

WINNER EXCELLENCE AWARD 2013

TV'S THE BEST
STEAL THEIR STYLING

real living

MAY 2014

home | ideas | shopping | food



58 SERIOUSLY AFFORDABLE STORAGE IDEAS

A TIMELESS CLASSIC RENO
(ALL RESOURCES REVEALED)

dream a little dream

TRANSFORM YOUR BEDROOM WITH BEAUTIFUL LINENS

** our misty quilt cover*



MAY 8/2014 (EST)



colour
play



Melbourne interior decorator Jessica Bettenay brings **style, substance & colour** to her clients' family home



Starting point

"Making a good sofa choice is key for a lounge — this is a good place to spend and splurge," says interior decorator Jessica Bettenay. The bold All McNabney-Stevens artwork adds a punch of colour to the pastel walls. →

Modern traditional

Jessica's eye for colour and style explains why she is one of Melbourne's busiest interior decorators. The sideboard is from Fenton&Fenton and the artwork is by Ali McNabney-Stevens, from The Assembly Hall. →



Cool room, happy client

To create an inviting yet masculine workspace for client Justin, Jessica chose a bold Fenton&Fenton black and white rug, a comfortable Luke Furniture leather sofa, and a Melzal "Saddle" chair.





WHEN JUSTIN TODD and Jessica Hewstone and their three children moved into their spacious rental in Melbourne's buzzing St Kilda they called on interior decorator Jessica Bettenay to fit out the house. Jessica's brave and colourful design aesthetic, matched with a healthy dose of pragmatism, meant she was perfectly suited for the job – to create rooms with personality, while ensuring the space felt lived in for the growing family.

The walls in the rented house were already painted, so to work with what was there, Jessica kickstarted the decorating process with some confident rug choices. "Rugs are like art for the floor," she explains. "They are the easiest way to define a space and build the personality of a room. I tend to find once I have selected the rug, the rest of the story unfolds quite naturally." Jessica turned to Loom Rugs for inspiration. Not only were the rugs selected statement pieces in their own right, but they were hardy enough to survive a regular pounding from young children.

Decisions on furniture pieces proved to be a collaborative effort. "My well-travelled clients have an eye for style and were keen to make some lifetime choices by investing in pieces that would see them through this house and their next," Jessica says. Favourite haunts such as Fenton&Fenton, Jordan and Mark Tuckey were her go-to stores for timeless quality pieces. But she didn't stop there – for a touch of quirk, Jessica mixed in some conversation-starting pieces such as the fabulous vintage Japanese lockers from her own store, The Assembly Hall in Williamstown.

Beautiful textiles and fabrics, especially linen, were also high on Jessica's list of priorities. A pair of French printed linen drapes – discovered in Sydney – hung in the master bedroom are reputed to be one of her greatest finds to date. Taking her love of linen →

Vibrant space

Jessica's bold hits of colour in choices of rug, art and furniture make this family kitchen a happy hub for mealtimes. The artwork is by Ali McNabney-Stevens, while the dining chairs came from Mark Tuckey.

△ wall colour inspiration found in the painting



who lives here?

Justin Todd and Jessica Newson, with their children, Jacob, 10, Taj, 6, and Frankie, 4, plan Cheer the family room. The home was decorated by Jessica Buttery. TheAsianMall.com.au

Decorating tip "I encourage my clients to be patient and fully explore their options rather than make hasty decisions when selecting pieces for their home," Jessica says. "A house is best not 'thrown together' quickly, but thoughtfully appointed."

Art confidence "I inevitably start with the floor when decorating, and work my way up. I then draw my inspiration for art from existing colour palettes in the room," Jessica explains.



Let's play

The colourful lockers, from The Assembly Hall, sit in the kitchen area. "We wanted this room to have a sense of playfulness and fun, which is probably why the kids congregate here so often!" Jessica says of the area. The clock is from Scout House. →



Colour coded (right)
 Each room is characterised by its own wall colour. A soft and neutrally painted hallway allows the Fenton&Fenton lightbox to take centre stage, with its soft glow.



Shelf that (below)

In Taj's bedroom, a picture rail is perfect for displaying a car collection while cleverly mounted boxes provide attractive storage.



Pretty in pink (above)

Contemporary design is possible for even the smallest family member; baby Frankie-Rae's room is decorated with Kido furniture, an Armadillo&Co rug and Lumiere Art & Co print.

one step further, Jessica dressed the bed in soft, subtly crumpled bedlinen from Bedouin Societe. "There is nothing better than sleeping in this stuff – once you have it, there is no going back!" she says.

Jessica brought a playful approach to the kids' rooms. For the boys' rooms she settled on a mix of old and new, with bold colours and curios. For baby Frankie-Rae, the newest addition to the family, Jessica created a tranquil sanctuary, contrasting sugar-pink walls with a super-soft geometric bedcovering, simple Scandi-inspired furniture and an Armadillo&Co "Marigold" hemp rug.

