thoughts? I was going to add a touch of hot pink and some French black-and-white-striped breakfast cushions as well.  
Penny, My Tiny Vignette (via Instagram)



Hi, Penny. Thank you so much for your very intriguing question. All too often I get asked about comebacks and trends and if it's okay to use such-and-such an item or look. You know what I say?

I say, comebacksschmumbacks. I say, trendsschmembs. If you want a leopard-print headboard, you do it. If you want to pair it with French stripes, then do it. Maybe rethink the breakfast cushions and modernise them with larger, more user-friendly euro-sized cushions, and use a variety of textures and patterns to link the two strong patterns together. Work within a three- or four-colour combination and this will make the design story cohesive.



**ALEX FULTON**  
Interior designer

## Hi Alex

As we're nearing the end of winter we are starting to think about doing up our tired backyard and making it a more functional space that we could entertain in and generally make more use of. It's off the kitchen, which has been recently renovated, but we ran out of ideas when it came to an outdoor room. Where can we find outdoor furniture that doesn't look 'outdoorsy' and cheap BUT without having to pay big bucks?  
Denyse, Bucklands Beach

Outdoor furniture can be just as expensive as indoor furniture and, like any homeware, you tend to get what you pay for. Make a list of exactly what you want this space to do. Do you want it to be a place to relax in? How many people do you want to accommodate? What's your budget? Once you nail down these elements you can start to choose furniture that will cover your brief and provide you with the appropriate function and form. Get quite specific about what you are after and look around for something that suits your budget and your requirements. Here are some of my go-to stores for outdoor furniture:

> **Poynters:** They are based in Kingsland, Auckland, but also have a great online catalogue with clear images and good prices. They are really helpful and offer amazing customer service to help you if you are living outside the Auckland area. A favourite from them is the well-priced, New Zealand-made Le Funk range, which comes in nine colours. [poynters.co.nz](http://poynters.co.nz)

> **Design Warehouse:** Again, another really good website with a huge range of styles and ranges that will suit everyone. Teak, wicker, concrete, they have it all – and they, too, are really helpful in sourcing the right pieces for your spaces. [designwarehouse.co.nz](http://designwarehouse.co.nz)

> **Jardin:** Primarily sold online – however, you can view, but not buy, a sample of their range at the Home Ideas Centre (there's one in Auckland, as well as Wellington and Christchurch). They are the distributor for my favourite French outdoor-furniture brand, Fermob. Timeless and modern, these pieces are beautiful and come in an amazing range of colours. [jardin.co.nz](http://jardin.co.nz)

Have a question for Alex? Send it to [yhg@bauermedia.co.nz](mailto:yhg@bauermedia.co.nz) with 'Ask Alex' in the subject line.



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auckland: sylvia park 393 mt wellington hwy, mt wellington p (09) 573 0408

auckland: 20 beaumont st p (09) 357 3519

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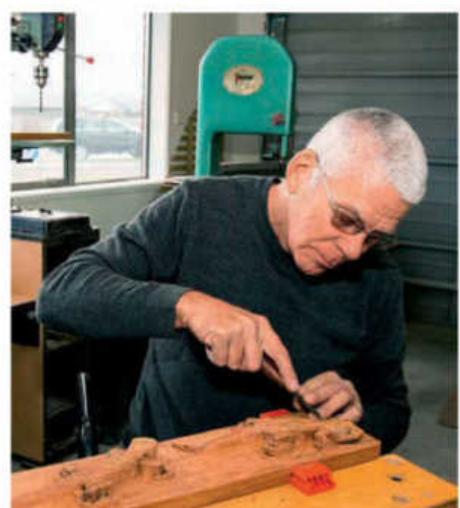
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new objects of desire

\*furniture and large accessory items are not kept in stock in store, orders can be placed for such items and home delivery or a handling fee will apply to these items. delivery times and fees will vary, ask a staff member for more details. stock may vary from store to store. some products may require assembly. while stocks last, orders can be taken on some of our stock items.

DESIGN INSPIRATION BY

# Generation Homes

As they approached retirement, John and Frances Casey knew they wanted to move from Auckland. The plan was to build a solid home in a small town to suit their budget and lifestyle. The couple partnered with national building company Generation Homes and, after careful consideration, settled on Cambridge in the Waikato.



**B**uilding a new home was a decision that John and Frances Casey didn't take lightly. The couple invested plenty of time researching and visiting small Waikato towns, including Te Aroha, Matamata and Te Kauwhata. They considered buying an existing property but also looked at sections online.

"We didn't think we could afford to build a new home but then we came across Cambridge Park and the Generation Homes showhome," said Frances. "After talking with staff and working through the figures, we decided we could do it."

Building a versatile home that could meet their mobility needs now and in the future was a key requirement of the build.

Settling on an 850 sq m section, the Caseys were supported by Generation Homes in selecting a four bedroom 'Generation for Life' house plan with key features including wider

doorways and hallways, and walk-in showers in both bathrooms.

For John, upgrading to a three-car garage was a must. As a keen wood-worker, he turned the extra garage space into a DIY workshop, while Frances transformed one of the spare bedrooms into a craft and sewing room.

The property's beautifully landscaped gardens are another key feature, which John and Frances love to share when entertaining friends and family.

The expat English couple, who have been proud Kiwis for the past 35 years, found their homebuilding experience so successful that their best friends from Auckland have since joined them in Cambridge and partnered with Generation Homes.

"The Generation Homes team was great to work with throughout the build and never failed to send us fresh photos and detailed reports every week," says John. "We can't praise them highly enough."

## TRUST THE EXPERTS

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For more design inspiration and homebuilding advice, visit [generation.co.nz](http://generation.co.nz).



# your Garden

Gardening, landscaping, outdoor rooms and plantscaping

## Hyacinths

These beautifully scented bulb blooms last for around seven days when cut and should be purchased when still in tight bud and showing little colour. The stems don't usually come very long so when re-cutting them (which you should always do with bought flowers), make sure it's only a couple of centimetres. There might be dirt hiding under the leaves, so give the stems a rinse before placing in water if displaying them in a clear vase. Once the flower looks like it's past its use-by date, you can pick off the individual blooms and thread them onto fishing line to create a head garland or necklace which will please any little fairy you have at your house!



Photography by Wendy Fenwick. Vase with three handles, \$65, from Source Home+Object.

**Outdoor diary** Page 120 **A private, contemporary courtyard** Page 122  
**Garden makeover** Page 126 **Indoor plants** Page 128 **Outdoor workshop: how to grow a great lawn** Page 132

# September's checklist

Text by Carol Bucknell. Illustrations by Pippa Fay.

+ Despite what the skies may tell you, it's officially the start of spring this month. As the weather warms, plant growth speeds up so plants will need an extra boost of nutrition to keep them going. Giving ornamental shrubs and trees a healthy sprinkle of sheep pellets and blood and bone around their root zones, followed by an all-purpose fertiliser, will set them up for the growing season.

+ If it's still cold and miserable outside but you need a garden fix, find a sheltered spot to sow seed for spring- and summer-flowering annuals. Sowing seed is slower but way cheaper than buying seedlings and the process is very satisfying. Plus, growing flowers will help keep the bees happy. Keep pots and punnets in a sheltered spot or under cover until seedlings are robust enough to go out into the garden.

**+ Hoe or pull out all those little weeds that pop up in mulch or garden beds during the wet weather, before they get their roots down deep and are a nightmare to dig out.**

+ Tougher weeds with deep taproots, such as dandelion and dock, need a little more effort but it's best to get onto them in early spring before they put on a big burst of growth and get even tougher to dig out. If you're not keen on chemical herbicides check online for organic controls.

**+ Lawns also need an energy boost in spring so they remain green and lush throughout summer. If lawns are wet and boggy, wait until they dry out before feeding.**

+ If you're a fan of roses there'll be plenty arriving at garden centres as spring kicks in. Try to choose varieties that are suited to your area to avoid having to use too many sprays. Many new varieties are resistant to black spot and other fungal diseases that plague roses in the warmer north.

+ Likewise with trees and shrubs, the garden centres and nurseries will be filling up with new plants and now is the time to plant them. Don't leave it until mid summer as most newly planted trees and shrubs won't establish as well when the ground is dry and temperatures are much warmer.

**+ Feed frangipanis as they come into bud and take cuttings for more plants. Cut pieces of stem about 50cm long and leave somewhere dry outside for about a week. Once the cut end forms a callus, pop into a mix of sand and potting compost and place in a warm, sheltered spot until roots have formed.**

## Flower of the month



One of the most divinely scented of all spring bulbs, **hyacinths** are often grown inside in pots or bulb glasses so their fragrance can really be appreciated. Flower spikes come in a range of colours including white, cream, yellow, pink, red and blue. Like all spring bulbs, hyacinths are traditionally planted in autumn, 10-15cm deep. Many gardeners store bulbs in the fridge for 3-4 weeks before planting to encourage better flowering. Don't worry if you missed the boat for autumn planting as you can always buy bulbs that are starting to shoot in spring. Placing them in a bulb glass means you can watch roots and leaves gradually develop until those gorgeous, scented flowers emerge. The cooler the room, the longer hyacinth blooms will last.

## TOP TABLE

Love afternoon tea in the garden? We think this fabulous white powder-coated steel outdoor table and chair set would be just the ticket. \$442 for the set plus freight from [homelandz.co.nz](http://homelandz.co.nz)



## KITCHEN GARDEN

### HARVEST

> **Early spring is asparagus season.** If you've just planted your asparagus crowns, cut only a few spears this year (when they're about 15-20cm long) and gradually increase your harvest in following seasons. Asparagus beds take about 4-5 years before the entire crop can be picked. Let the remaining spears turn into ferns and don't remove until they're brown so the energy goes back into the plant.

> **After harvesting carrots** lose their taste and juiciness very quickly so they're at their most delicious straight from the garden. Thinning your crops several times through the growing period ensures nice big carrots at the final harvest, and the thin carrots you take out can be used in stir-fries and salads.

> **When broad beans** are at full height and have produced plenty of flowers, cut the tops off plants. Pick pods regularly to encourage plants to keep producing more. Slice up young pods whole, or leave them a little longer and shell them. As always with veges, the younger you pick them, the sweeter the taste.

> **Avocado trees** can take 2-4 years before they fruit and it can take up to a year after flower pollination before they ripen. Pick when they reach full size or skin darkens, then keep at room temperature until they soften.

> **Leave leeks** in the ground until you're ready to harvest but don't let them flower. Ideal picking size is about 2.5cm in diameter.

> **Pick the outer leaves** of non-hearting lettuce such as cos and Little Gem but wait for the head to form on crisp hearting lettuce such as iceberg. Crisp head lettuces last longest in the fridge.

> **Harvest early-maturing onions** when tops start to go brown, or earlier if you'd like to use them as spring onions.

### SOW

> **Sow cabbage seed** into punnets or pots to be transplanted into the garden when seedlings have 4-5 leaves.

> **Sow parsnip seed** directly into the ground and thin out seedlings to roughly 10cm apart when plants produce their third pair of leaves. Fresh seed is best with parsnip as their viability (ability to germinate) can be quite short.

> **For young gardeners** fast-growing radishes are an ideal crop to sow, either directly into the ground or in pots (the best course of action in very frosty places).

> **Sow lettuces a few seeds** at a time, successively every 2-3 weeks, at a depth of 6mm or less.

> **Also sow seed for beans**, courgettes, tomatoes and cucumber in pots under cover, for planting out when weather warms up. All need warm temperatures (18-25°C) for best growth.



**CAROL BUCKNELL**

Garden editor

### TIP

Kumara is more nutritious than potato and just as versatile. They can be baked, roasted or mashed and leaves and shoots can be used in stir-fries. Sprout them by placing them in a plastic bag in a hot-water cupboard for about 4-8 weeks. Cut off sprouts and plant within 24 hours in pots until temperatures are warm enough (24°C) to plant outside in the garden.



### PLANT

> **If the ground** is still very cold in your area avoid planting early potatoes directly into the garden as this will encourage disease. Try them in large containers instead.

> **Broad beans are said** to help deter pests from attacking potatoes (and vice versa) so try planting some near each other.

> **Yams can be sprouted** like potatoes by sitting them on a tray or egg carton in a dry place for a few weeks. Plant out in garden after last frost, ideally in a sunny site with light, fertile, well-drained soil. If frost does damage leaves, most root vegetables will usually sprout again once the temperatures rise. Yams can be grown in warmer parts of the country all year round but only in late spring and summer in frosty regions.

> **It's not too late to plant** rhubarb crowns or divide existing plants to form new crowns. Add organic matter such as compost and manure to well-drained garden beds before planting.

> **Sow super-nutritious broccoli** in punnets or trays in a sheltered, light area and plant out seedlings, once they're about 10-15cm high, into well-drained but moisture-retentive, fertile soil. Protect young seedlings from birds and caterpillars when planting out in a warm, sunny position.





#### FEATURE GARDEN

# The secret garden

A completely blank canvas has been transformed into a private contemporary courtyard on the fringe of Auckland's city centre

Text by Carol Bucknell. Photography by Helen Bankers.

**T**he courtyard garden has been around for thousands of years, its basic enclosed form adapted through the centuries to suit the lifestyles of different generations. So it is with this contemporary courtyard garden that Claire and Nye O'Shannessy have developed for their recently built Mt Albert home. Enclosed on three sides by the house and on the fourth by a boundary fence, their sunny

courtyard is an oasis of sheltered private outdoor living. There's no hint of the noise and bustle of the streets outside and there's little wind to disturb the serenity.

Just as the inhabitants of the first walled gardens did, the couple and their two daughters, Isla and Neve, spend a lot of time in their courtyard sanctuary.

"In the summer the big sliding doors are open until late; it really is an extension of the house," says Claire. "We eat out there most nights in the summer as a family and also like to have people round for barbecues. It's so nice to see everyone enjoying the space."

**SITE** The couple bought the narrow 750-square-metre site four years ago with the aim of subdividing it. They moved an existing bungalow to the back of the section, living there while Nye, a builder, worked on their new home. "The opportunity to do something new from a clean slate was very appealing," says Claire.

To ensure they could maximise the space available they commissioned architect Jan Bernau to design the house and award-winning landscape designer Xanthe White to create the garden. "The brief we gave Xanthe was for a lush, 'secret garden' feel, with an area for outdoor dining," says Claire. "It provides our 'view' as well as another room to the house so it needed to be practical as well as attractive."

**LANDSCAPING** Although there was no existing garden when they began, just a building site, this gave Xanthe a completely blank canvas to work with. Having a live-in builder was another plus. "Nye did all the hard landscaping work himself along with his team of builders and a few willing family members," says Claire. "Most of the major excavating was done when the house was built but we did have to bring in lots of new garden mix. Although the soil here is pretty good, we used raised planter beds to create some depth in the outdoor area and help enclose the space."

Cushions and table settings all from Citta. Mexican blanket and large Mexican serving bowl on the table, Claire's own.

**COURTYARD** Paved in limestone chip, the sheltered courtyard is surrounded on all sides allowing the family to eat and entertain out there virtually all year round.





**“We liked the idea of creating something private, our own secret garden, that we could appreciate from inside and out”**

**STYLE** The garden is contemporary in style, complementing the clean, crisp lines of the architecture. The planting is a mixture of natives and Claire's favourite subtropicals. “My dad has quite a big subtropical garden in Mangawhai and I like that feeling of being on holiday it evokes,” she explains. “I love the large dramatic leaves of the tropical plants; a big impact in a small space. We also wanted a relatively low-maintenance garden. We quite like getting out there and pottering away but didn't want it to be a burden. Mostly it's pruning, which is a better alternative to weeding.”

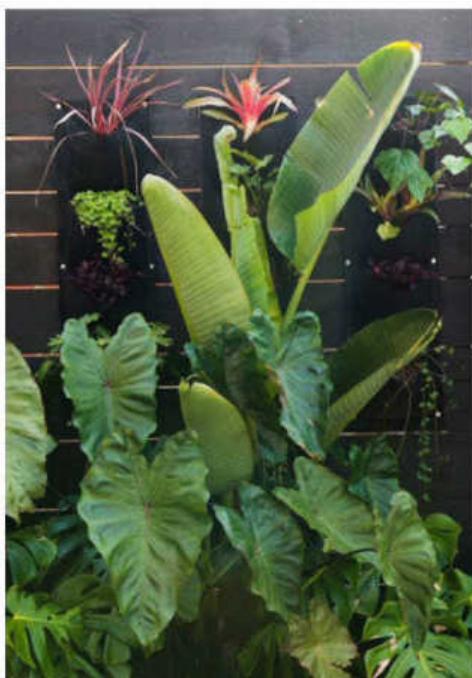
Cleverly, for a small subdivided site, there are also no neighbours looking in. “We liked the idea of creating something private – our own secret garden, so to speak – that we could appreciate from inside and out,” Claire says.

Having two courtyards (there's one at the front, too) means the family can use the spaces for different activities and at different times of the day but the main courtyard is where they like to hang out most. “The front entrance courtyard is a lovely sunny spot in the winter, but a bit under-utilised right now as we need some furniture out there,” she admits. “The original landscaping plan had some bench seats, which are yet to be built. We definitely use the main courtyard the most at the moment.”



**PLANTING** Palms are one of the key plant groups in the garden, emphasising the subtropical theme. The tall, upright form of the palms and the giant bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*) will eventually help balance the height of the house. Nye's a big fan of the palms while Claire loves the Japanese maples and fruit salad plants (*Monstera*). “We don't have many flowering plants in there so the Japanese maples and bromeliads add colour all year round,” she says. There's also no lawn – not a traditional one, anyway. Instead Xanthe designed ornamental lawns of creeping baby fern (*Leptinella*) for each courtyard, the bright green foliage contrasting beautifully with the dark-coloured walls of the house.

The couple are keen kitchen gardeners. “We have a rampant herb garden, with thyme, rosemary, basil, oregano, parsley and Vietnamese mint, and a lemon tree. We have experimented with growing edibles in pots, too, and lettuces in felt pockets. However, the best success was the strawberries this year,” enthuses Claire.



**STANDOUT FEATURES** When asked for her favourite feature in the garden, Claire can't pinpoint just one. For her and Nye, it's the overall atmosphere of their secret garden that has given them so much joy. "It's definitely not the traditional big Kiwi backyard but I think that is no longer realistic for many people in Auckland," she says. "So instead we wanted a really usable space, maximising what outdoor area we did have and creating somewhere we could relax and eat outside as a family."

"The kids still manage to find fun out there. They potter around making 'perfumes' or finding insects and having picnics on the 'lawn'. There are plenty of parks and the school in walking distance, so if we need a little more space it's easy enough to find."

Although small, the courtyard has been designed so efficiently that there is ample room for all the extended family, or lots of friends, to come over. When that happens, says Claire, "the kids (there can be quite a few at times) usually find a place to play while the adults can enjoy some time to themselves". ●

**OPPOSITE** There's plenty of space outside for Claire to play with Isla and Neve. This page: The view of the courtyard from the main bedroom upstairs. The palms, bird of paradise and taro create a delightful subtropical ambience.

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AT YOUR DISPOSAL

# Hillside hideaway

A new build nestled in the Port Hills of Christchurch needs a classical landscaping plan to suit its traditional style

Text and plan by Carol Bucknell. Illustrations by Shani Luckman.



## Dear Carol

We are building a new home on a roughly 1000-square-metre hillside property. Our garden is split into areas, rather than one large yard at the front or back. One of the key areas is the front yard and patio (where we'd like both a kids' play area and somewhere for entertaining) and I'd love your help with this.

We live in the sleepy Heathcote Valley, nestled in the Port Hills of Christchurch and now famed for being the epicentre of the earthquakes. We have considered the surrounds of our home in its design and are creating a classical, two-storey bungalow, which will include features such as high ceilings and wooden windows but still have a modern feel.

We would like to continue the traditional, classical feel in the garden and landscaping. We'd also like to plant more natives. With two young boys to run around after, we are looking for it to be as maintenance-free as possible. Somewhere we need to include a picking garden. I love flowers and would love to be able to grow and then display them in my home.

We are not overly exposed to any strong winds. Heathcote has its own microclimate and is often 1-2 degrees warmer than the flat areas of Christchurch.

**Katie Ridley and family, Christchurch**

## CAROL'S SOLUTION



## SUGGESTED PLANTING PLAN

- 1 PATHWAYS** Make new path to run from front of deck along edge of low retaining wall to street. Use pavers or recycled brick in traditional pattern.
- 2 TRADITIONAL TOUCH** Disguise base of house and low retaining walls with divaricating native shrubs kept trimmed into an informal hedge to give the garden a traditional yet contemporary structure.
- 3 ON THE EDGE** Plant low native perennials around the edges of the entertaining terrace to soften it into the landscape.
- 4 ON THE TERRACE** Use same paving materials as a hard surface for the outdoor entertaining terrace to create continuity through front garden.
- 5 SOFT TOUCH** Soften and screen the high retaining wall by planting prostrate groundcovers to cascade over the edge.
- 6 IN BLOOM** Plant flowering annuals and perennials for picking among native grasses on top of high retaining wall at back of site.

### TIP

When planting in clay soils don't dig when wet and add plenty of organic matter such as seaweed, well-rotted compost or leaf mould beforehand. Make a large hole for each plant and break up sides and bottom. Don't backfill hole with clay soil; instead incorporate good-quality growing mix. Mulch regularly with organic material such as bark or pea straw.

## PLANTING OPTIONS

**LOW HEDGES** Try corokia varieties such as 'Frosted Chocolate', 'Bronze King', 'Geenty's Green' or 'Mangatangi', *Coprosma virescens*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii*.

**EDGING FOR TERRACE** *Festuca coxii*, *Libertia peregrinans*, *Libertia ixoides*, *Euphorbia glauca*, dwarf flaxes such as 'Surfer', 'Jack Spratt' or 'Bronze Baby'.

### GROUNDCOVERS TO GROW OVER SIDES OF TOP RETAINING WALL

Prostrate manuka cultivars such as 'Red Falls', native daphne (*Pimelea prostrata*), low-growing coprosmas such as 'Red Rocks', 'Taiko' and *Coprosma neglecta*.

**FLOWERS FOR PICKING** Plant among existing grasses on top bank. Try achillea, aster, black-eyed Susan, echinacea, coreopsis, cosmos, cornflowers, dahlia, lavender, salvia, shasta daisy, sunflowers.



