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dream kitchens

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PRETTY AS A PICTURE

Under the watchful gaze of an interior-designer owner, this neglected 1860s cottage has been lovingly restored into a tranquil getaway set in Victoria's picturesque countryside

WORDS & STYLING **JULIA GREEN** PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELE HABIB**



Design ideas for a country-style kitchen

1 Centre stage "The kitchen is the heart of almost every home, but the warmth of a country kitchen is hard to beat," says stylist Julia Green. "Consider what feature to showcase and work around it. In this kitchen, it is the powder-blue oven."

2 Tap to it "The right sink and taps are important factors in your kitchen's design," says Julia. "A butler sink is practical - pair it with vintage-style taps."

3 Art of display "Add pastoral charm with kitchenalia," says Julia. "Try suspending pots from an old ladder over an island bench, or cluster vintage utensils in aged vessels on the bench and place cutlery in jam jars."

Owner Kali's kitchen showcases farmhouse style with an industrial twist. The lights, cabinet handles, subway tiles and splash of grey paint lend a modern feel.



KITCHEN The Chambers oven, found in Los Angeles, is the showstopper of owner and interior designer Kali Canavagh's kitchen in Vintage House, Daylesford. Kali reconfigured the layout to fit it in. Her penchant for pre-loved style means the home is filled with her designs: the cabinetry, an island bench made from an old chest and fitted with metal legs, and hanging light bulbs. →



DINING AREA An oversized leather Chesterfield booth seat lends a sense of history and occasion to the space. Industrial pendant lights usher in a more relaxed feel and hang above the table adorned with pieces from Izzi & Popo. The morning light streams in through the French stable doors, which open out onto the sunny garden. "Vintage House Daylesford is made from complete love and things that have inspired me," says Kali.

Restoring a derelict home that's sliding down a hill is not a job for the faint-hearted, but for designer Kali Cavanagh, it made her heart sing. When Kali first clapped eyes on the miner's cottage on the border of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs in country Victoria, the dwelling was in deep trouble and she was warned against taking on such an enormous project. With a steely resolve and an eye for the bigger picture, Kali set about a rescue operation that spanned 18 months. At the end of 2012, she was able to move in.

Fast forward to 2014 and Kali, who revived and designed the interior schemes of properties in Australia and London, admits that the Daylesford project was her largest and most challenging to date.

"Having grown up in the country, with a mother addicted to renovating and design, it was always on the cards that I would take

a leaf out of her book. You could say I was meant to pursue this line of work," explains Kali.

The functionality and layout of each room in the cottage was thoroughly considered before the rebuild. With only the facade remaining intact, the house was restumped and many of the internal walls were pulled down to open up the spaces. Wiring, plastering and painting were carried out over the best part of six months, all project-managed by Kali, alongside a host of local builders and tradespeople who shared her vision for the cottage's resurrection.

The interior fit-out was largely the result of Kali's pilgrimage to Los Angeles, a trip she made specifically to source vintage and industrial pieces and furniture for the house. "I loved going to all of the antique markets over there. I sourced some of my favourite →

HISTORY LESSON

1. 'Workshop' pendant lamp, \$189, HK Living
 2. 'Interiors Expression' paint in Intrigue, \$38.95/litre, Haymes Paint
 3. 'Clean & Protect' paint in Love Note, \$55.50/4L, British Paints
 4. 'Eggshell' acrylic paint in Shell Grey, \$43.10/litre, Porter's Paints
 5. 'Judges' chair, \$2690, Alliance Furniture Trading
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home truths

Who lives here: Interior designer and stylist Kali Cavanagh (below), who shares her weekender with family and friends, and a host of country wildlife.

Style of home: Vintage House Daylesford is aptly named given its seamless mix of old and new, industrial and vintage, with marble and metal contrasted with timber and linen. The lounge room's large windows frame the surrounds, while the fireplace, country kitchen and many creature comforts make the home a perfect retreat. The house is also used for location photo shoots.