A mix of coloured cushions, beautiful throws, and fine art by Ali McNabney-Stevens were used to add the final layer of "top-dressing" to the home, defining the owners' personality and style. The secret to the successful interior fit-out was a matter of time, Jessica says. "Our project spanned more than six months because we didn't want to settle for mediocre," she explains. "Each piece selected had a role to play – and we wanted to see how the home evolved and to make sure it felt right. Luckily the owners feel the results were worth the wait." ❊

Master stroke

The muted linen curtains – the starting point for decorating the master bedroom – contrast with the bold walls and geometric rug. The bed is dressed in linen from Bedouin Societe, making it a peaceful and luxurious sanctuary for the busy residents. →

◇ a well-thought-out colour palette makes this room feel resolved

A FLOORING

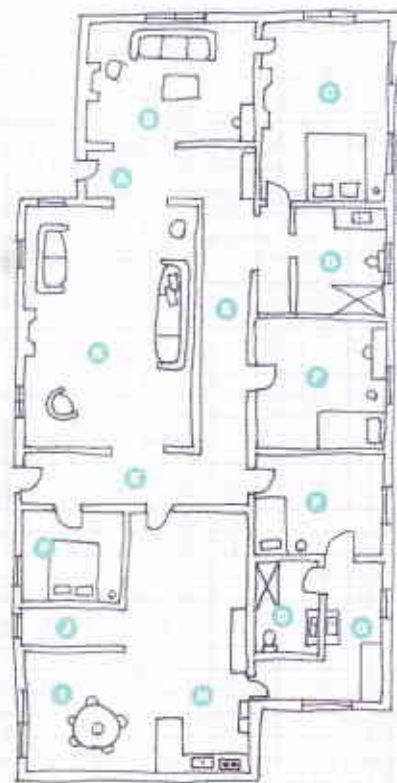
B INTERIOR PAINT - LOUNGE ROOM

C INTERIOR PAINT - OFFICE

D INTERIOR PAINT - MASTER BEDROOM

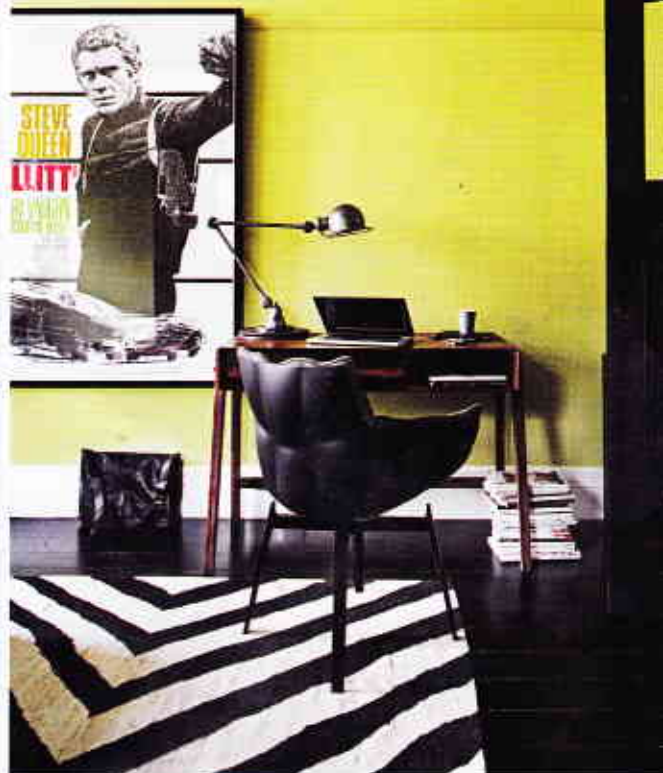
KEY

- A Entrance
- B Living/Study
- C Master bedroom
- D Bathroom
- E Hallway
- F Bedroom
- G Laundry
- H Kitchen
- I Dining
- J Pantry
- K Lounge room



King of cool

A vintage movie poster of US actor Steve McQueen takes pride of place in client Justin's work area.



FINISHES

FLOORING Pergo "Living Expressions Classic Plank" laminated in **Black Oak** (A; 1.28m x 19.5cm x 9mm), about \$58.70 a sq m, Floored Australia. **INTERIOR PAINTS** Taubmans Endure Interior in **Glowing Melon** (B), \$69.90 for 4L. Bauwerk Lime in **Seagrass** (C), \$88 for 4L. Bauwerk Lime in **Copper** (D), \$88 for 4L. For stockists, see page 175.



Simple & serene
Unlike the rest of the house, the bathroom (complete with Missoni towels) is a colour-free space.

For home/work
Rope light in Yellow, \$260, Lightly. Kit includes globe, 3m woven rope, lamp holder and ceiling rose.

Lyrical beauty
River Bed acrylic on canvas artwork by Ali McNabney-Stevens, \$3500, Greenhouse Interiors.

♥ splurge on gorgeous artwork

Hand-screenprinted
VandNinen cushion in Black with trim in Multicolour (50cm), \$155, Bonnie And Neil.

JESSICA'S MOODBOARD

Striking rugs, colourful art and timeless, quality furniture for a smart but welcoming family home

Handcrafted piece
TRVM Lighting "Stenson" floor lamp, \$790, Walker & Beck (Woollahra & Avalon), About 1.6m high.

Moroccan vintage
Berber rug in Freehand, \$860, Fossik, 2.3m x 1.3m.

Relaxed style
Saddle leather chair in Tan, \$1199, Meizal.



Time's up
Newgate UK Nottingham wall clock, \$345, Scout House, 45cm diameter x 9cm depth.



Give a hand
Vintage porcelain glove moulds, about \$39.44 each plus shipping, Etsy.com/shop/thejunkhaus, About 34cm high.



For fave plants
Turning Triangles terrarium, \$US39 (about \$AU43) plus shipping, Urban Outfitters, About 20cm x 18cm.