Corokia 'Frosted Chocolate'



Euphorbia glauca



Sunflower



Pimelea prostrata

**NOTE** Most of the plants listed here are suitable for the conditions of this particular site, which is mainly sunny with shade close to the northwest boundary fence. These plant suggestions are a guide only. Check them out at your local nursery and ask about their growth rate, height and spread, and whether they're suitable for your garden's conditions.

### Need help?

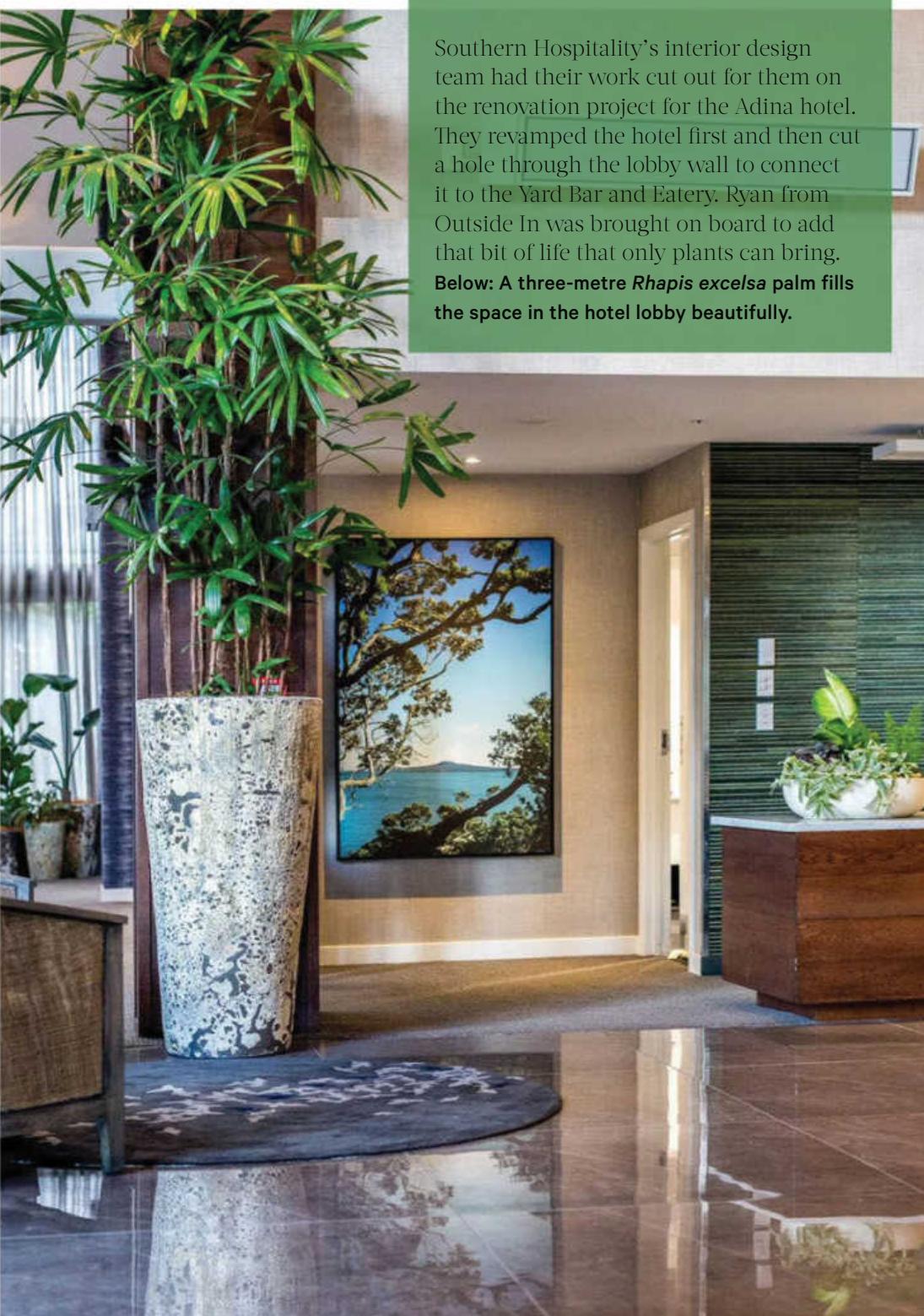
Does an area of your garden need a revamp? Garden editor and landscape designer Carol Bucknell will come up with a plan for some lucky readers. All we need are photographs of your problem area, details of where you live, a site description (where north is, the soil type, whether your garden is exposed to wind or heat) and the style of garden you would like.

**SEND TO** Case Study, Your Home and Garden, Bauer Media, Private Bag 92512, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010, or email [yhg@bauermedia.co.nz](mailto:yhg@bauermedia.co.nz). We can't feature everyone's garden in the magazine, but if you'd like some personal design advice, you can contact Carol at [carolbucknell.co.nz](http://carolbucknell.co.nz).

# The hotel project

An innercity Auckland apartment hotel complex gets a total facelift and a good dose of greenery from Ryan at Outside In

Text compiled by Kristina Rapley. Photography by Ruth Beale.

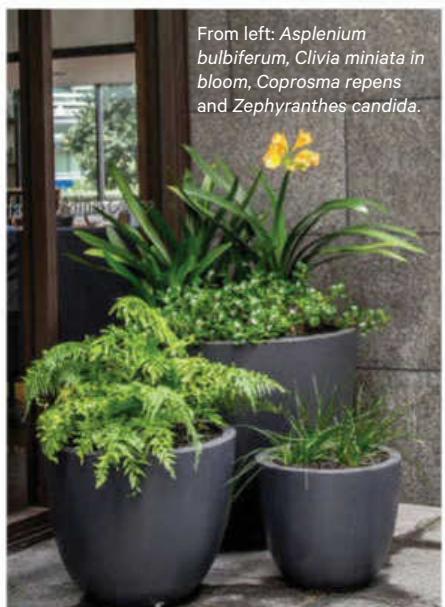


Southern Hospitality's interior design team had their work cut out for them on the renovation project for the Adina hotel. They revamped the hotel first and then cut a hole through the lobby wall to connect it to the Yard Bar and Eatery. Ryan from Outside In was brought on board to add that bit of life that only plants can bring.  
Below: A three-metre *Rhipis excelsa* palm fills the space in the hotel lobby beautifully.

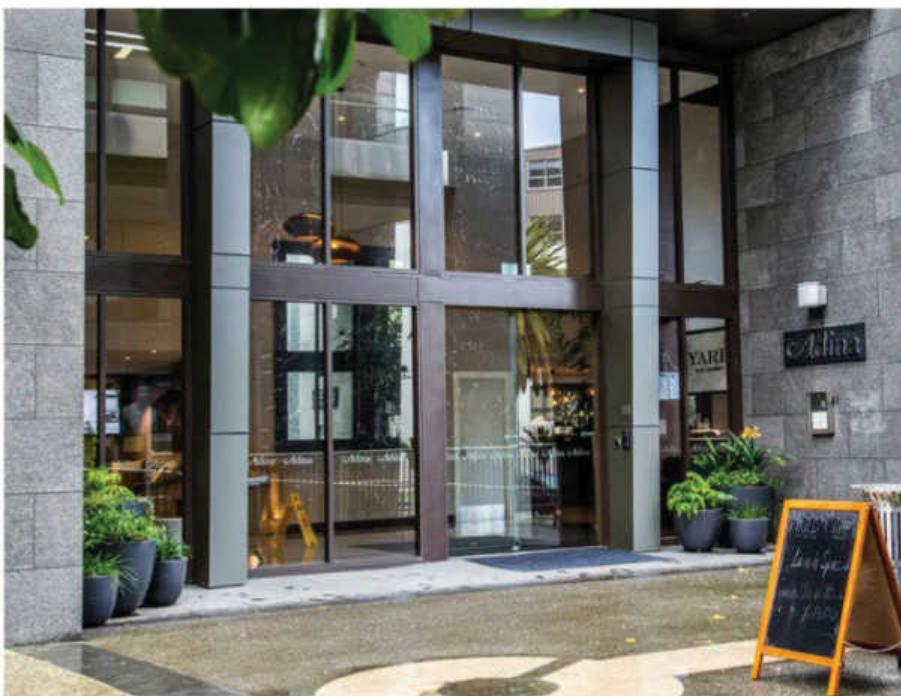


A large bowl with a pretty mixture of foliage plants creates a fresh, welcoming feel at reception.

The first part of the brief was to add some greenery to the entrance lobby. Being a tall space, it needed plants that would be large enough to make an impact. They also wanted greenery outside the entrance to soften the space.



From left: *Asplenium bulbiferum*, *Clivia miniata* in bloom, *Coprosma repens* and *Zephyranthes candida*.



**Below left:** A grouping of *Zephyranthes candida*, *Pratia angulata*, *Liriope muscari* and *Asplenium bulbiferum* underplanted with *Vinca minor*.

**Below:** *Ficus lyrata*, *Strelitzia nicolai*, *Philodendron xanadu* and *Sansevieria superba 'Green'*.



**RYAN MCQUERRY**  
Horticulturalist, Outside In



"For outside the entrance we created some lovely pot groupings with lush, deep greens that could tolerate the low light levels on the south side of the building. We chose anthracite-coloured pots which worked in well with the charcoal building tiles and black steel beams," says Ryan.



Earthy, rustic-looking pots complement the dark timber and warm, natural-toned tiles in the interior.

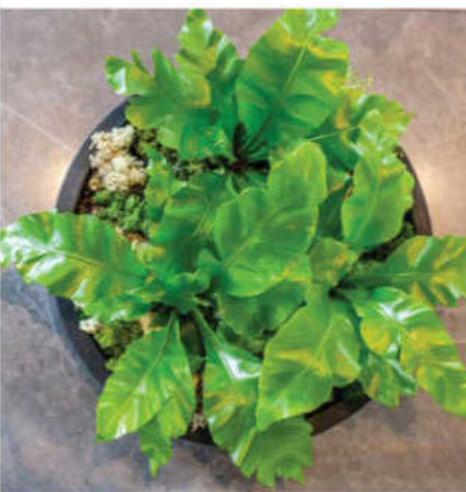


"They had a tricky wall in the bar which was tucked in behind a pillar, creating a void, so we decided to transform it into a green wall. Using the same timber as in the bar, we designed a series of shelves that our greenery could sit into. Instead of a dead space, the bar now has a lovely feature that's full of life," says Ryan (pictured beneath the green wall).

*Philodendron cordatum, Asplenium bulbiferum, speckled Scindapsus pictus, Rhipsalis capilliformis and Zamiooculcas zamiifolia* mingle on the custom-built green wall.



**BELOW** A pot of *Asplenium nidus* and reindeer moss adds another burst of greenery to the bar and eatery.



ADINA APARTMENT HOTEL, 2 TAPORA ST, AUCKLAND | 09 393 8200 |  
[TFEHOTELS.COM/BRANDS/ADINA-APARTMENT-HOTELS/ADINA-APARTMENT-HOTEL-AUCKLAND-BRITOMART](http://TFEHOTELS.COM/BRANDS/ADINA-APARTMENT-HOTELS/ADINA-APARTMENT-HOTEL-AUCKLAND-BRITOMART)



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WORKSHOP

# Male grooming

An immaculate lawn – the pride and joy of many a man – requires a solid foundation, patience and regular upkeep

Text by Carol Bucknell.



Photography by Duncan Innes.



**W**hat could be simpler, you ask. Just scatter some seed and you've got grass, right? Not quite. Growing the perfect lawn is a little like painting your house – it's all about the prep. Neglect the basics and you'll end up with weeds for Africa and a lawn that just won't cut the mustard in the summer heat or winter downpours. Follow our 10-point starter list and your grass will definitely be greener this summer.

### 1 GROUND WORK

Whether you're sowing seed or laying turf for a new lawn, the preparation is virtually the same. The better the prep, the healthier and stronger the germinating grass seeds will be. Remove any weed and old lawn remnants then use a spade or rotary hoe, depending on the size of your lawn, to cultivate the soil to a crumbly mix around 15cm deep. Leave for around three weeks so you can keep digging out weeds as they germinate or re-sprout.

### 2 SOIL TEST

It may sound a little scientific but it's worth getting the right pH (acidity level) in your soil. Grass prefers a pH of 6.0-7.5, but many soils, particularly in rainy areas, are too acidic (the lower the number, the more acidic). A soil test kit from a hardware store will tell you where your soil sits on the pH scale. If your soil is acidic, raking gypsum or lime into the topsoil at least 2-3 weeks prior to planting or sowing will help.

### 3 DOWN THE DRAIN

Most grasses will not thrive in wet, boggy soil. If you are sowing or turfing a new lawn onto heavy clay soil, spreading gypsum and lime (as detailed above) may not be enough to break it all up. In which case, you may also need to remove some of the clay and replace it with good-quality topsoil so grass seedlings can get a good start. They'll need about 10-15cm of good soil to do well. If your lawn is a swamp consider laying drainage coils.

### TIP

Wait until grass is 5cm tall before mowing. Blunt mowers can pull out young grass plants and clippings can smother them, so make sure the lawnmower blades are sharp and use a catcher when mowing new grass.



## 4 FERTILISE

Before sowing seed or laying turf give the soil a good feed. For lush green grass you need specific nutrients so don't just rely on the existing fertility levels of the soil. Use a fertiliser that's designed for the job, such as Thrive Granular All Purpose Plant Food, which contains an even balance of NPK – nitrogen, potassium and, most importantly, phosphorus, which is essential for developing grass seedlings. Spread evenly over the entire area.



Stanley **rake**,  
\$89.98, from  
Mitre 10.

## 5 LEVEL IT

If you don't want a bumpy lawn, make the surface of the ground nice and even before sowing seed or laying turf. Do the same when renovating existing lawns. First, fill in noticeable hollows with topsoil, then level with a wide rake. Check your progress by laying a piece of sawn timber on the ground with a level on top. Rake surface, leave to settle for a week or so then re-level. The soil may also need compacting if it is very soft. Do this by treading firmly over soil or hire a roller for large areas.

## 6 TOP SEED

When sowing or renovating lawns it's vital to choose a grass seed mix that suits your site and the type of wear the lawn will get. Whether it's shady, hot, or used for backyard cricket, there are plenty of mixes to choose from in garden centres or you can try a specialist turf seed supplier. Sow seed on a windless day, ideally in the early morning. Sowing half the mix in a north-south direction, and the rest in an east-west direction gives an even spread. This is also a good method when fertilising lawns.

## 7 WATER

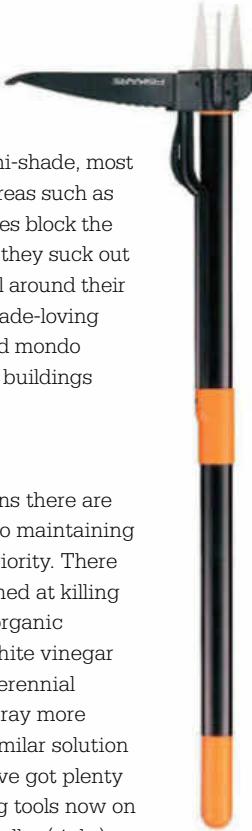
Whether renovating an existing lawn or starting a new one, regular light watering (just enough to dampen the ground) of young grass seedlings is essential, up to 2-3 times a day if temperatures are high. Once grass is growing strongly you can gradually reduce the watering times to about once a week, unless weather is very hot.



Tui Superstrike **Lawn Seed** Shady Places  
750g, \$29.99.

## 8 IN THE SHADE

Although there are some lawn seed mixes such as Tui Superstrike Shady that will grow in semi-shade, most grass will not thrive in deeply shaded areas such as under large trees. Not only will large trees block the sunlight essential for grass growth, but they suck out all the nutrients and moisture in the soil around their root zones. Far better to grow tough, shade-loving plants such as rengarenga lily, clivia and mondo grass under trees or in areas shaded by buildings for most of the day.



## 9 WEED FREE

A healthy, well-fed lawn means there are less gaps for weed invasion so maintaining a good fertilising regime is your first priority. There are many herbicides on the market aimed at killing weeds in lawns but if you'd prefer an organic approach, try pouring boiling water, white vinegar or salt into the centre of deep-rooted perennial weeds such as dock and dandelion. Spray more shallow-rooted annual weeds with a similar solution (check online for quantities). Or if you've got plenty of muscle try one of the handy weeding tools now on the market such as the Fiskars weed puller (right).

## 10 SLOPE OFF

Grass will grow on sloping ground but the big problem is: how do you mow it? Many gardeners prefer to plant out steep slopes with easycare shrubs and perennials rather than attempt this tricky job.



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# Make it toasty...

There's nothing better than a hot, gooey sandwich toasted to perfection. These ones are a twist on the old standard and just a little bit fancy

Recipes and styling by Fiona Hugues. Photography by Jani Shepherd. Gatherum Collectif.



**G**rilled cheese sandwiches are right up there with omelettes and bacon sarnies, I reckon, when it comes to hunger-busting, ready-in-a-flash meals. Whether your preferred means to melt is a sandwich grill, panini press or the good old frying pan, in mere minutes you are guaranteed a crisp, toasty package oozing with something hot and tasty.

On these pages you'll find my picks for grilled-sandwich greatness, inspired by childhood memories of mouthwatering toasties filled with piping hot cheese and tinned spaghetti. Most of these recipes are in the form of a guide to allow you to add or subtract ingredients, or vary the amounts, so you can custom-make your own magnificent melts. (For speed and minimal clean-up, I usually spray a little vegetable oil onto the outside of the bread but feel free to spread with butter or brush on oil if you prefer.)

ROAST PORK &  
APPLE MELT –  
SEE PAGE 140



# “The best thing about a mighty roast has to be the meat-packed sandwich made with leftovers the next day”

## ROAST PORK & APPLE MELT

SERVES 2

The best thing about a mighty roast dinner has to be the meat-packed sandwich made with leftovers the next day. In our house it was first in, first served, and more often than not someone missed out. So in an effort to avoid kitchen skirmishes and ensure everyone gets at least a few slices of roast pork, I've created this medley of bread and meaty goodness.

### INGREDIENTS

**Oil, for frying**

**1 Granny Smith apple, peel on, sliced thinly**

**1 Tbsp butter**

**8-10 fresh sage leaves**

**Cooking oil spray or vegetable oil**

**4 thick slices sourdough bread**

**4-6 slices cheese – I prefer gruyère or mozzarella**

**4 Tbsp balsamic onions (see recipe below)**

**At least 1 cup shredded roast pork (or use Magills slow-cooked pulled pork, from specialist food stores such as Farro)**

### BALSAMIC ONIONS

**3 Tbsp olive oil**

**4 medium onions, thinly sliced**

**3 Tbsp soft brown sugar**

**½ cup balsamic vinegar**

### FOR THE BALSAMIC ONIONS

**1** Heat olive oil in a large, heavy-based pot. Add sliced onions and a pinch of salt and pepper and cook over a medium heat, stirring occasionally, until soft and translucent (around 25 minutes).

**2** Sprinkle with the brown sugar and let it sit on top to melt slightly for 1-2 minutes before stirring in the balsamic vinegar. Cook for 10-15 minutes until the balsamic sauce has been almost completely absorbed. Cool and then spoon into a medium jar. It will keep for 10 days in the fridge; bring to room temperature before serving.

### FOR THE SANDWICHES

**1** Heat a little oil in a frying pan over medium heat and fry the apple slices until they are slightly browned around the edges. Remove and set aside.

**2** Add the butter to the pan and, just as it begins to foam, add the sage leaves and fry until just starting to crisp up (about 1 minute). Set aside.

**3** Spray or brush a little oil on one side of the bread slices, turn two over and layer each with the filling. I add a slice of cheese, a spoonful of balsamic onions, some pork and a layer of apple with some sage leaves dotted about. Season with a little pepper, add another slice of cheese and top with remaining slices of bread (oiled side on the outside).

**4** Cook in a sandwich grill, panini press or a frying pan over medium heat (turning once) until bread is starting to brown evenly and the cheese is oozing. Eat immediately.

## AUNTY MEG'S PORTABELLO MUSHROOM MELT SERVES 2

It's widely known that my sister-in-law Megan would do many things for a good feed of mushrooms, so much so that my brother has taken to cultivating them in his basement. Every time I make these dark, earthy sandwiches oozing with creamy blue cheese I have thoughts of wrapping one or two to send to her, but sadly there's never any left. Sorry, Megs xx

### INGREDIENTS

**2 Tbsp butter for frying, plus 2 Tbsp extra, softened for spreading**

**7-8 portabello mushrooms, sliced**

**Fresh thyme leaves**

**1 Tbsp balsamic syrup (balsamic glaze)**

**Cooking oil spray or vegetable oil**

**Wholemeal seed bread, cut into 4 thick slices**

**100g blue cheese (I used Saint Agur)**

**4 Tbsp balsamic onions (see previous recipe)**

**1** In a frying pan over medium heat, melt 2 Tbsp butter then add the sliced mushrooms and a sprinkle of thyme leaves and fry until mushrooms are golden around the edges. Season with salt and pepper and remove from the heat.

**2** Use a fork to mix together the balsamic syrup and 2 Tbsp softened butter until combined.

**3** Brush or spray oil onto one side of the bread slices then turn two over and spread with some of the balsamic butter. Add a couple of blobs of blue cheese and then top with a generous amount of mushrooms and some balsamic onions. Follow with more dots of blue cheese.

**4** Top with remaining bread (oiled side outermost) and grill in a sandwich grill, panini press or frying pan on medium heat (flip once) until hot, the bread is browning and the cheese is oozing.

AUNTY MEG'S  
PORTABELLO  
MUSHROOM MELT





# “Stuffed full of corn chips for that crunch factor”

## MEXICAN CHIP SANDWICH

SERVES 2

Crunchy chips packed inside sandwiches were a mighty fine part of every Kiwi kid's lunch back when I was a freckle-faced Raleigh 20 bike-rider. Buttered bread and a packet of chips in our lunchboxes and we were off on all-day adventures. This heat-packing beef creation is my mature rendition of that old favourite, stuffed full of corn chips for that crunch factor.