LOUNGE ROOM The custom-built arched windows form picture-perfect countryside vistas in one of Kali's favourite rooms. "At night, I put the lamps on to highlight the garden, light the fire and cosy up with a good book and a glass of wine," she says. The antique French cast-iron fireplace "inspired me to paint the room charcoal," says Kali. Above the beloved fireplace hangs an original French cafe sign from Côté Provence, while a cluster of old bottles and gold hydrangeas sit atop it. →



“I WANTED TO USE NEUTRAL COLOURS TO CREATE A STORY THAT FLOWED THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE AND CREATE A DRAMATIC YET CALMING EFFECT”



OPPOSITES ATTRACT

- 1. 'Stamford' desk lamp, \$330, Emac & Lawton
- 2. Cowhide rug, \$1199, Domayne
- 3. Original General Electric bakelite clock, \$595, Quintessential Duckeggblue
- 4. 'Roma' side table, \$389, La Maison
- 5. TineKHome 'Moreknot' cushion, \$175, This... Design & Living



5 great finds



GUEST BEDROOM (above left) An antique bookcase holds finds from Kali's travels. **EXTERIOR (above right)** Old doors sourced from the Blue Mountains lead out from the lounge room to a relaxing deck. **MASTER BEDROOM (opposite & below)** Bedlinen from Los Angeles, a cast-iron bath at the ensuite's entrance, and timber elements, such as shutters from a rundown mansion and an industrial chest cum side table, add warmth to this calming suite. →



bathroom inspiration

Relocated to a more central location in the house, the bathroom features a bath topped with a marble surround and uses the same subway tiles in the kitchen. Kali designed the window and mirror, which complement the vanity, another of her creations. "It was a desk," says Kali, "I removed the legs, cut down the top and cut a hole for the sink then added one of the desk legs at the front."





GUEST BEDROOM (above) Sumptuous embossed linen features on the spare bed, above which is positioned an original hand-printed Union Jack flag from Guy Mathews Vintage Industrial Furniture.

ENSUITE (above right) "Once these doors were purchased, I redesigned the ensuite layout to incorporate them," says Kali of the restored barn doors that enclose the pamper zone from the master bedroom. An old set of drawers was refashioned into the distinctive vanity, which features a marble top and brass French mailbox name plates above the handles. "I had to cut into the internal drawers to fit the pipes in," says Kali.

pieces, from ovens and old barn doors to light fittings and linens – all of which I bought and had shipped over," says Kali. Some items were purchased locally from her friend Guy Mathews and his store in Fitzroy, while others – such as the outdoor table and both the bathroom and ensuite vanities – were designed by Kali herself.

When it came to the colour palette, she placed a strong emphasis on neutrals. "I wanted to create a story that flowed through the house, using various shades of whites and greys in all of the rooms. I love the drama of darker colours, such as charcoal, and the way they work to contrast with the whites," she says. From any angle, Kali's considered approach has paid big dividends; her home has a nostalgic, inviting charm and is full of carefully curated vignettes.

Although Kali now lives in the city and is about to undertake her next project, she loves visiting the cottage. "Life down here is relaxing. Good, old-fashioned conversation and books replace the television, and every room has a view," she says. "I am addicted to how this place makes me feel. Daylesford has an incredible sense of community, fresh air and amazing produce on your doorstep. I hope this place can inspire others the way it has me." ❖

For more details on Kali's work, visit kalicannagh.com. To check the availability of Vintage House Daylesford, visit vintagehousedaylesford.com.



PAMPER ZONE PERFECTION 1. Perrin & Rowe 'Exposed 12B' shower set, \$2770, The English Tapware Company 2. 'Eggegrund' shower curtain, \$699, Ikea 3. General Eclectic stool, \$149, Zest Products 4. Barr-Co soap, \$14.95, Saison 5. White Stone 'Hox' above-counter basin, \$384, Reece **ADDRESS BOOK** page 165