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup shredded roast beef (or use Magills slow-cooked pulled beef, from specialist food stores such as Farro).  
1/4 cup or more habanero sauce (I used Culley's)  
Vegetable oil or cooking oil spray  
4 thick slices bread  
4-6 large slices cheese (I used tasty and mozzarella)  
1/2 cup sour cream  
About 1½ cups taco chips  
8-12 pickled jalapeno slices, plus extra to serve  
Fresh coriander leaves, to serve  
Sliced limes, for squeezing

## SPAGHETTI & EGGPLANT QUICKIE SERVES 2

My Frenchman recoils in horror at the idea of cooked spaghetti in a tin, which to me is a tragedy as munching a tinned spaghetti and cheese toasted sandwich is a delicious part of growing up as a Kiwi kid, especially when your mum makes it. In this recipe I've used leftover cooked spaghetti, not tinned, and added some eggplant for a fancier version – and both my kids and Frenchman love it.

### INGREDIENTS

1-2 eggplants, thinly sliced  
Olive oil, for drizzling and brushing  
4 thick slices good-quality sourdough bread  
Fresh basil leaves  
Fresh mozzarella (I used roughly half a ball per sandwich)  
1-2 cups leftover spaghetti with tomato sauce  
Kalamata olives, pitted

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C fanbake. Lay eggplant in a single layer on a lined oven tray

and sprinkle with olive oil. Bake in oven for 15 minutes until cooked and beginning to brown. (Or grill the eggplant in batches at about 200°C until starting to brown.)

2 Brush one side of the sliced bread with oil (or use an oil spray). Turn over two slices and cover each with a slice or two of eggplant. Lay a few basil leaves on top. Next add a few pieces of torn mozzarella. Carefully twist and knot some tomato spaghetti on top. Add another slice or two of eggplant, some more mozzarella, an olive or two, more basil leaves and top with remaining bread (oiled side outermost). Press down with your hand and tuck any stray bits in.

3 Grill in a sandwich grill, panini press or frying pan on medium heat (flip once) until hot, beginning to brown and the cheese is oozing.

4 Serve with extra kalamata olives and a sprinkle of salt and pepper.

1 Place beef in a small bowl and pour over habanero sauce (use more or less, depending on how hot you like it). Mix to coat.

2 Brush or spray oil onto one side of bread. Turn over two slices and on each lay a slice or two of cheese and some of the spiced beef. Dot beef with sour cream. Lay some taco chips on top and gently press down with your hand to crack them and make them flatter. Sprinkle over a few jalapeno slices and top with more sliced cheese.

3 Lay other bread slices on top (oiled side outermost) and cook in sandwich grill, panini press or frying pan on medium heat (flip once) until the cheese is oozing, the meat is hot and the bread browned. Serve with fresh coriander, sliced limes, extra jalapenos and beer!

MEXICAN CHIP  
SANDWICH



## CHOCOLATE, BANANA & MASCARPONE IN EGGY FRENCH TOAST SERVES 2

We had a Ralta sandwich maker when we were kids and it got one hell of a workout every afternoon after school. Most of the time we'd just shove cheese in it, but occasionally we'd switch to mashed banana and chocolate. With its lip-scaldingly hot filling sealed inside toasted bread, it made a magnificent sandwich – but this grown-up version is even better. Here, I've sandwiched banana between eggy French toast with drizzles of cinnamon and chocolate, all glued together with creamy mascarpone. Perfect for brunch on the run.

### INGREDIENTS

**½ cup milk**  
**½ tsp cinnamon, plus extra for dusting**  
**1 tsp caster sugar**  
**2 free-range eggs**  
**Vegetable oil and a little butter, for frying**  
**Soft white cob loaf, cut into 4 x 1.5cm-thick slices**  
**½ cup mascarpone**  
**2 bananas, sliced**  
**Milk chocolate, gently melted**  
**Icing sugar, for dusting**

**1** In a bowl add the milk, cinnamon, caster sugar and eggs and gently whisk together until combined.

**2** Heat a little oil and butter in a frying pan over medium heat. Dip a slice of bread into the egg mixture and turn over to coat. Let the excess drip off then place in the frying pan and cook for 2-3 minutes on each side until evenly browned. Set aside to keep warm while you repeat with the other slices.

**3** Smear a thick layer of mascarpone onto two slices, top with sliced banana and a sprinkle of cinnamon. Drizzle with melted chocolate and top with another slice of eggy toast.

**4** Dust with icing sugar and serve immediately while still warm.



# Swap water for stock

*"I love using Real Stock for its convenience and the flavour it adds" – Manu Feildel*



Campbell's.

## OVEN-BAKED CHICKEN RISOTTO

SERVES 4

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 100g bacon, sliced
- 500g chicken thigh fillets, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tsp lemon rind
- 1 tbsp fresh rosemary, finely chopped
- ½ tsp dried chilli flakes (optional)
- 2 cups Arborio rice
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 litre (4 cups) Campbell's Real Stock – Chicken
- Grated Parmesan to serve

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Heat oil in a large, flame-proof, oven-proof dish over medium heat. Cook onion and bacon for 2 minutes. Add chicken and cook for 3-4 minutes, then add garlic, lemon rind, rosemary and chilli. Cook for a further 2 minutes.
2. Add rice and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Mix tomato paste and Campbell's Real Stock in a jug, stirring to combine. Pour over rice. Bake, covered, for 35 minutes or until rice is just tender and liquid has almost been absorbed.
3. Stir through parmesan and serve.



# GET THE LOOK



## BENEFITS OF THE DOUBT PAGE 54

**LIVING** Walls in ply – stained in rimu; sofa from Casual and Country; blue cushions from Farmers; brown and white cushion from Citta Design; coffee table from Casual and Country; surfboard from Hawaii surf shop; shutters original; cross unknown; pendant light from Early Settler; stand light from Lighting Plus; fireplace from Mitre 10; concrete blocks painted in Dulux 'Bethells Beach'; 'Life' artwork from Australia; wood baskets from unknown.

**MEZZANINE LOUNGE** Striped chair from Hunters Furniture; pouf from Corcovado; black coffee table from Casual and Country; tall black floor-standing vase from Acquisitions; vintage art from unknown. **STUDY** Walls in Dulux 'Bethells Beach'; trestle desk from Freedom; chair from Asko Design; mat from Nordic Chill; stand light from Lighting Plus; wire basket from Tea Pea.

**DINING** Table, chairs and side cabinet from Casual and Country; embossed wallpaper from Hubbers Furnishings; three bowls from Dusk Gallery; large bowl from shop that has closed; print from unknown. **KITCHEN** Cabinetry from Murray Hewitt Joinery; benchtops are Corian; bar stools from Casual and Country. **GUS' ROOM** Walls in Resene 'Quarter Drought'; bed from Harvey Norman; rug from Casual and Country.

**MILLIE'S ROOM** Walls in Dulux 'Bethells Beach' and 'Waitoa Quarter'; gold decals from Light in

the Box; bedlinen from Citta Design; pendant lights from Lighting Plus; metal tables from Casual and Country; bird artworks from Raw Nova; shelf from Nordic Chill. **MAIN BEDROOM** Walls in Resene 'Quarter Drought'; bed from Casual and Country; bedlinen and white cushion from Mckenzie and Willis; side table from Casual and Country; side light from Tea Pea; artwork from L'Estrange Art Gallery. **ENSUITE** Black floor tiles, black wall tiles and white wall tiles from Midas Tiles; vanity from Smail and Co; black and white towel from Citta Design. **BATHROOM** Blue tiles are original; white tiles from Midas; vanity from Smail and Co. **EXTERIOR** Walls in United Paints 'Sambuca' and 'Exterior White'; table and bench seats from Mitre 10; cross bought a long time ago; recliner from Lifestyle; wicker chairs from Mitre 10; pool from Cresta.

**BACHELOR PAD PAGE 64** Walls throughout in Resene Karen Walker 'Fuscous Grey', 'Baltic Sea' and 'Sea Fog'. **TV ROOM** Gun artwork a commissioned piece; leather chair from Homage; sofa custom made; beanbags custom made by Withers and Borwick; black iron orb pendant from Mr Ralph; cowhide from Furtex; Lee Broom crystal table lamp; other artwork from Mish O'Neill. **LIVING/KITCHEN/DINING** Fireplace custom made; stand light from Mr Ralph; sofa from Forma; lambswool cushions from SM Interiors; velvet ottoman custom made by Withers and Borwick; cowhide from Furtex; kitchen cabinetry by Prestige Kitchens; splashback and island stone from SCE Stone; oven from Gaggenau; pendant lights from Mr Ralph; bar stools from ECC; dining table from SM Interiors; chairs from Forma; Tom Dixon candelabra from Simon James; Buster + Punch dining room chandelier from ECC; artwork collected over time. **ENSUITE** Concrete tiles and black hexagon tiles from Quantum Tiles; Apaiser stone basins and all other products from Plumblime. **MAIN BEDROOM** Custom-made bedhead and seat from Withers and Borwick; waffle bedlinen from Wallace Cotton; artwork is by Dick Frizzell; pendant light from Mr Ralph.

**GUEST ROOM** Walls in Resene 'Surrender'; custom-made bedhead from Withers and Borwick; white bedlinen from Wallace Cotton; cushions from unknown; bedside table from Sorenmobler; wall light from Mr Ralph; artworks collected over time. **BATHROOM** Floor and feature wall tiles from Tile Space; Aquarella white tiles from Quantum Tiles; all other products from Plumblime. **EXTERIOR** Walls in Resene 'Half Concrete'; trims in Resene 'Alabaster'; front door in Resene 'Black'; LED light designed by interior designer Katie Scott; base in Resene 'Masala'; roof is Resene 'Ironsand'; landscaping by JB Landscapes.

## OLD-WORLD CHARM PAGE 74

**LIVING** Walls in Resene 'Black White'; sofa from Contemporary Classics, Mt Maunganui; gold cushions from Superette; French-style sofa imported from France; striped squabs from Madder & Rouge; pink cushions in Designers Guild fabric; ghost tables from Kartell; Cire Trudon gold candle from World Beauty; armoire imported from France; cowhide from The Design Depot; pendant light from Marbella; two chairs imported from France re-covered in Designers Guild fabric; tall candlesticks from Marbella; mirror from an antique shop.

**KITCHEN/DINING** Cabinetry from Modern Kitchens; large bowl from a shop in Bulls; table from Zinc Plus, Wellington; Tolix stools from Madder & Rouge; black cowhide from The Design Depot; white shelving from Modern Kitchens. Words transfer made by a sign shop in Opotiki. **BEDROOM** Walls in Resene 'Black White'; bedlinen from Myrrh; cabinet, gold tray, wrought-iron table, chandelier and side light all secondhand finds; pillowcases made from tea towels purchased in France.

**EXTERIOR** Walls in Resene 'Tree House'; wrought-iron table and chairs, blue chairs and pottery from Zinc Plus, Wellington.

## THE NEW RETRO PAGE 88 LIVING

Walls in Resene 'Safari'; flooring throughout from Timber Floors Direct; walls in Resene 'Alabaster' and Resene 'Himalaya'; sofa from Karakter; cushions from Melissa James; side table from Rose & Heather; artwork from an art auction; jug is by Greg Barron; green and orange chairs, stand light and coffee table all from Karakter; ceramic artwork from Greg Barron. **ROOM OFF DECK** Yellow artwork from an art auction; white plinth made by the builder; pottery bowls by Len Castle. **KITCHEN/DINING**

Walls in Resene 'Alabaster' and 'Half Alabaster'; cabinetry from Trendwood Kitchens; tapware from Reece Plumbing; bar stools from unknown; pendant lights from Décor Bellini Lighting; table and chairs from Ultimate Living; red vase from James Peters Design Concepts; triangle artwork by friend Nicholas James. **BATHROOM** Walls in Resene 'Fire'; white tiles from Spazio Casa; vanity from Reece Plumbing; striped towel from local giftshop. **BEDROOM** Bedhead made by the builder; stand light from Karakter; Buddha a gift; wardrobe and shelving from Innovative Interiors. **ENTRY AND STAIRWELL** Walls in Resene 'Fire'; sisal carpet from Artisan Flooring; white plinth made by builder; large pottery vase from Greg Barron; artwork from James Peters Design Concepts; **OFFICE MEETING ROOM** painted in Resene 'Moroccan Spice' and **MAIN OFFICE** in Resene 'Cappuccino'.

# CONTACTS

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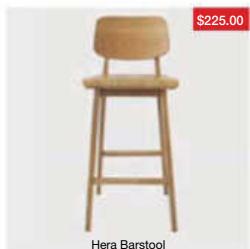
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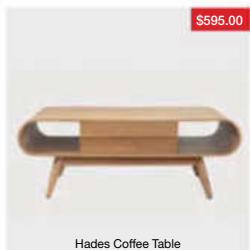
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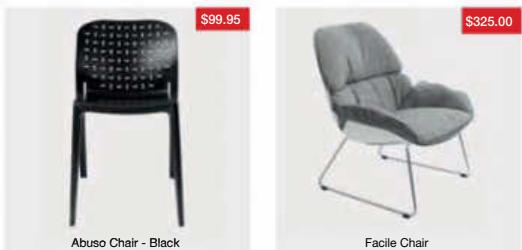
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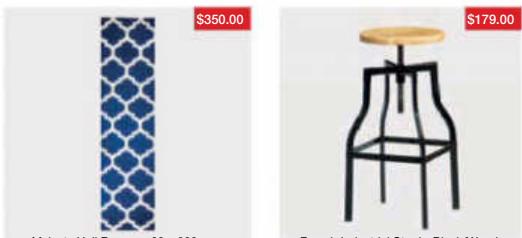
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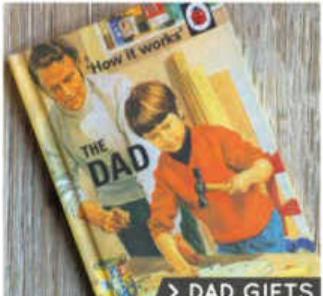
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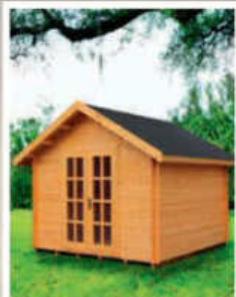
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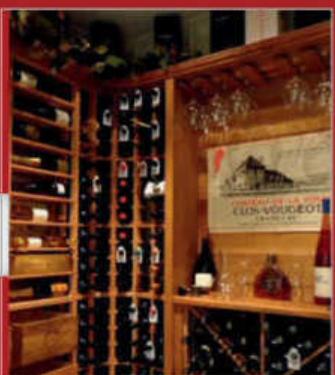
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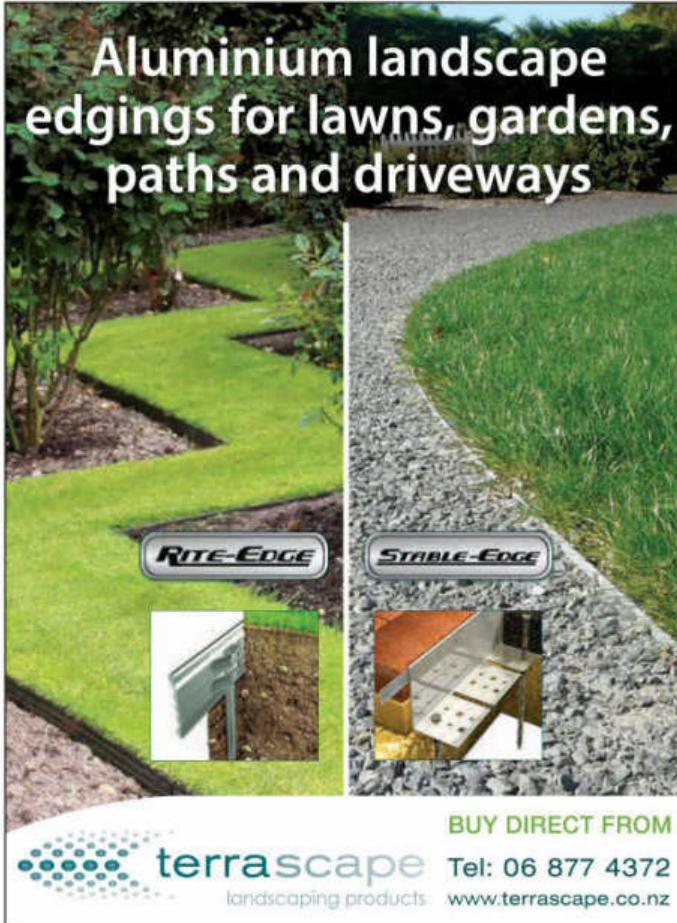
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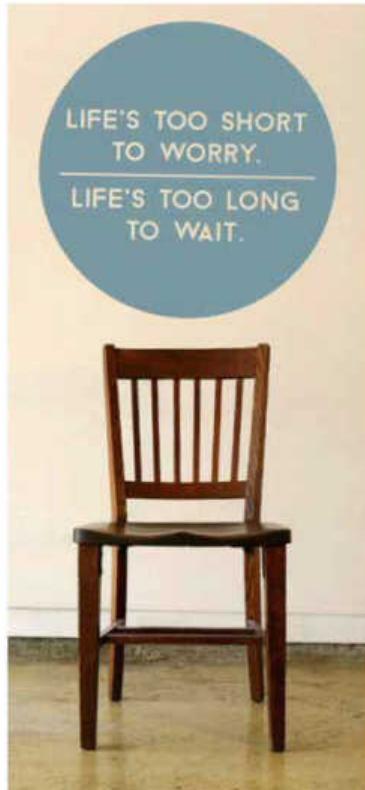


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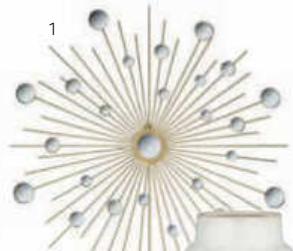


# Get the look

Which team's interior style did you favour from *The Block NZ* 'create a cover' challenge? Recreate the looks at your place with these winning pieces from Freedom



NIKI &amp; TIFF



5



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8



11



9



10



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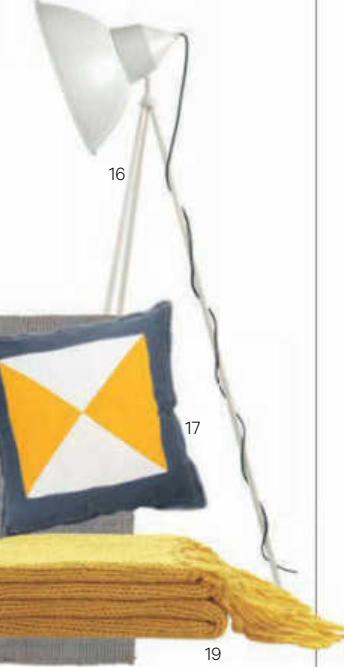


15



18

SAM &amp; EMMETT



19

**1** Burst mirror in Gold, \$199 (72cm). **2** Archer vessel in Cream, \$24.95 (26cm). **3** Madras round rug in Natural, \$399 (250cm). **4** Mimosa cushion in Persimmon, \$34.95 (50x50cm). **5** Clifford 2-seat sofa in Charme Natural, \$2499. **6** Marble candle in Flamenco, \$19.95 (265ml). **7** Foliage peony bunch in Pink, \$24.95. **8** Loopy throw in Cloud, \$199 (130x170cm). **9** Bottle vase in Clear, \$74.95 (51cm). **10** Zafia cushion in White, \$54.95 (50x50cm). **11** Tucker round ottoman in Union Rustic Grey, \$499. **12** Colton throw in Natural, \$199 (130x170cm). **13** Mina basket in Green, \$99. **14** Symphony deco object, small, \$34.95; large, \$39.95. **15** Copenhagen 3-seat sofa in Lido Teal, \$1899. **16** Kobe floor lamp in White, \$279. **17** Beach shack cushion in Mustard, \$24.95 (50x50cm). **18** Orissa floor rug in Grey, \$549 (160x230cm). **19** Coleman throw in Ochre, \$99 (130x150cm).

# House Reveals

Eco-friendly? Tick. Stylish? Yep. High-tech? You betcha. Step inside the four beautiful renovations from TV3's *The Block NZ: Girls Vs Guys*



Niki & Tiff



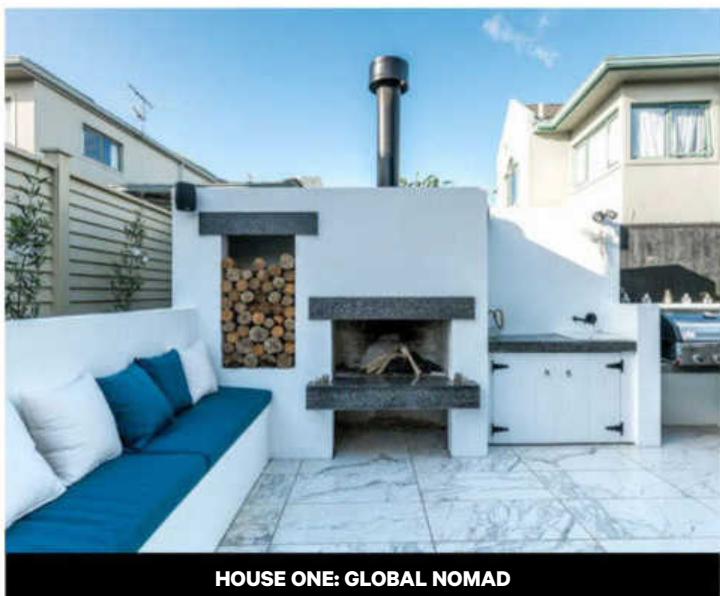
Dyls & Dylz



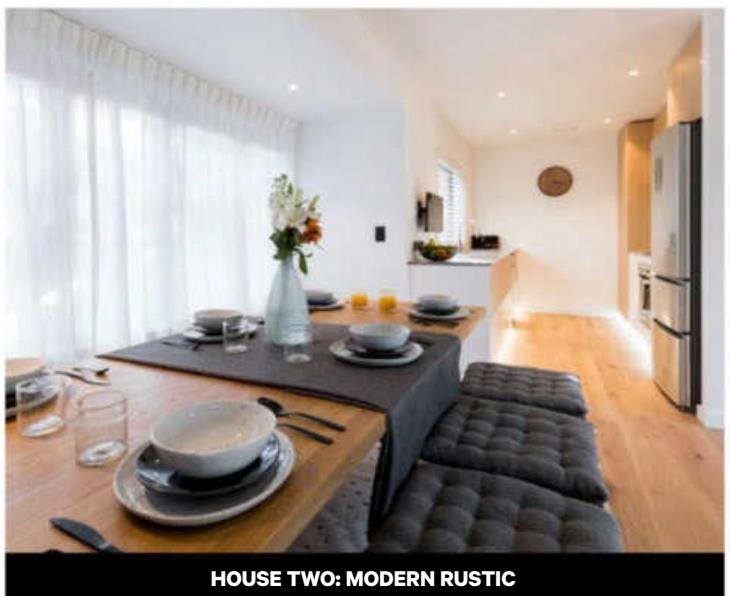
Emma & Courtney



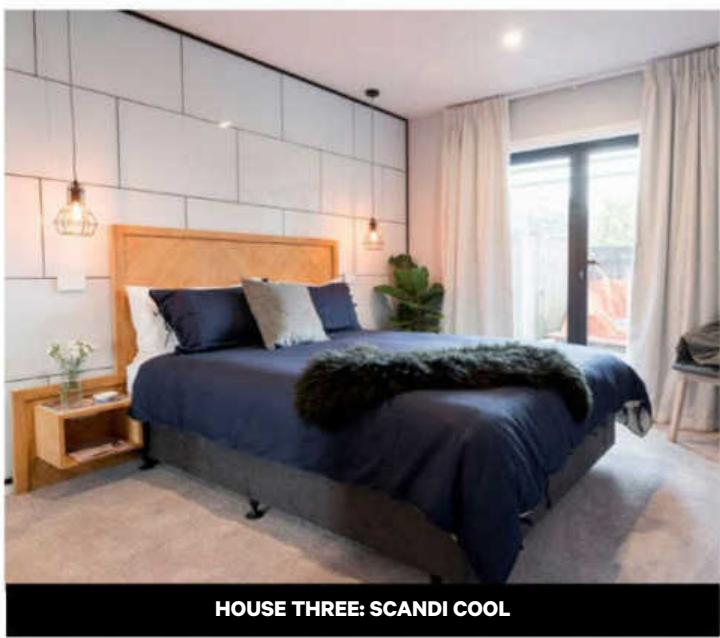
Sam & Emmett



HOUSE ONE: GLOBAL NOMAD



HOUSE TWO: MODERN RUSTIC



HOUSE THREE: SCANDI COOL



HOUSE FOUR: UPMARKET ECLECTIC

# Niki & Tiff

**N**iki, 29, and Tiff, 35, shone in *The Block NZ*, embracing their creative eye which led them to several room reveal wins. Their signature look is a fresh and clean aesthetic, blended with an earthy palette and ethnic influence. At times their instinct was to follow this more so than the brief. "We separated ourselves from the other houses with our designer style and unique boho style," Tiff says. "We aimed to fit out the home with more high-end furnishings than the other teams, maximising character in the home."

Originating from Wanaka, Tiff is based in Melbourne, where she works as a set dresser and buyer for film and television. Niki lives in Christchurch and is a forensic research scientist with a PhD. Neither has renovation experience, but Tiff is used to fulfilling a creative brief for clients, while Niki provides the light entertainment to get themselves through the tough times of the competition.



BEFORE



WEEK 2: KID'S BEDROOM



In their kids bedroom, Niki and Tiff followed their instinct and moved away from the brief, creating a cohesive look in their home instead

## BOHO BEAUTY

Choosing to ignore the brief for a 10-year-old boy's bedroom with no white walls, Niki and Tiff focused on maintaining the overall look of the home instead. With a low futon bed and a low window, blockout blinds were the ideal accompaniment. Set out in a monochrome palette, a fresh white base of Resene 'Double Alabaster' on the walls is given interest with earthy elements and a strong focus on texture – especially the faux brick wall behind the bed and a chunky rustic mat under the bed. The dark brown flooring works perfectly with the natural accents, such as the wire wall hangings and rattan baskets.

Things took a turn for the better point-wise for the two with the bathroom reveal, where the team came first. They admit to this being one of their favourite rooms in the competition. Their vision was for a cool, calm neutral space which suited the house overall and gave a relaxing atmosphere. The highlights were the stunning floor tiles with a distinctly Moroccan flavour, and the clever use of installed speakers. Other clever elements include the continuation of the tiles into the shower floor and the shower's



BEFORE



cavity shelves. The duo took a wall out to add the walk-in glass shower, which blends seamlessly into the space. The statement square lines of the toilet, vanity and bath mirror echo other hard lines that appear throughout the rest of the house. Matte black fittings add a striking element and are softened by the rattan baskets and Turkish bath towels.

The duo also came first place with the guest bedroom. In this part of the competition each team had to help make a headboard. Niki helped the builder create their built-in one, which also works as a shelf and floating bedside table. The couple continued to embrace the comfort and texture with a soft sheepskin ottoman and large-size rug, ensuring that stepping out of bed in the morning is soft on the feet. The playfulness of the pom-pom bedspread and the subtlety of the paper lantern pendants soften the hard lines of the bedside shelf and black window frames. Niki and Tiff extended the height of the doors throughout their home to accentuate the sense of space in each room.

In the living room, where the team came second place, they embraced the New York loft-style and wanted a calm and neutral space,

### WEEK 3: BATHROOM





Niki helped the builder create the built-in headboard, which also functions as a shelf and floating beside table



much like the rest of the house. They fell in love with the orange rug and made it work as the main feature in the room, keeping with the boho feel of the home. This, and the framed landscape photograph, attend to the brief requirement for bold colour. The pair have a similar barn-style door to that of Dyls and Dylz' living room (Tiff's favourite feature), but theirs is unique in that it disguises the television – a clever concept for those who don't like the television to take centre stage. They splurged on their stunning sofa, which will be easy to keep clean with a washable slip cover. The requirement for each team to feature a recycled item was fulfilled with the rattan chairs, which were painted white by Tiff.

In the master bedroom, the team came first place. "We wanted a main bedroom that was different, not mainstream. We wanted it calm and relaxing with a boho feel as with our other rooms," Tiff says. Its neutral colour palette is given interest with a square groove feature wall.

The judges loved the bulbs that hang over the beds and the mixture of styles, such as the vintage-style bed, the ethnic-themed

#### WEEK 4: GUEST BEDROOM

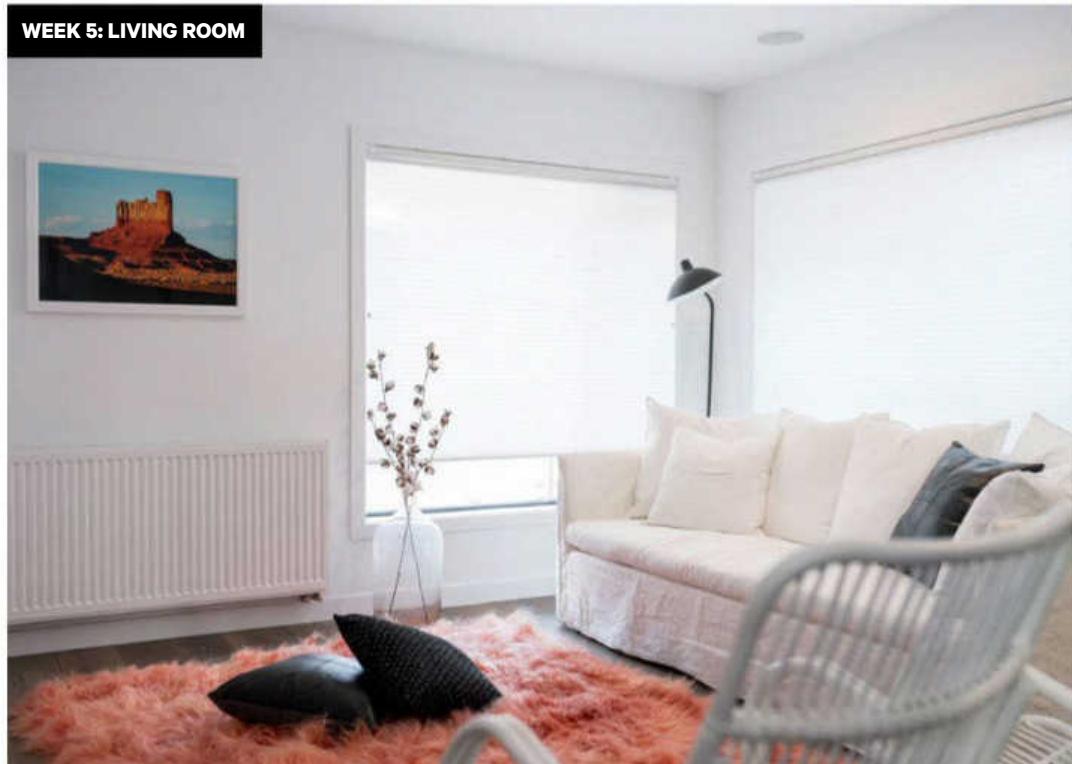


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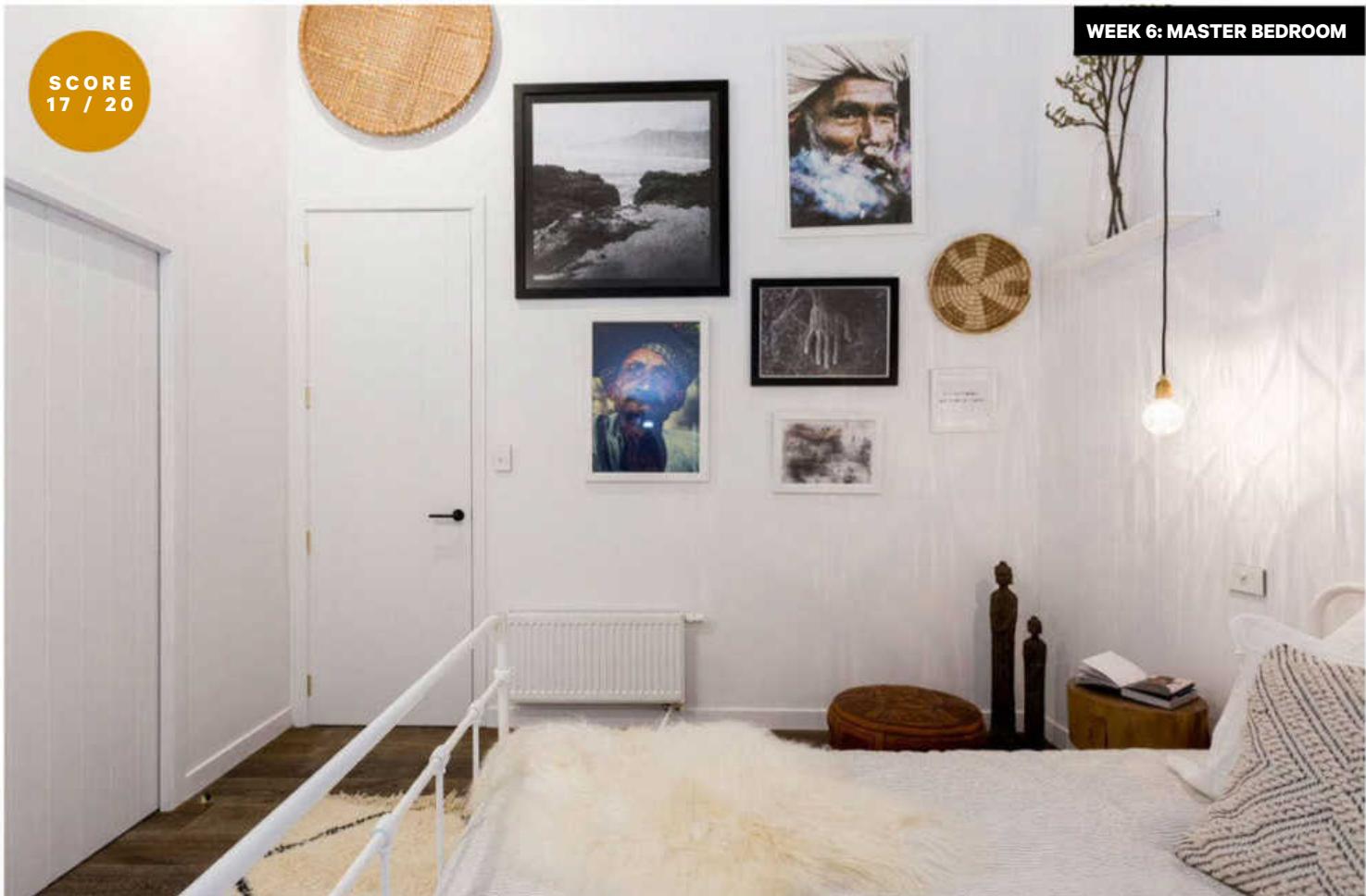
WEEK 5: LIVING ROOM

In the living room they embraced the New York loft-style and wanted a calm and neutral space



SCORE  
17 / 20

WEEK 6: MASTER BEDROOM

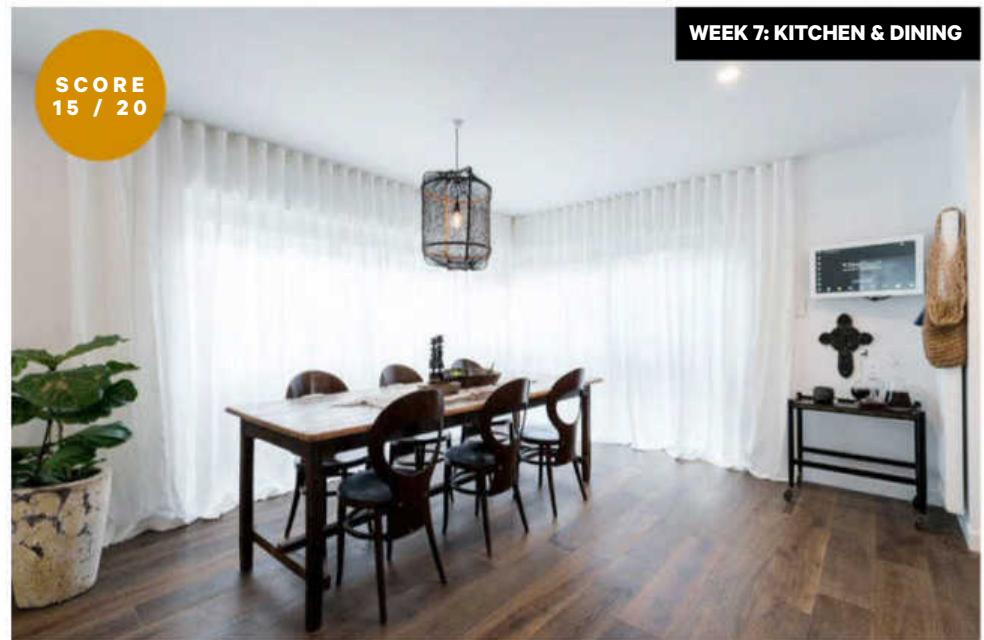


photographs and baskets on the wall and the industrial-style lighting.

The tongue-and-groove feature wall is mirrored in the wardrobe door, which is done in a similar style. Cavity sliders allow for maximum floor space to be made available. A corner nook has been made useful as a place to put daily used items or put on makeup. Its ensuite reflects the style of the main bathroom, with square lines and natural accents.

In the kitchen, Niki and Tiff wanted an organic space that linked with the living area and tied in with the rest of the house. "We found an amazing French antique table that we had to use," Tiff says. After some restoration work, the table was suitable to use as a dining space. "As a long skinny table it was perfect for our dining space," she says. Antique bistro chairs in dark wood were the ideal addition. When the curtains and doors





are open, the kitchen, living and dining all connect without being interrupted by beams, enabling a seamless flow.

As in the main bathroom, Niki and Tiff embraced a modern approach by installing built-in speakers, which the judges loved. The entertainment system allows them to access the internet, watch television and listen to music. Timber flooring was a big investment, but one the team was able to make. Black fittings, plus the black tiled splashback, provide continuity with the rest of the home, as do the natural accents which soften the space.

Niki and Tiff wanted their outdoor area to feel like another room in the house – an extension of the living and dining areas. To do this they raised the tiles so they were the same level as the floor inside, and installed an automated Luxaflex awning over this area. "We wanted it to feel like a Mediterranean

The antique French table required restoration, but as a long skinny table it was the perfect fit for the dining space

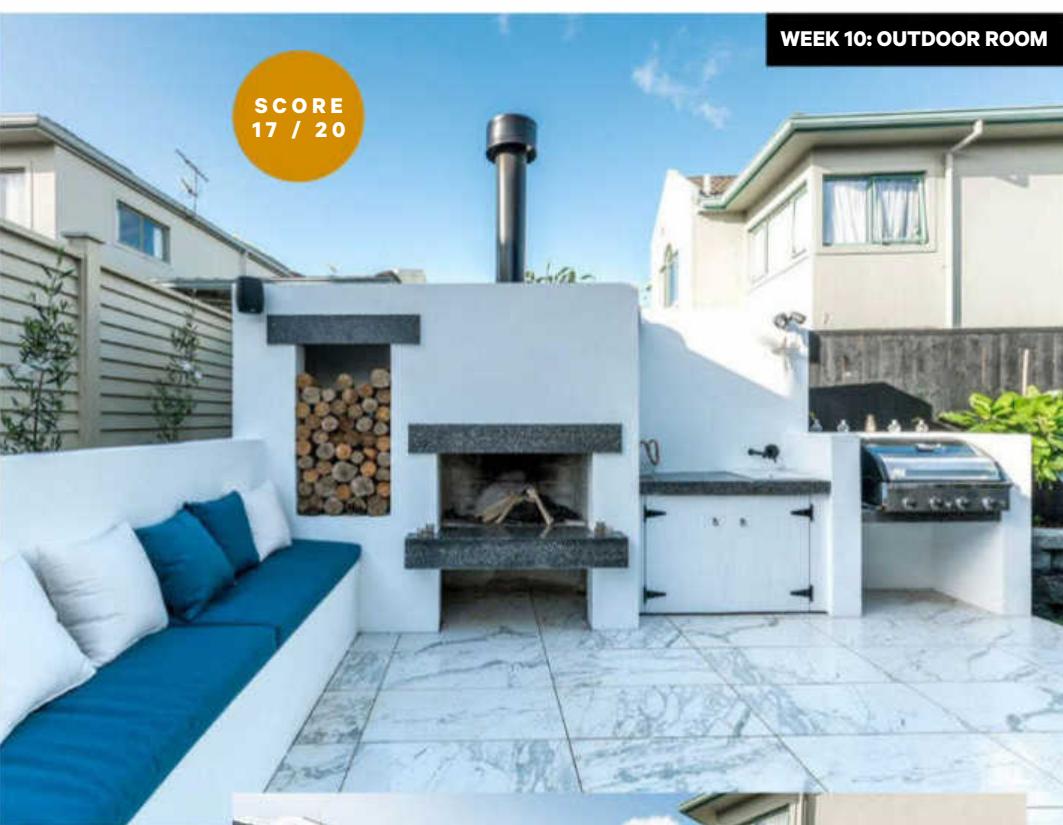
WEEK 9: LAUNDRY & GARAGE

SCORE  
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WEEK 10: OUTDOOR ROOM

SCORE  
17 / 20



**LEFT** Niki and Tiff added plenty of character to their laundry and garage by installing the same tiles used in their main bathroom and coloured subway tiles. All utilities are placed against one wall for easy access, with plenty of task lighting over the workbench.

getaway in your own back yard," Niki says. "We achieved this with the custom-built fireplace and olive trees behind the built-in seating."

"Our inspiration came from our own experiences of travelling the world and entertaining," says Niki. "Throughout the whole house we have wanted to create a feeling of calm but luxurious, and with this the feeling of wanting to share the space with other people."

The outdoor room's main features include the custom-built fireplace with sink and food preparation area, a BBQ and ample seating. Marble-look tiles are raised on Nurajacks to the level of the inside floor to give a seamless indoor/outdoor flow. There is also a rainwater tank with a vertical vegetable garden which can self water. The section has a flat lawn, fruit trees and native plantings. Being north facing with all-day sun, it is very private.

The marble-look tiles tie in beautifully with the home's kitchen bench top. The fireplace is painted white to match the rest of the home. The Canvas Company squab is petrol blue to match the tiles in the laundry. Overall, like the rest of house, the space feels calm, natural and luxurious.

COOL SOLUTIONS

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# Dyls & Dylz

**T**radies Dyls, 27, and Dylz, 25, were keen to create an inner-city escape with their home on *The Block NZ*.

"We wanted to build something comfortable in a contemporary and sleek style, where people can simply kick off their shoes," Dyls says. Practicality was also important to the pair, who both work in Mount Maunganui – Dyls is a qualified builder for Jennian Homes and Dylz works as his apprentice – and they were able to bring their relevant skills to the competition.

They met at the gym where Dylz was working as a personal trainer. Although the two have proved to be the jokers of the season, both claim – and have shown – they're extremely hard workers and never give up.

Dyls brought a huge amount of renovation experience to *The Block NZ*, having worked on many high-end residential homes. He took the lead when it came to styling each room in their home – which, he says, was a challenge at first. But clearly they've managed to work wonders together.

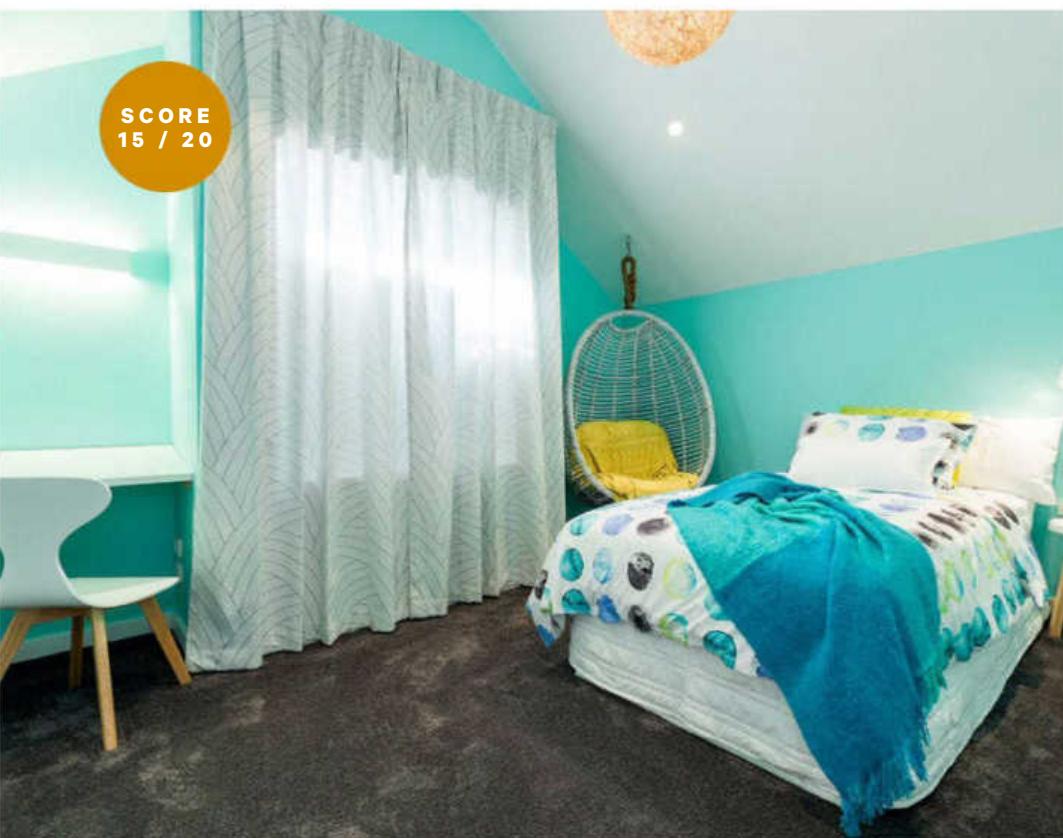


WEEK 2: KID'S BEDROOM

BEFORE



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## BLOKES GET TO WORK

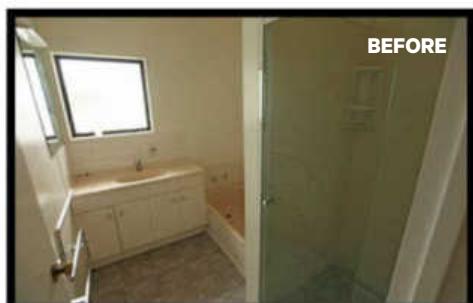
Dyls and Dylz came second place with their kid's room, the brief being to design it for a 10-year-old girl. The main feature is the vaulted ceiling, which gives the room a greater sense of space and height. The pair followed the brief closely, using a bold, fun colour which pops against the white trims. There is also a 'starry night sky' of tiny lights on the ceiling, giving the room some wow factor, which a child would adore.

The pair made good use of space between the window and the wardrobe by adding a desk plus sufficient lighting above it. The judges approved of their decision to follow the roofline with their ceiling – rather than going straight across – which gives the space a lofty feel.

Big on practicality, the duo very much catered for a family with their main bathroom, where

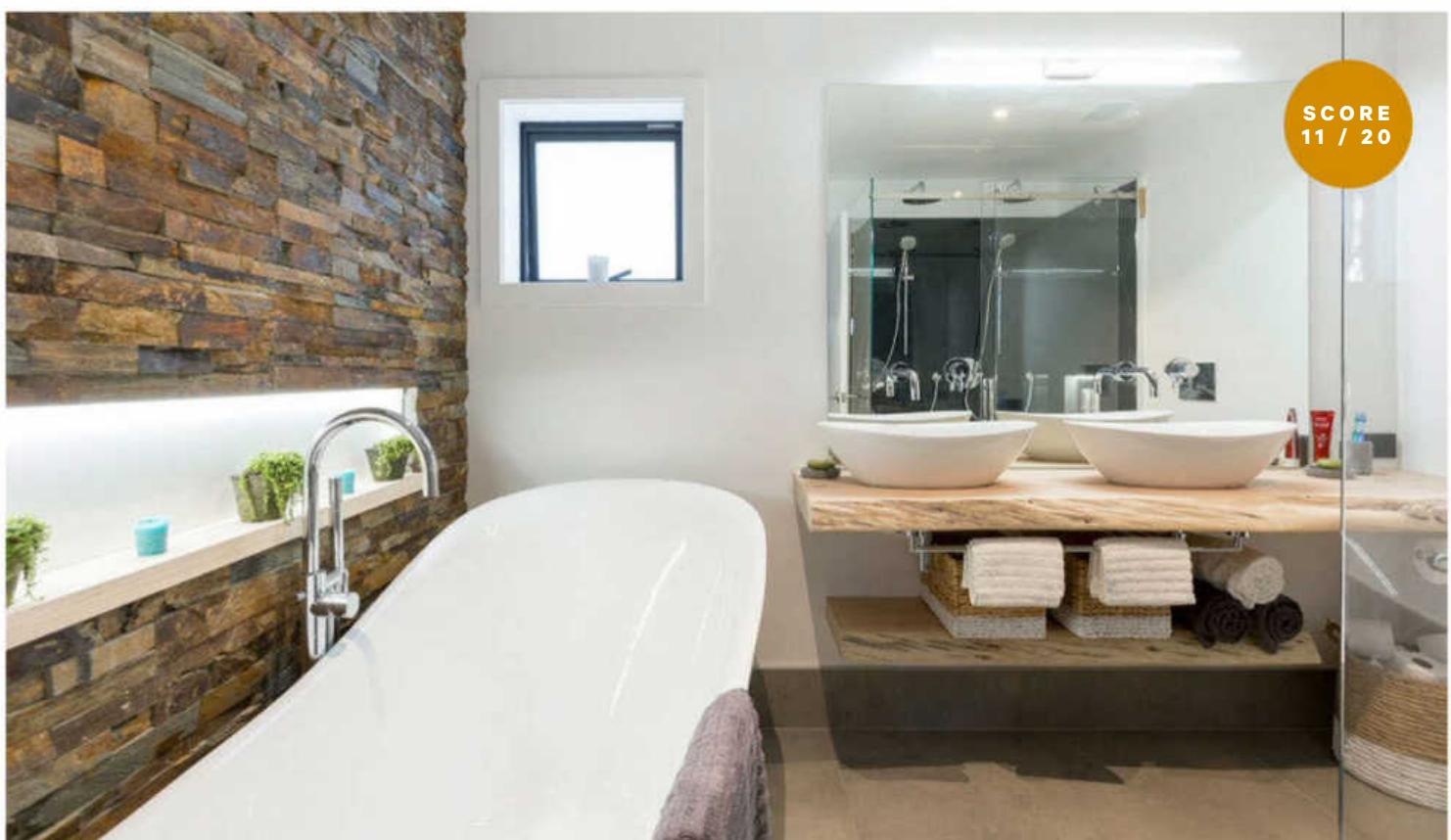


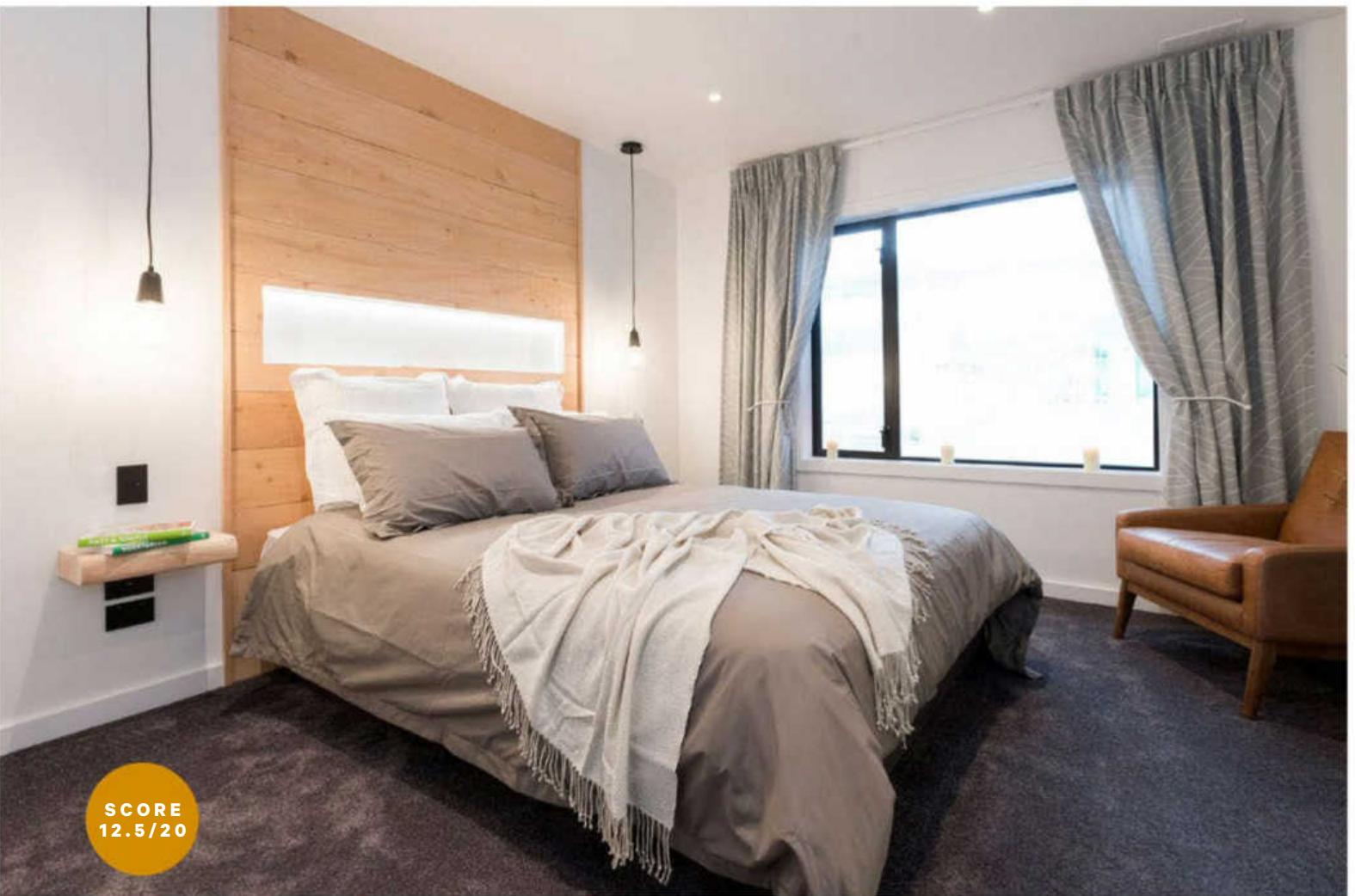
WEEK 3: BATHROOM



BEFORE

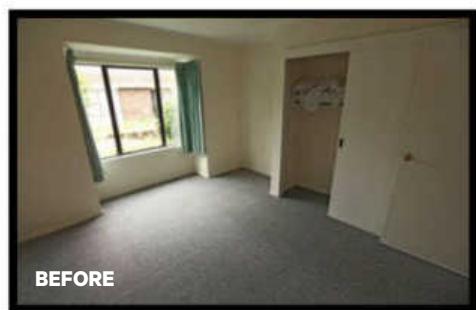
A double vanity and double showerhead mean more than one person can easily use the bathroom at one time





WEEK 4: GUEST BEDROOM

A macrocarpa headboard mirrors the wooden bathroom vanity and barn doors throughout the home

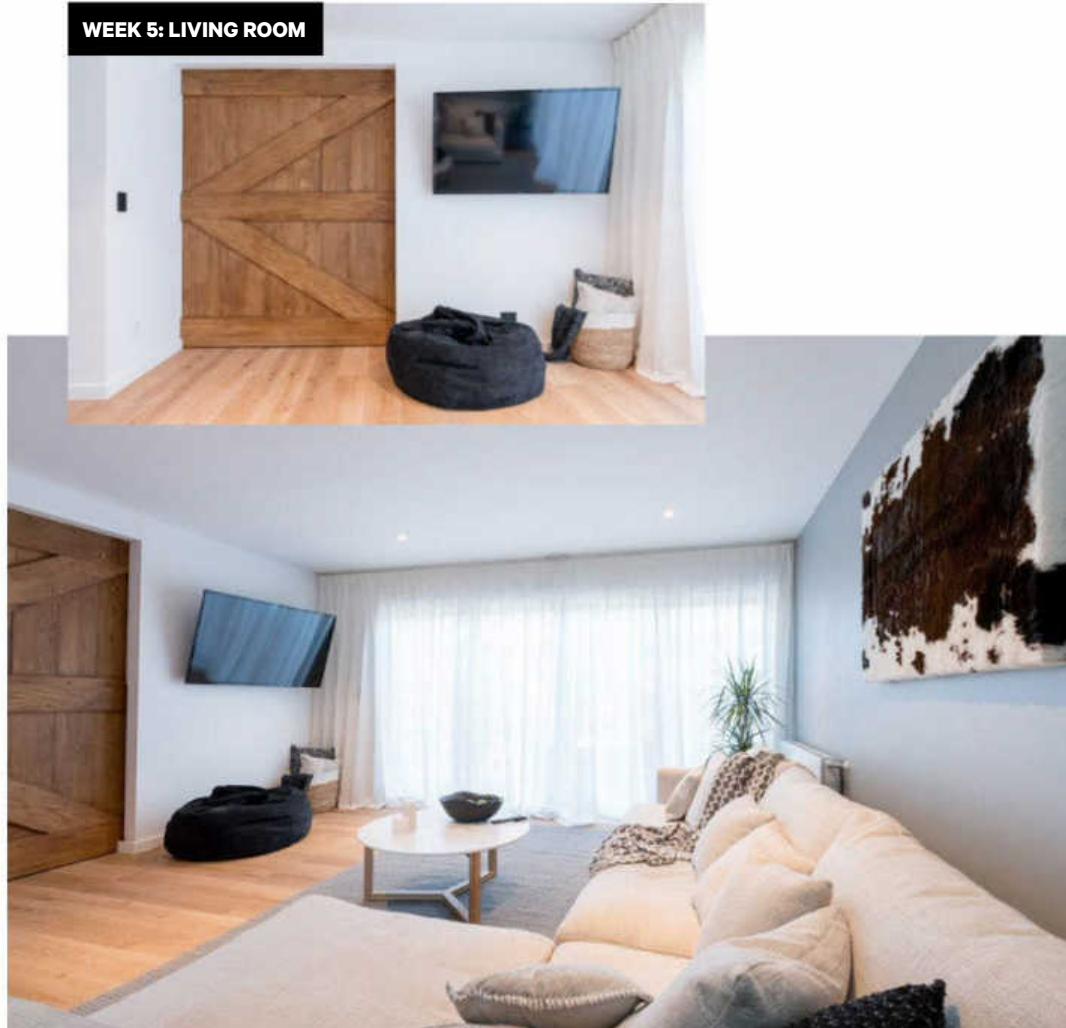


the team came in fourth. A freestanding bath and double-bowl vanity space were at the top of the list for the pair, who say planning the space was a big challenge. The double vanity and double showerheads mean more than one person at a time can use the bathroom easily – perfect for a family. Here we also see the start of a rustic wooden theme that runs through the home, evident in the wooden vanity top. The schist also echoes that of the kitchen splashback, providing a well-thought-out sense of continuity.

In the guest bedroom, Dyls and Dylz were consistent with their rustic theme and scored a third place. They created a full-height macrocarpa headboard, mirroring the wooden bathroom vanity and barn doors which feature throughout the home. The headboard includes a light and matching floating side shelves. While hardwood flooring has been used in the living spaces of the home, lush eco-friendly carpet provides added comfort in the guest and main bedrooms.

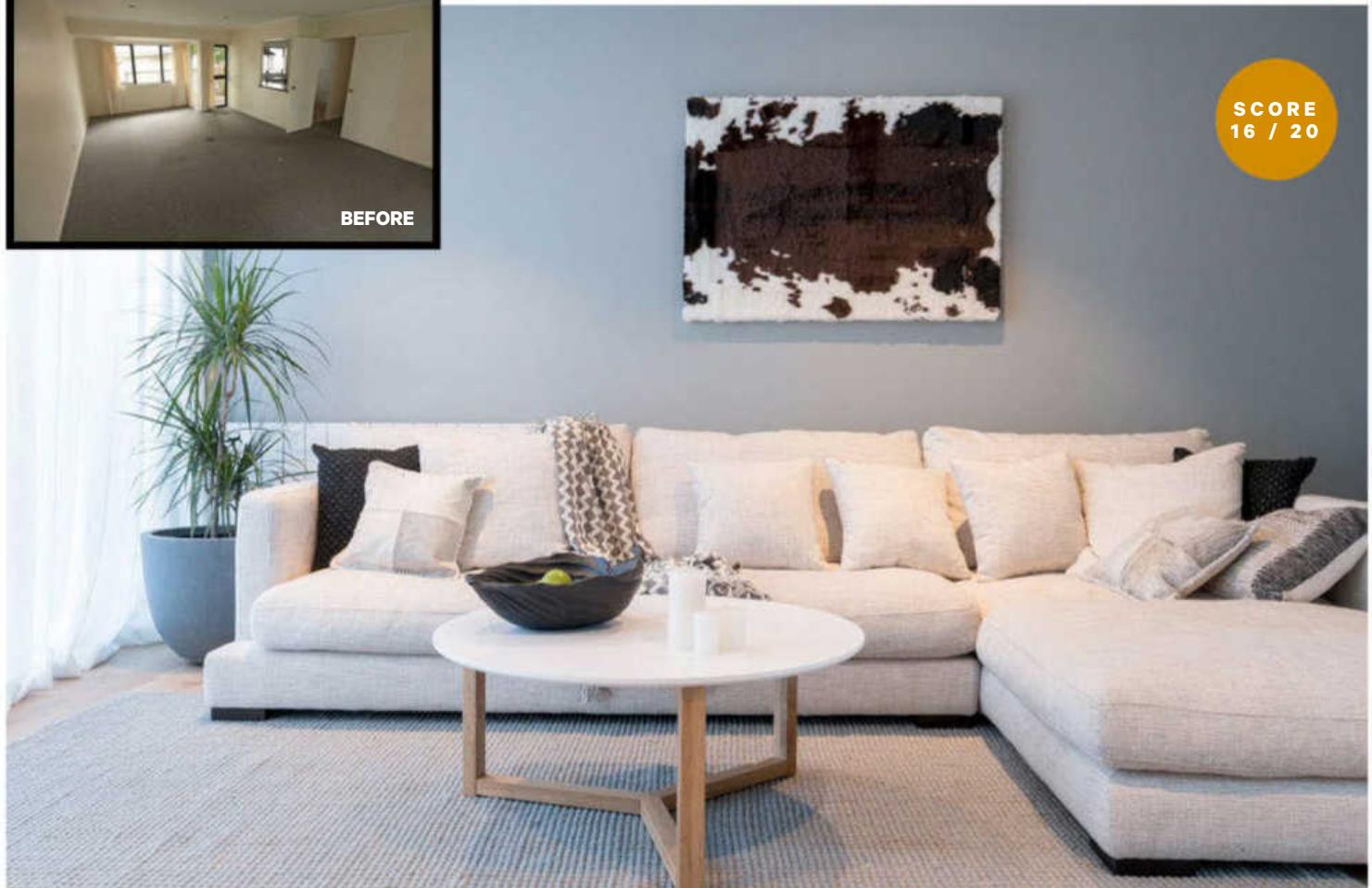
The living room was where Dyls and Dylz wanted to capture a true “lougey” feel – a winning vision which saw them take first place. “We wanted a place where people could chill; the hub of the home,” Dyls says. “A good living room turns a house into a home.” They achieved this with the use of a huge, inviting modular sofa and plenty of cushions. The space is anchored with a large rug

#### WEEK 5: LIVING ROOM



BEFORE

SCORE  
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**BEFORE**



**SCORE  
10 / 20**

#### **WEEK 6: MASTER BEDROOM & ENSUITE**

and a round coffee table that doesn't dominate the area. Overall, the judges thought the boys had achieved good spatial planning. A soft, serene palette makes it easy on the eye. One of the highlights of the room is the barn slider door which leads into the hallway, warming the space and continuing the rustic theme.

A space where people could simply shut themselves away and escape is what Dyls and Dylz had in mind for the master bedroom, but the judges weren't feeling it and gave them the lowest score. The barn door echoes that of the living room, and the black matte fittings mirror those in the guest bedroom. The duo tied in the ensuite with the main bathroom by using a wooden vanity top again.

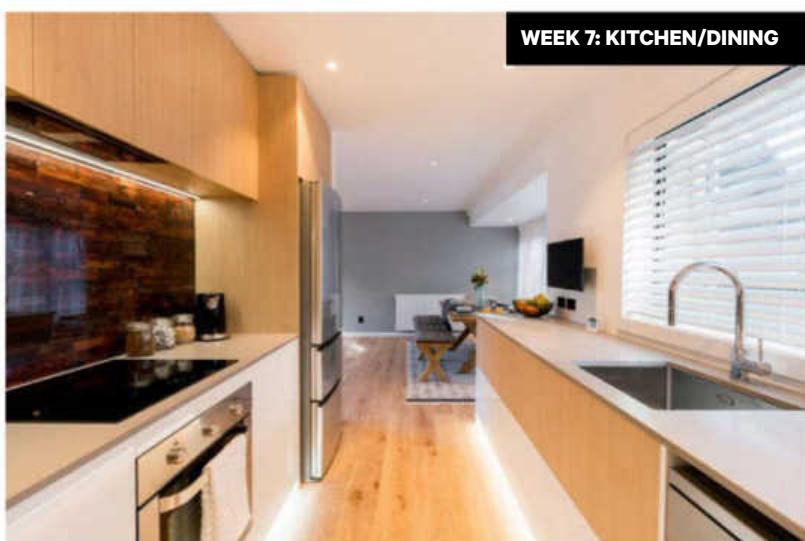
Good use of space was important to Dyls and Dylz when it came to their galley kitchen and dining area. They tied in second place with Niki and Tiff here. "The key feature of the kitchen and dining areas was good flow," Dyls says. "We wanted a functional open-plan space which opened onto the dining room." The solid oak table with benches offers a casual seating approach. The judges loved the kickboard lighting and the clean lines of this simple, modern space.

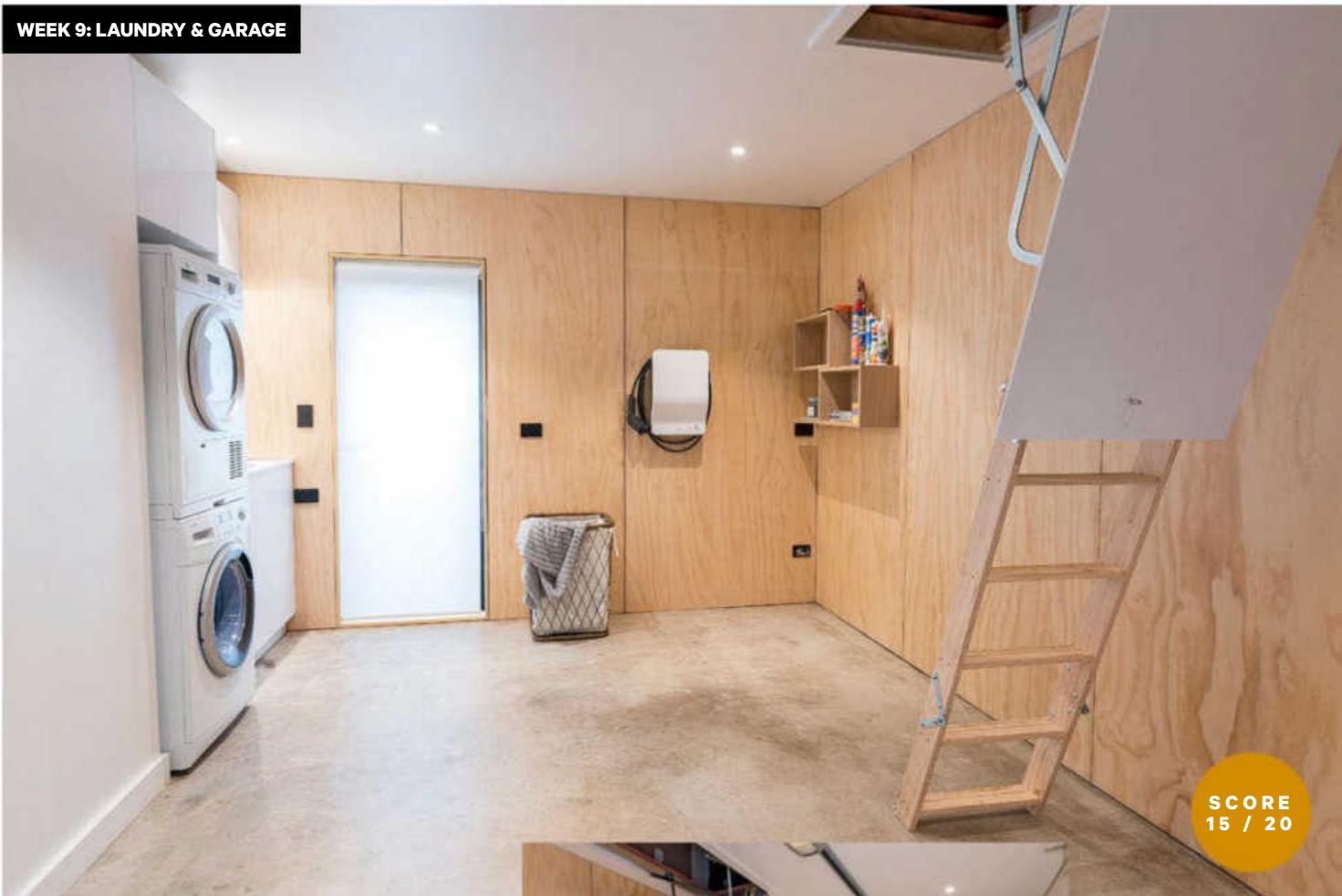


**Good use of space was important when it came to their galley kitchen and dining area. "The key feature of the kitchen and dining areas was good flow"**



SCORE  
15 / 20



**WEEK 9: LAUNDRY & GARAGE**

Outside, Dyls and Dylz wanted to create privacy for their inner-city town house, which was achieved with the planting and a block wall. "It's nice and private but also really welcoming," Dyls says. "The walkway welcomes you into the property. You want to walk up it; you can't help but be inquisitive" – and the judges agreed, with their scores putting the duo at number two.

Dyls got a lot of his ideas and inspiration from years of building. "We also had the family-orientated and social aspect in mind – for both the home and outdoor space. That's why there are beanbags and low, comfortable seating on the deck – so kids can hang out, as well as adults. It's designed to be really social."

The outdoor room's main features include a large, north-facing, level-entry deck, a quirky high-end walkway leading up and onto the deck, sensor-operated lighting, a stack-bond block wall around the outside of the deck and a Louvretec roof of anodised aluminium to reflect the light.

The pale deck is similar in tone to the oak flooring inside, giving cohesion. Likewise, the colours used for the outdoor furniture are in the same neutral palette used inside the house.

Plenty of native planting fills the backyard. "We've created an authentic native New Zealand oasis, with stepping stones winding through punga trees and baby's tears," says Dyls. "We've also got a massive vegetable garden."



**LEFT** Practical plywood was Dyls and Dylz's choice for their garage and laundry, its softness preventing any dents on car doors. A 3mm gap between panels was a deliberate detail choice. The space, with its easy-to-clean concrete flooring, gave the boys another second place.

**WEEK 10: OUTDOOR ROOM**

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# Emma & Courtney

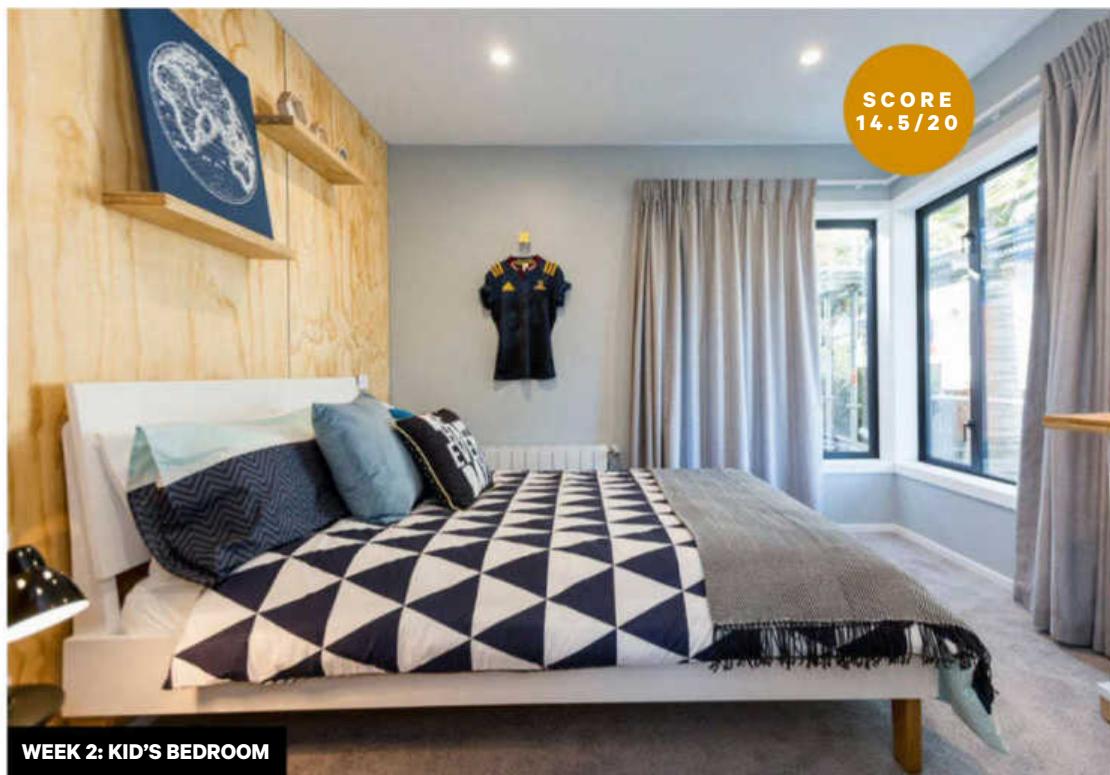
A homely, restful atmosphere is what Dunedinites Emma, 27, and Courtney, 25, wanted to create in their home on *The Block NZ*. "We wanted to give potential buyers the chance to bring their style into the house," Emma says. "We didn't want to limit our buyer to one couple; we want it to be anyone." To do this the duo brought in soft, earthy colours. "This allows anyone to bring in what furniture or decor they have, and would suit whatever style they like," Courtney says.

Their first impression of the house they were presented with at the start of the competition wasn't too shocking. "We thought it could have been worse. It was hard to see any character in the homes, though, where at least with an old villa you can see the period character. These were tricky to stamp our style onto," Emma says. "But we had no doubt we could achieve what we had in mind."

The pair says they entered a honeymoon period in the competition within the first few weeks. But by the fourth week reality – and the effects of sleep deprivation – hit. "By then we started doubting ourselves and were slow to make decisions," says Emma. But they quickly moved through it and felt their biggest success



"When we saw the houses for the first time it was hard to see any character. But we had no doubt we could achieve what we had in mind"



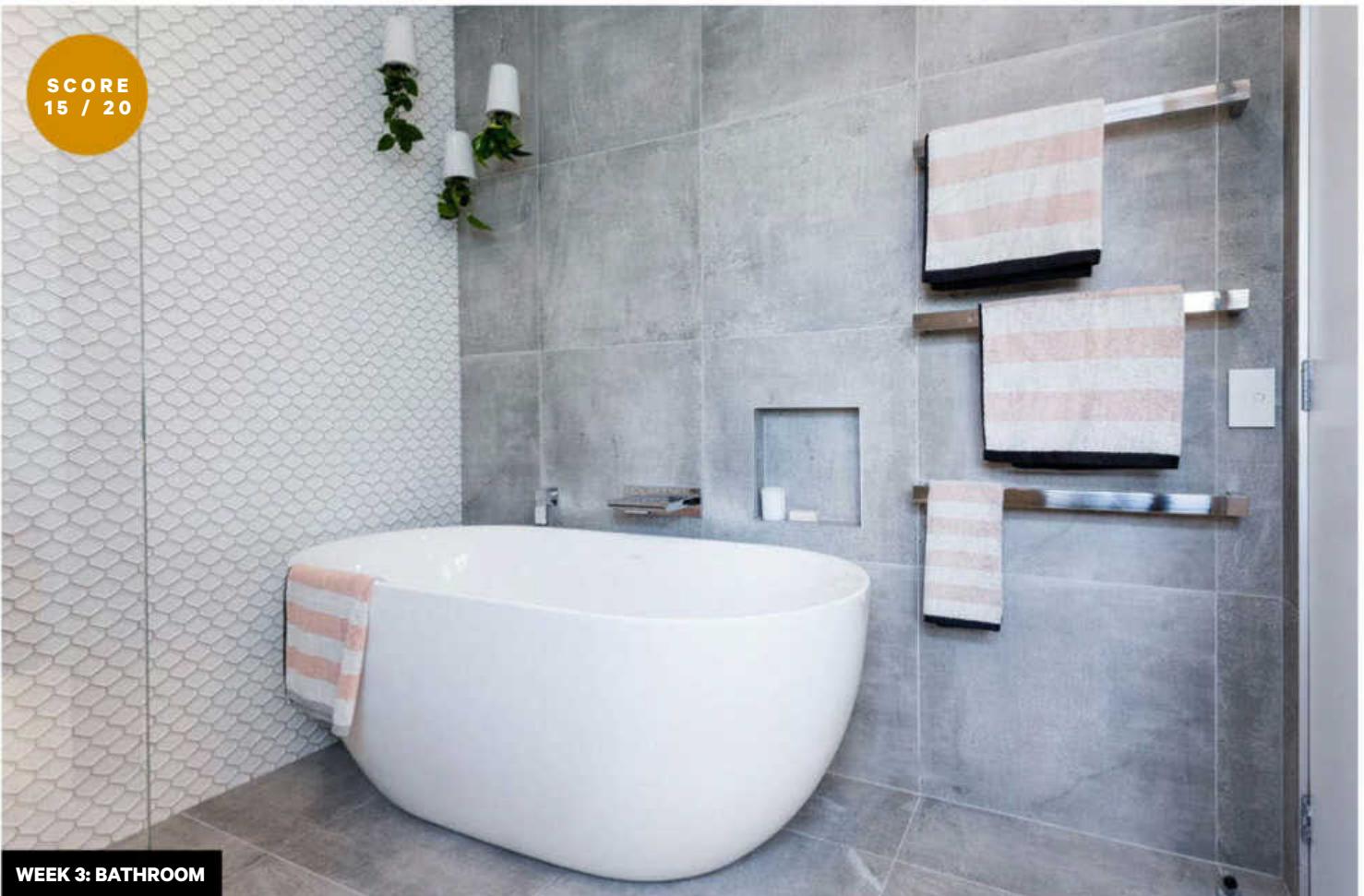
was the overall look of their kitchen. "We wouldn't change a thing," she says.

Fun-loving Emma and Courtney met four years ago through mutual friends and have been close ever since. They're such good friends that Emma has even taken up residence in the spare room of the house Courtney shares with her fiancé.

## THE HARD WORK BEGINS

In the kid's bedroom, Emma and Courtney designed a space for a 10-year-old boy, for which they achieved third place. "We were all about sticking to the brief, but also picked a colour that was gender neutral and made it fun," Emma says. The duo designed the room so it could be used for a guest room if need be, with a double bed. Eco-friendly, hard-wearing carpet in this room and the other bedrooms in the house allows for added comfort.

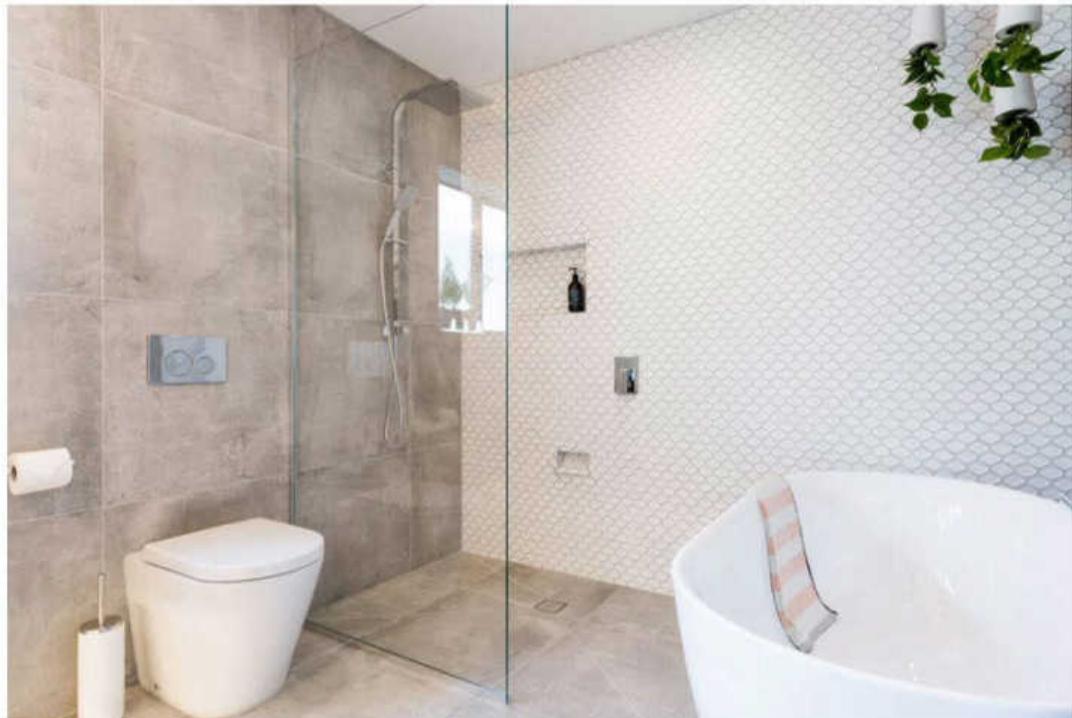
SCORE  
15 / 20



The Resene 'Duck Egg Blue' on the walls was broken up by a plywood feature wall. "We love the plywood look; it softens the room. It did, however, take us a long time to pick the right type, ensuring the grain was right. At the last minute we decided to stain it."

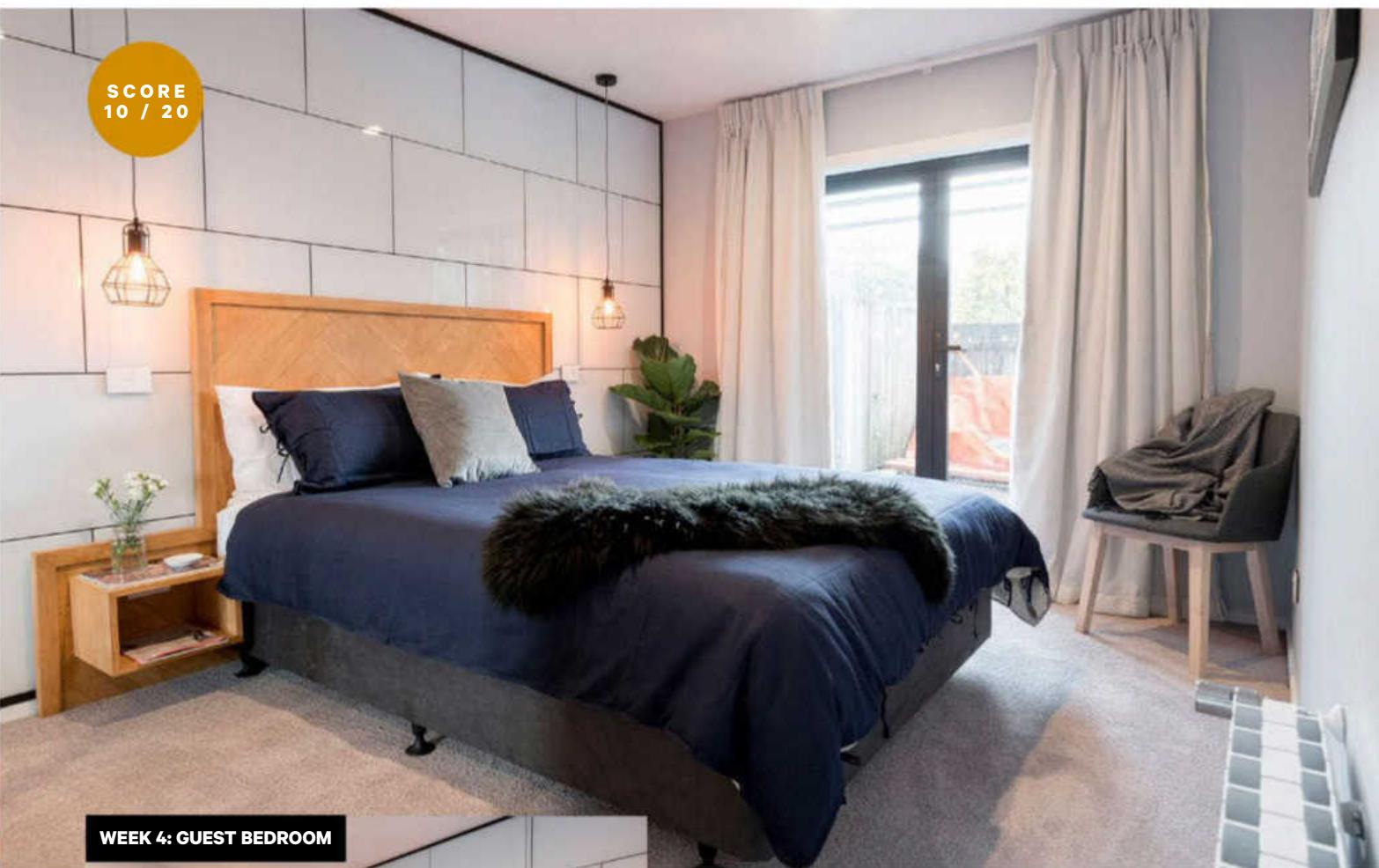
The judges said the room felt like a mini man cave and loved the clever artwork using a rugby jersey. They were also fans of the raw materials including the plywood desk, feature wall and shelves. The glass blackboard and sporty elements such as the basketball hoop and sports balls were also hits.

In the main bathroom Emma and Courtney came second place. They felt their room was small but made it feel bigger with their design choices. The judges liked how the same tiles were used for both the floor and walls, and that the tiled feature wall was fashionable. Allowing the feature wall to be reflected in



The judges liked the attention to detail: the foot holder for leg shaving in the shower; being able to look up at the plants while in the bath

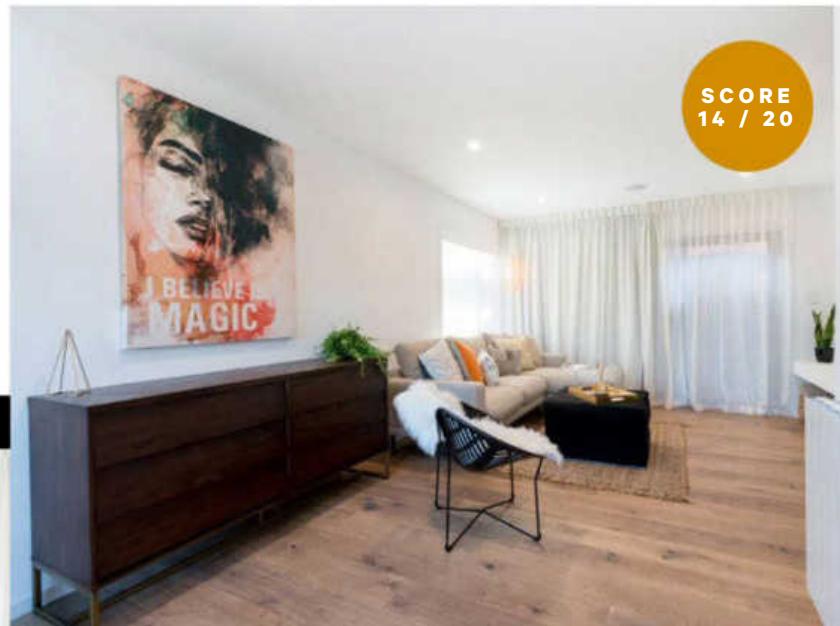
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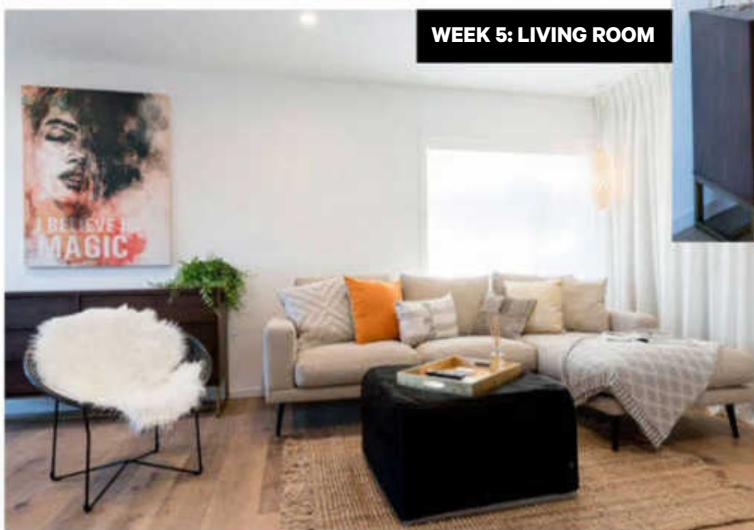
WEEK 4: GUEST BEDROOM



SCORE  
14 / 20



WEEK 5: LIVING ROOM



Emma and Courtney installed a glass brick feature wall behind the bed. "We love this room now, but at the time we took a risk with that wall"

the mirror worked well. The judges applauded the attention to detail, such as the recesses in the shower, especially the foot holder for leg shaving, and the nice touch of being able to look up at the plants while in the bath. The wooden vanity gave a welcoming point of softness against the tiles.

Emma and Courtney went out on a limb with their guest bedroom by installing a glass brick feature wall behind the bed. "We love this room now, but at the time we took a risk with that wall," Courtney says of the space, which produced a last-place score. The blue bedlinen fits in beautifully, providing rich colour that is a great match with the tones of the parquet headboard.

The duo found that the living room, which saw them in third place, was one of their more enjoyable rooms to create. They liked matching the accessories, such as the cushions and ornaments, with the artwork, and strove to give the room an inviting, relaxing feel. The judges said the lounge was nicely extended towards the dining area, with the dresser linking the two spaces, and that the colour palette was warm and inviting. The refurbished black chair worked well and was a good size, and the wooden floor gave warmth to the space.

Emma and Courtney admit their master bedroom was bare at the time of judging as they ran out of time to finish it. "But it has everything there that anyone needs," Emma says. "It was our first week creating two rooms in five days.



#### WEEK 6: MASTER BEDROOM & ENSUITE

SCORE  
11 / 20



**WEEK 7: KITCHEN & DINING**

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We put in the work with a walk-in wardrobe and huge mirror." They added interest to the plain vaulted ceiling with a tongue-and-groove lining. "The David Trubridge light gives an amazing pattern on the ceiling and the blinds can be opened with a remote, which is handy if you don't want to get out of bed," Emma says. "We wanted people to feel so comfortable in this room that they might never want to leave."

In the ensuite, they reflected the style of the main bathroom, the stand-out features being a wooden vanity with taps protruding out of the large mirror and the same floor and wall tiles as used previously. They changed the tile colour in the shower to a dark hue, creating a cocooning space. Underfloor heating gives added luxury and the windows offer a welcoming view. The pair was given third place with this room.

Because theirs is the only house with a butler's pantry and kitchen skylights, Emma and Courtney's kitchen and dining area benefits from an abundance of storage and natural light. "It means any clutter can easily be hidden away," Courtney says. The judges thought the tiles were gorgeous and the finishes sophisticated. Although the table could have been in a warmer material and larger, the feature light was well positioned and the rooms fitted the brief. Overall, the duo created a stylish, calm space in a pleasant palette but it wasn't enough to lift them out of last place.



**WEEK 9: LAUNDRY & GARAGE**SCORE  
16.5 / 20

Emma and Courtney's inspiration for the outdoor room was the typical Kiwi backyard. "Somewhere that was perfect for entertaining and backyard cricket," Emma says. "We wanted it to have an open style with a great grass area." The large deck coming off the ranch sliders and leading onto the generous grass area creates the perfect indoor/outdoor flow.

Another main feature is the steel framing for climbing plants, softening the white brick wall. Native trees surround the back section and paved area for a private outdoor lounge suite. There is also a service area outside the garage and guest bedroom, which includes a rainwater tank and vege garden. In summary, the areas are well-landscaped, flowing nicely from the interior. "We wanted a native and natural feel," says Emma, "but we also wanted to keep it low-maintenance to cater to all types of buyers." The duo's efforts delivered them a third place.

The judges loved Emma and Courtney's comfortable, efficient and well-planned laundry and garage, giving them their second win of the competition (the first was for the previous week's entry and stairs).

**WEEK 10: OUTDOOR ROOM**

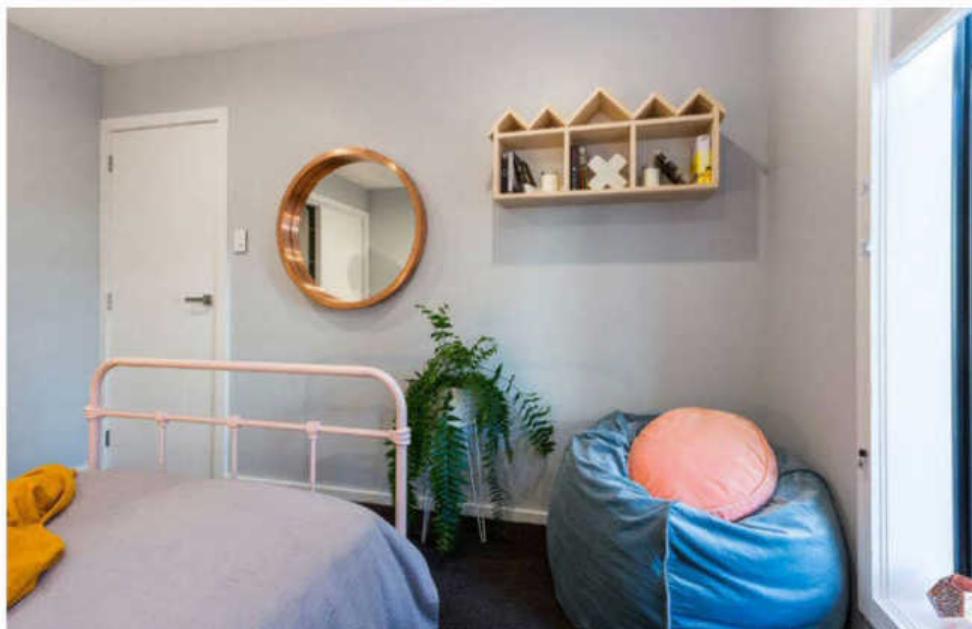
# Sam & Emmett

A home with a modern aesthetic is what Sam, 29, and Emmett, 29, wanted to achieve with their time on *The Block NZ*. They had every type of potential buyer in mind when they renovated the house, from professional couples to families, and chose to stamp their style with a palette of mainly grey, white and brown. "We arrived on *The Block NZ* with no design or building experience, so it was a challenge to show that we could do it," Sam says. "We made sure we were competitive, played to our strengths and were quick learners." Their biggest success was winning more room reveals than Emma and Courtney, they joke.

Friends since their school days in Palmerston North, Sam and Emmett now flat together in Te Aro Valley in Wellington. Sam is a business development manager and Emmett a human resources advisor.

Sam describes himself as polite and sometimes "too honest". He's a huge sports fan and very sociable.

Emmett sees himself as a hardworking farm boy who can get along with anyone. He's a self-confessed sports nut who loves motocross, hunting, diving and snowboarding.



## OFF TO A GREAT START

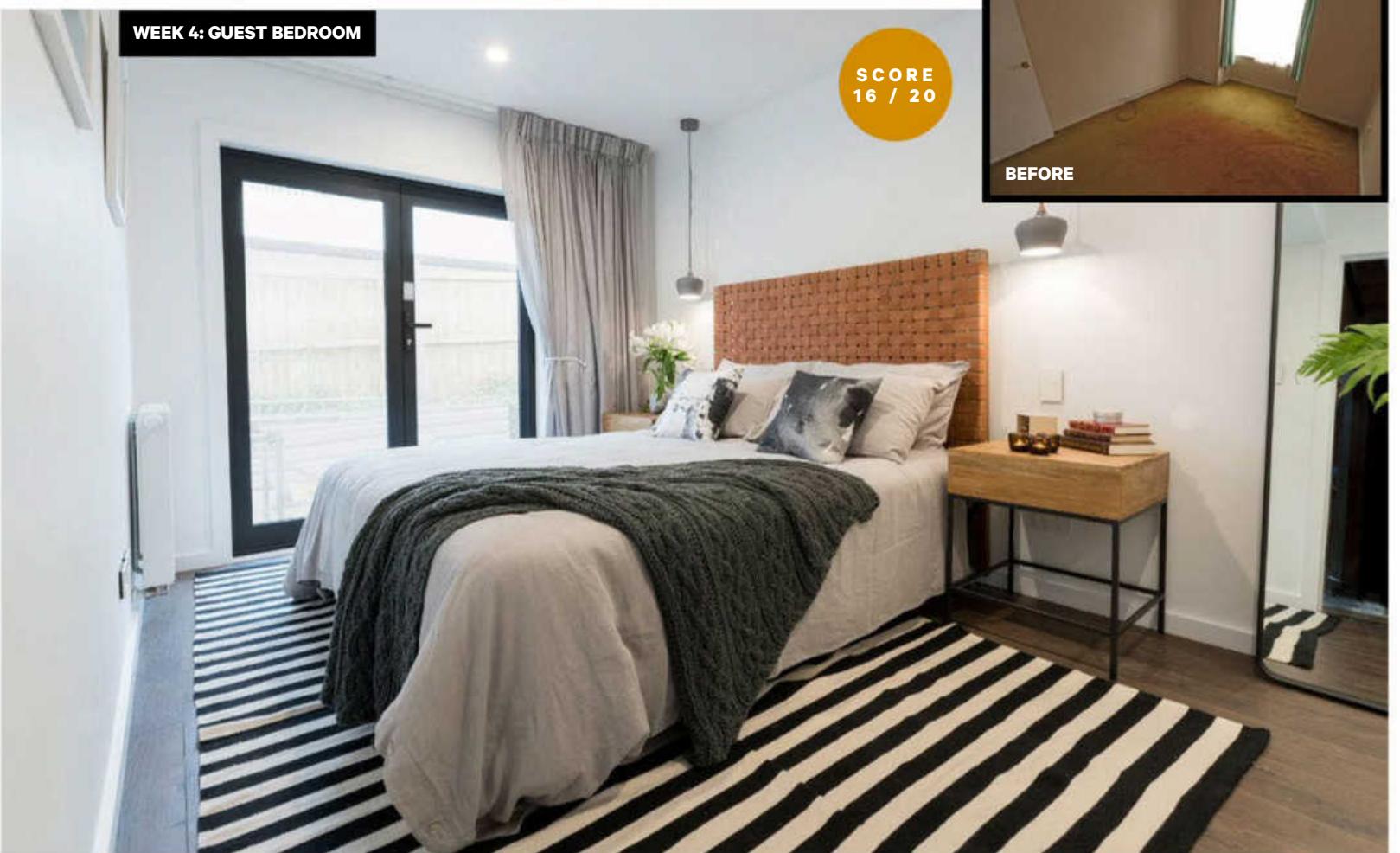
Sam and Emmett started the competition perfectly with a win for the bedroom they designed for a 10-year-old girl. "We gave the room a 'zone' effect – there was a study zone with a desk and a chill-out zone with the beanbag," Emmett says. This was topped off with cute shelving, a generous wardrobe offering full storage, thermal blinds and a luscious carpet.

The soft, versatile Resene 'Half Duck Egg Blue' on the walls means this room could easily be used for a boy or an adult, too. Fairy lights on the bed frame add a cute, feminine touch.

The standout feature of the main bathroom is the grey subway tiles with pale grouting, warmed up by the rustic stool, woven towel basket and large pot plant. LED lighting under the vanity was also a hit in the space, which saw the duo come third. They aimed to create

**WEEK 3: BATHROOM**SCORE  
14.5 / 20

"In the guest bedroom we invested heavily in big items and wanted to take the brief to a new level with the woven leather headboard"

**WEEK 4: GUEST BEDROOM**SCORE  
16 / 20

the ultimate wet room, with a sliding door in the shower to make efficient use of space.

The guest bedroom was a target for the duo to win, but they came second instead. "We invested heavily in big items in this room, and wanted to take the brief to a new level with the woven leather headboard," Emmett says.

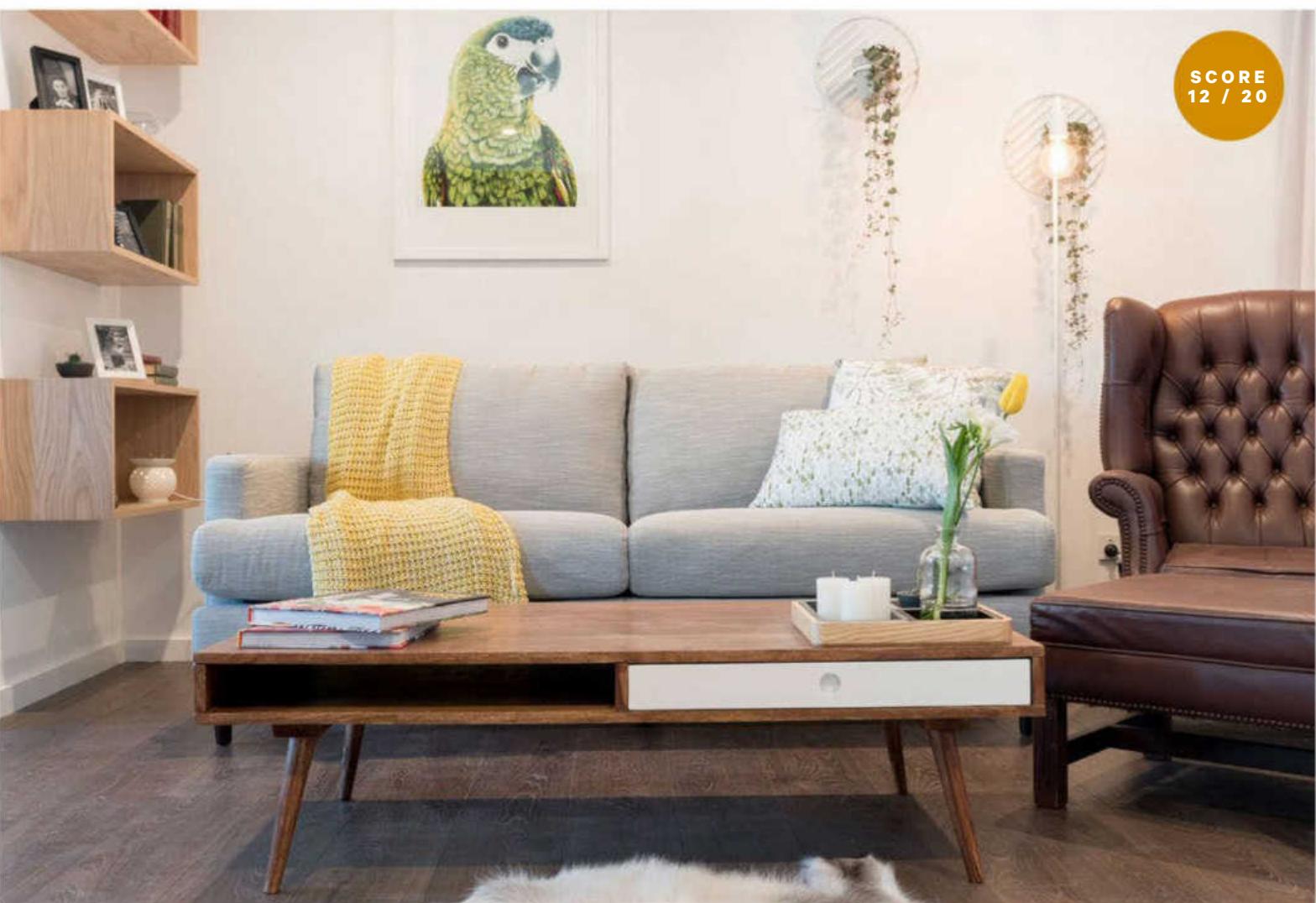
The lounge was a tricky space for Sam and Emmett to work with, putting them in third place. The refurbished piece of furniture needed to fulfil the brief was a leather lounge chair, but the judges felt it didn't go with the sofa. They did, however, like the shelving and accessories, as well as the cosy and homely feel the room exuded. A combination of sheer and block-out curtains – also employed in the main and guest bedrooms – softens the space. The yellow throw and single tulip bring cohesiveness to the room, matching one of the hues in the parrot print.

For the main bedroom and ensuite the team crafted a soothing space that felt like a tranquil retreat, earning themselves another second place. They opted for a safe colour palette here, which was a wise move for a space used for sleeping. There is a change



**The yellow throw and tulip bring cohesiveness to the room, matching the same hue in the parrot print**

SCORE  
12 / 20



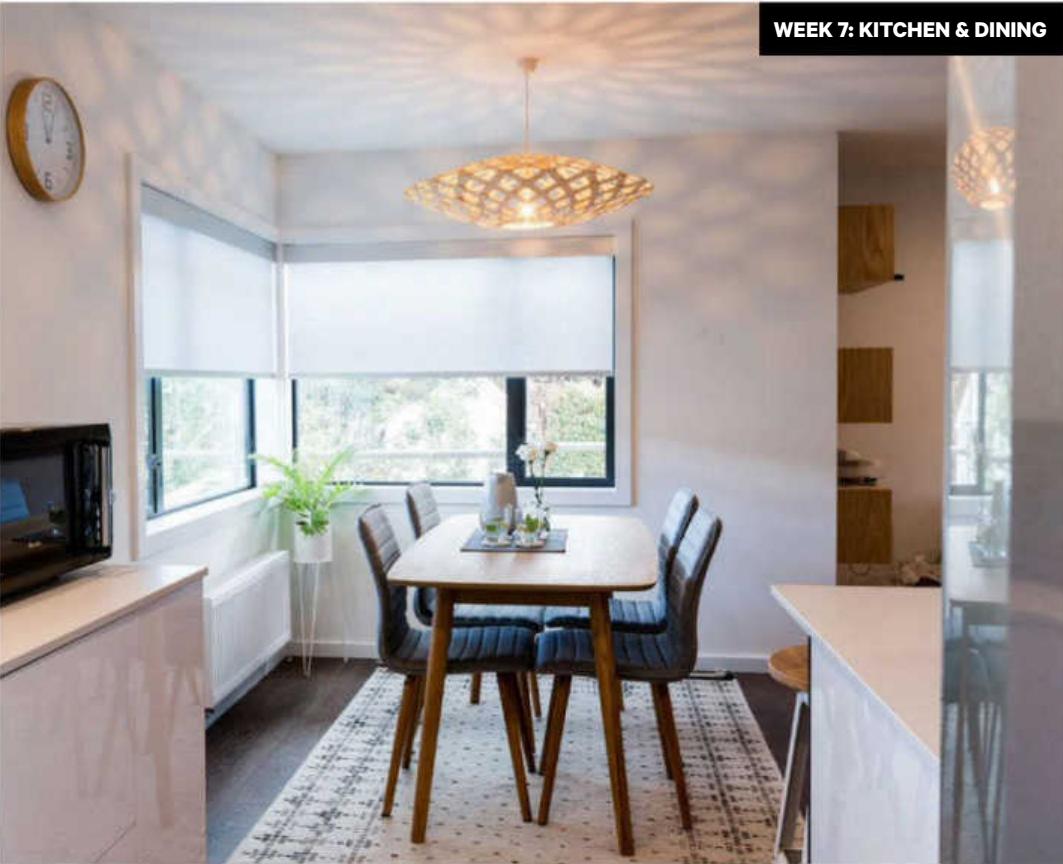
SCORE  
13.5 / 20



WEEK 6: MASTER BEDROOM & ENSUITE



In the main bedroom, Sam and Emmett wanted to create a tranquil retreat with a safe colour palette and a focus on soft linen and texture

**WEEK 7: KITCHEN & DINING**

here from hardwood flooring to carpet and an emphasis on softness in the bedlinen ("We took the bedding up a notch," Emmett says) and curtains. "We have a walk-in wardrobe and a very short walk to the ensuite," he adds.

Sam and Emmett won first place with their kitchen and dining area, wowing the judges. A strong monochromatic scheme shines through here, with sleek, sophisticated finishing. The breakfast nook/coffee area with stools was a clever addition. The soft lines of the dining table complement the curves of the David Trubridge feature lightshade above, while the subway splashback tiles echo those used in the main bathroom. The oversized rug adds a further decorative element to the dining zone and is large enough to extend beyond the table.

Overall, the judges felt the planning of this galley space worked well in an area of this size, and that the table was a good fit for the dining room. The coffee station is clever and makes the kitchen feel more open-plan. The recessed shelves at the end of the bench were handy for setting the nearby table, they said.

When Sam and Emmett designed their outdoor room, keeping to the style of the home's interior was important. "Our aim was to follow on with the corporate flow of our interior,



**WEEK 9: LAUNDRY & GARAGE**SCORE  
14.5 / 20

keeping the lines clean and the area tidy, low maintenance and eco-friendly," Sam says.

The main features include multiple private patio spaces at the front and back of the house and a grass area down the side of the house, which is lined with fruit trees and has a raised vegetable garden.

"We have a mix of native plants and a huge selection of edible trees and veges," Emmett says. "We have a water tank for summer watering and a sun-filled area for the washing line. Our pavers bring a crisp and clean feel to the outdoor area."

Time restraints were a big factor when the duo designed this area, which ended up coming last in the scoring. "But we knew we were committed to paving a large area with multiple levels and we wouldn't compromise on the quality of the paving because of the look we wanted to achieve," says Sam.

Continuity was also important to the team. "With floor-to-ceiling tiles in all the bathrooms, the pavers made sense and were an easy option for us," he says.

**"Our aim was to follow on with the corporate flow of our interior, keeping the lines clean and the area tidy, low maintenance and eco-friendly"**

SCORE  
12 / 20**WEEK 10: OUTDOOR ROOM**

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A huge tool space will be invaluable to the owners of this home, as will the fold-away workbench. The separate laundry (below) repeats the subway tiles seen elsewhere in the home, creating a fresh, all-white, accessible space. Sam and Emmett's efforts here put them in third place.

# Stockists

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## HOUSE 1 NIKI & TIFF

> **KID'S BEDROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; walls in Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; Luxaflex Blockout Duette blinds, large natural basket, rattan basket, coat hangers, wire wall hanging, desk (coffee), handmade rug, vase (grey), fish bowl, vessel vase, and wall lights, all from Freedom; hardwood flooring in Regal Oak from Godfrey Hirst; brick wall detail from Muros; door handles on wardrobe from Knobs N Knockers; duvet and pillowcases from Atlas Living; framed print on wall by Mish O'Neill in frame from Factory Frames; futon from Futon NZ.

**MAIN BATHROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen and Bathroom in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen and Bathroom in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; wooden statues from The Importer; Turkish bath towel from Koza; Aesop soaps from World; plant pot from Palmers; Lumina white matte 250 x 750 wall tile, Demel multicolour 200 x 200 floor tile, both from Tile Space; Palm Beach Collection candle, Fischer basket, Madras mat, all from Freedom; Caroma Liani Nexus toilet roll holder, robe hook, hand towel ring, shower mixer and bath spout in matte black, Caroma Liano 1400 free-standing bath, Paffoni Master overhead dumper rose and wall arm in matte black, white ceramic Progetto Icon Vessel basin, St Michel Custom City vanity with cherry pie top, Kohler Reve back-to-wall toilet suite, Heirloom Genesis nero black towel warmer, all from Mico. **GUEST BEDROOM** Luxaflex Duette blockout blinds in daisy white, Albion rug (white), Slumberland Ensemble queen base in carbon, all from Freedom; hardwood flooring in Regal Oak from Godfrey Hirst; lantern lights bought on Trade Me; bedspread from The Foxes Den; throw on bed from Atlas Living; fluffy floor cushion from Society of Wanderers; white Marcelo rectangular mirror and round iron bedside table, both from Le Forge; book on bed, white pot on bedside table, both from Dove Hospice Shop; pot plant and pot from Palmers. **LIVING ROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Aabaster'; hardwood flooring in Regal Oak from Godfrey Hirst; white sofa from The Indie Collective; orange rug from Society of Wanderers; wicker chairs and side table from charity shop; pots and plants from Palmers; ocean photograph and frame by Mish O'Neill Photography; landscape photograph, a Shutterstock image; barn door hardware from Trade Me; television from JB HiFi; speakers and amp from JA Russell. **MAIN BEDROOM**

Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; Peyton queen bed, Cayto cushion (natural), Claude vase, Rogue Magnolia bud branch, Giselle glass halogen shade in clear, Luxaflex Duette Blind Architella Blockout, Buco placemat, Madras mat, Saigon tray, all

from Freedom; black and white rug from Trade Me; bedding from The Foxes Den; black light fittings from JA Russell; wooden side tables from Sika Design; Mish O'Neill photograph (beach scene) with frame from Factory Frames; all other prints from Shutterstock printed at Warehouse Stationery in frames from Factory Frames. **ENSUITE** Wall topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; Project Light Grey Matte floor tile, Track Brick wall tile, both from Tile Space; mirror from Le Forge; towels from The Foxes Den; Caroma Liano Nexus shower mixer, bath spout, hand towel ring, toilet roll holder, all in matte black, Aquabella Splash shower column, Progetto Icon vessel basin, St Michel Custom City vanity with cherry pie top, Kohler Reve wall-hung toilet suite, all from Mico; hardwood flooring in Regal Oak from Godfrey Hirst; black wire mirror from Le Forge; Buddha statues from CC Interiors; ottoman from Trade Me.

**KITCHEN/DINING** Ceiling topcoat Resene 'Double Alabaster'; kitchen wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; dining wall topcoat Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; Primary vessel, Decorate bottle vessel, Talleo vessel, and curtains, all from Freedom; cabinet fronts and benchtop from Peter Hay Kitchens; electric cooktop, built-in oven, dishwasher, refrigerator, all from Haier; Paffoni Ringo sink mixer from Mico; dining table and chair from The Vitrine; black bowls, candleholder, table runner and pendant light, all from Indie Home Collective; wooden bowl from Romantique; shoe scraper and drinks cart from charity shops; wooden candlestick holders from Trade Me; cross on wall and utensils from Trade Aid; decanters from Junk & Disorderly; pepper grinder from The Warehouse; serving board from Romantique; tea towels from The Foxes Den; home control system from ILI One Touch Screen; books from Paper Plus; appliances from Breville. **LAUNDRY/GARAGE** Ceiling and wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Double Alabaster'; laundry basket, flower, vase, candle, all from Freedom; dryer, wine chiller, bar fridge and washing machine, all from Haier; sink mixer from Mico Bathrooms; cabinet fronts in Snowdrift Satin Laminate with zero joint edge, benchtop 19mm in Chalk Acrylic, both from Peter Hay Kitchens.

## HOUSE 2 DYLS & DYLZ

> **KID'S BEDROOM** Wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Riptide'; ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat in Resene 'Alabaster'; plastic chair wood-stained in Colorwood 'Whitewash'; bedside wall lights from Spotlight; duvet set from Briscoes; curtains from Freedom; pendant light from Mitre 10; white Tobie stools from Freedom; trundler bed from Harvey Norman; Silken Touch carpet in Rain Cloud from Godfrey Hirst; wicker hanging chair from Top Secret; yellow Eliza throw from Freedom. **MAIN BATHROOM** Ceiling, wall and woodwork topcoat all in Resene Lustacryl waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; floor tiles in Surface Cool Grey from Tile Space; Boston toilet roll holder from Mico; Manning bath

towel in granite, Reign toilet brush in grey, Reign toilet roll holder in grey, Summit tumbler in concrete, Summit soap dish in concrete, Manning hand towel in white, Buco storage box, Lorne basket, all from Freedom; Hansgrohe Lux wall elbow, Ideal Standard Cygnet vessel basin, Paffoni Stick diverter mixer, Raymor round towel warmer, Plumblime Buddy free-standing bath filler, Catalano Sfera wall-hung toilet, Paffoni Bahamas shower dumper with wall arm, Paffoni Stick wall-mounted basin mixer, Hansgrohe Croma Multi 100 shower slide, all from Mico; olive soap from Body Shop; feature wall from Stonecraft; wooden top vanity bench from Cypress Sawmill; underfloor heating from Warm Up.

**GUEST BEDROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free in Resene 'Alabaster'; vanilla beach Ecoya mini Madison jars and curtains, all from Freedom; cookbooks from Kmart; bedding from Briscoes; macrocarpa wood for headboard from Cypress Sawmill; Silken Touch carpet from Godfrey Hirst; pot plant and pot from Palmers; leather chair from Nood; photo frames from Kmart; bedside pendant lights from Lighting Direct; Slumberland Value Ensemble queen base from Freedom. **LIVING ROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; feature wall in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Delta'; James Dunlop curtains from Freedom; cushions, throws, basket, coffee table, grey rug, black leaf bowl, assorted colour wall art and Marlo Natural sofa, all from Freedom; fur hide from Nood; barn door hardware from Unique Hardware and wood from South Pacific Timbers; TV from Harvey Norman; pot plants from Palmers; flooring in Godfrey Hirst Timber Villa 'Summer Blonde'. **MAIN BEDROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; feature wallpaper Resene Habitat Collection 47593; Slumberland Value Ensemble Base Queen, Tucker ottoman, Summit Tumbler in concrete; Buco medium lidded frame box, James Dunlop curtains and Ruffle tracks all from Freedom; bedding and wicker baskets from Kmart; black bedside lights with bulbs from Lighting Direct; door made by Dyls and Dylz; wood for door and bedside tables from Cypress Sawmill; hardware for door from Unique Hardware; TV from The Warehouse; plant pot from Palmers. **ENSUITE** Ceiling and woodwork topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen and Bathroom waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene Spacecote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; floor tiles Surface Cool Grey semi polished from Tile Space; Paffoni Stick diverter mixer, Hansgrohe Croma Multi 100 Shower slide, Paffoni Bahamas dumper, Paffoni Stick wall-mounted basin mixer, Ideal Standard Cygnet vessel basin, Catalano Sfera 54 wall-hung toilet, Raymor Boston toilet roll holder, all from Mico; towels from Kmart.

**DINING AREA** Walls in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen 'Alabaster'; wallpaper Resene 'Serendipity' SD101154; ceiling in Resene SpaceCote Flat in 'Alabaster'; James Dunlop curtains from Freedom; woodwork topcoat Resene 'Alabaster'; floor in Resene Concrete Wax clear finish; wood stain Resene Colorwood wood stain in Resene 'Matai'; black pendant light, dining table, dining chairs, cushions, crockery, dinner set, cutlery, glasses, serving board and rug all from Freedom; flooring in Godfrey Hirst Timber Villa 'Summer Blonde'. **KITCHEN** Wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen

Kitchen and Bathroom in Resene 'Alabaster'; ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; TV from The Warehouse; splashback from Metro Glass; salt and pepper shakers from Briscoes; all appliances from Breville; Paffoni red sink mixer from Mico; Haier 462L French Door refrigerator, dishwasher, oven and electric cooktop, all from Haier; benchtop and cabinet fronts from Peter Hay Kitchens; dining table, constable bench, Tierra bowl, Tierra dinner plate, Garret canisters, Baxter futon cushions, Axel fruit bowl, Tilbury floor rug, James Dunlop curtains, all from Freedom; flooring in Godfrey Hirst Timber Villa 'Summer Blonde'.

## HOUSE 3 EMMA & COURTNEY

**KID'S BEDROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Duck Egg Blue'; wood coated in Resene Danska Teak Oil; Cottage Charm carpet in Alpine Grey from Godfrey Hirst; wall hangings, world print canvas, duvet set and desk lamp all from Kmart; liquid chalk splashback from Metro Glass; sports equipment from Kmart and The Warehouse; desk shelving from The Warehouse with handmade top; Frieda bed, Portsea stool, Juno stool, and curtains in James Dunlop Cavalier fabric in Cloud and lined in Snow, all from Freedom. **BATHROOM** Ceiling and wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen and Bathroom in Resene 'Alabaster'; Cementia Grey floor and wall tile, Honeycomb white matte mosaic feature wall tile, both from Tile Space; Mix and Match Diesel Suspension pendant, Jax basket, Amina candle, soap dispenser, Scully toilet brush, all from Freedom; Adesso Edge Wall Faced suite, Heirloom Studio towel stirrup, Progetto Metro toilet roll holder, robe hook, shower column and wall-mounted basin mixer, St Michel Custom City vanity, Progetto Cascade 4 waterfall spout, Englefield Studio freestanding bath and Kohler Chalice vessel basin, all from Mico. **MAIN BEDROOM** Ceiling in SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; walls in SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; wallpaper Resene 'Intenz' 48960; bedside table ornaments from Kmart; Cottage Charm carpet in Alpine Grey from Godfrey Hirst; James Dunlop curtains, Parque queen bed, Dubai ceiling light cone, Parque bedside table, Metro table lamp, Argyle quilt cover set, cushions and throw, all from Freedom.

**KITCHEN/DINING** Ceiling and dining walls topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; kitchen wall topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen and Bathroom Resene 'Alabaster'; Encore dining chair, Sleek M2 dining table, Edie mug, Buco placemat, Rogue herb jar, Fraction serving jug, Dane canister, Garret canister, rustic serving board in natural, Labyrinth fruit bowl, tribal vessel, Pomona vases, Elements serving bowl, Luxaflex QMotion Rollershades in 'Willandra' fabric, all from Freedom; cabinetry: Peter Hay Warm White Naturale Laminate with zero joint edge and Sublime Teak Pure Grain laminate with pure grain edge, and Peter Hay engineered stone in raw concrete, all from Peter Hay Kitchens; Paffoni Ringo sink mixer from Mico; appliances from Breville; pendant by David Trubridge; electric cooktop, oven, dishwasher and 462L French-door stainless refrigerator, all from Haier; flooring in Godfrey Hirst Timber Regal Oak 'Astor'.

**GUEST BEDROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Half Duck Egg Blue'; Fletcher Carver chair, Slumberland Value Ensemble queen base, Mix and Match Diesel Suspension pendant and Mix and Match

Bronx pendant shade, all from Freedom; Cottage Charm carpet in Alpine Grey from Godfrey Hirst; pine for bedhead from Placemakers; fur throw from The Warehouse; pot plant from Palmers; black and white throw from Kmart; pendant lights from Lighting Plus; glass wall tile in white from Metro Glass.

**LIVING ROOM** Ceiling and wall topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; accessories topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Black'; gold tray, cushions, rug, lantern, orange candleholder, small basket, Loft ecrù sofa, side table, James Dunlop curtains, Luxaflex QMotion Translucent Rollershades, all from Freedom; orange cushion from Citta Design; Hinaki pendant light by David Trubridge; Xtra footstool/coffee table from BoConcept; white fur from Kmart; canvas print from BoConcept; pot plants from Palmers; TV from Harvey Norman; flooring in Godfrey Hirst Timber Regal Oak 'Astor'. **MAIN BEDROOM** Ceiling and wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; Stoke queen firm mattress, Slumberland Value Ensemble queen base, Chillax occasional armchair, plant stand, side table, Luxaflex QMotion Translucent Rollershade blinds, Ecoya Madison jar, all from Freedom; Cottage Charm carpet in Alpine Grey from Godfrey Hirst; towels and pot plant from Briscoes; pendant by David Trubridge; canvas artwork by Jen Sievers; bedding from Briscoes; black side lamps from Flo and Frankie; ceiling panelling from Independent Building Supplies.

**ENSUITE** Ceiling and woodwork topcoat in Resene Spacecote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; Maro soap dispenser, Scully toilet brush, Sax storage bag, all from Freedom; St Michel Custom City vanity, Kohler Chalice vessel basin, Stylus Dorado back-to-wall toilet suite, Progetto Metro shower mixer, Methven Waipori wall shower rose with arm, all from Mico; Cementia Grey floor and wall tiles, Honeycombe Internal Black Matte tiles, both from Tile Space; mirror from Metro Glass. **LAUNDRY/GARAGE** Ceiling and wall topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat in Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; facewasher, two clear vessels, diffuser, basket and laundry basket, all from Freedom; dryer, washing machine, bar fridge, all from Haier; sink mixer from Mico; cabinetry from Peter Hay Kitchens; tools on the wall from Placemakers; bin wall from Bunnings; towels from Briscoes.

## HOUSE 4 SAM & EMMETT

**KID'S BEDROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Half Duck Egg Blue'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; Luxaflex Blockout Duette blinds, Peyton king single bed, side table, Metro table lamp, Petite chair, Orson mirror, Petite desk, all from Freedom; beanbag, bedding, throw, fairy lights and cushions, all from Let Liv; artwork from Endemic; pencil holder from Kmart.

**MAIN BATHROOM** Ceiling topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen and Bathroom in Resene 'Alabaster'; St Michel Dante mirror cabinet, St Michel City tower unit and City vanity, Methven Waipori basin mixer and shower mixer, Raymor Dawson back-to-wall toilet, robe hook, toilet roll holder and towel ring, Englefield Studio freestanding bath, all from Mico; Mandel basket, Palm Beach Collection diffuser and candle, all from Freedom.

**GUEST BEDROOM** Ceiling topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene

'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; coat hangers, Slumberland Value Ensemble queen base, Hutch bedside table drawer, throw, plant stand, Zacharia ceiling pendants, smoke vessel and James Dunlop curtains, all from Freedom; hardwood flooring in Regal Oak from Godfrey Hirst; striped rug, small print cushions, mirror, all from Let Liv; leather for bedhead from Lapco for Leather; prints of New Zealand from Endemic World; plant from Palmers; bedding from Citta Design; bedside table books from charity shop.

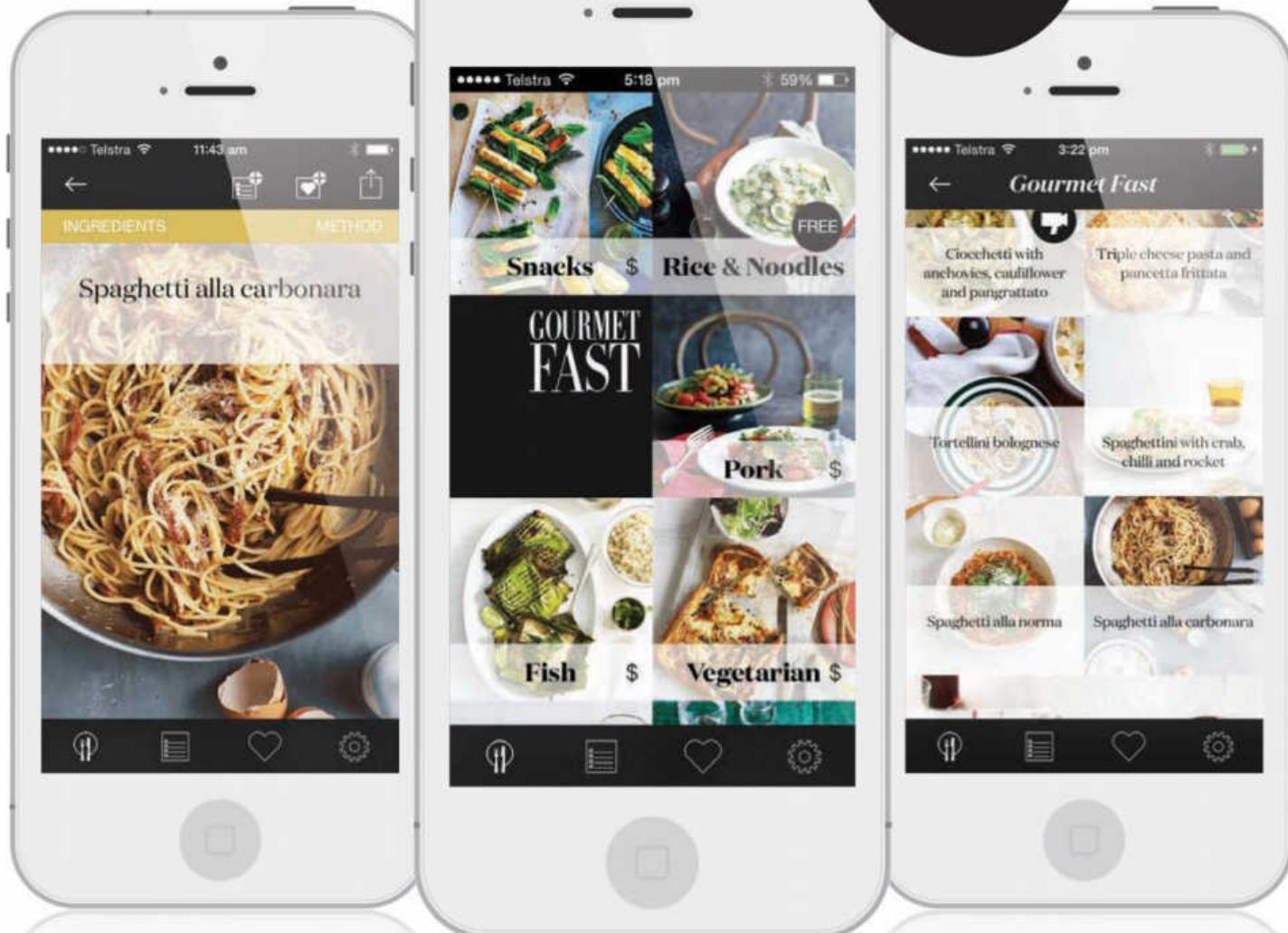
**LIVING ROOM** Ceiling and wall topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; three-seat Ada Fog sofa, coffee table, rug, cushion, yellow throw, floor lamp and curtains in Warwick Corfu, all from Freedom; hardwood flooring in Regal Oak from Godfrey Hirst; old books and leather chair from Junk & Disorderly; Oki tray on coffee table from BoConcept; frames from Warehouse Stationery; parrot artwork and frame from Endemic World; TV from Appliance Shed; reindeer fur from Lapco for Leather; plant hangers from Collected; terrarium and cactus from Bioattic. **MAIN BEDROOM** Ceiling, wall and woodwork topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; Oslo queen bed, Grayson chair, and curtains in Warwick Corfu, all from Freedom; Godfrey Hirst carpet; custom-made tables, bedside lights from Lighting Direct; throw from Citta Design; prints from Endemic World; white lamp from Citta Design; bedding from Bed, Bath & Table; cushions from Country Road. **ENSUITE** Ceiling topcoat Resene Spacecote Flat Kitchen and Bathroom waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; wall topcoat Resene SpaceCote Flat Kitchen & Bathroom waterborne enamel with antibacterial silver and added protection against mould in Resene 'Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Kitchen and Bathroom waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; St Michel Custom City drawer vanity, Buddy basin mixer, Buddy shower mixer with diverter, Buddy wall-mounted rainhead and Buddy Minimalistic slide shower, all by Progetto, plus Raymor Dawson back-to-wall toilet, all from Mico; Grigio Tecno floor and feature wall tile, both from Tile Space; towels from Country Road; mirror from Tim Webber Design; soap holder and candles on vanity from Father Rabbit and Citta Design; Palm Beach Collection diffuser and Manning bath towel, both from Freedom.

**KITCHEN/DINING** Ceiling and dining-room walls topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; kitchen walls topcoat Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen and Bathroom in Resene 'Alabaster'; Klarkson dining chair, placemats, Jett jug, Prestige tumblers, Cheers stool, Trilby rug, coasters, and QMotion Rollershades, all from Freedom; cabinetry and benchtop from Peter Hay Kitchens; cooktop, oven and dishwasher, all from Haier; dining table from Nood; clock from The Design Store; pendant by David Trubridge; all other appliances from Breville Appliances. **LAUNDRY/GARAGE** Ceiling and wall topcoat in Resene SpaceCote Flat waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; woodwork topcoat Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene 'Alabaster'; material basket with towels, diffuser, laundry basket and soap dish, all from Freedom; dryer, washing machine and bar fridge, all from Haier; sink mixer from Mico; cabinetry and benchtop from Peter Hay Kitchens; linen spray and soap dish from Father Rabbit; towels from Briscoes.

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