UR HOME, MADE EASY

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GUST 2012

amazing style

QUICK TIPS.
CLEVER TRICKS!

BEFORE & AFTER
TV'S *THE BLOCK!* — *how to get the look*

WHICH LIVING ROOM IS RIGHT FOR YOU? *SHOP THE LOOK*

♥ *sneak peek into inspiring homes*

ST 2012
(incl. GST)

HIDE MY FLOORS, PLEASE! TRANSFORM YOUR ROOMS WITH RUGS

Design Now

BOY MEETS GIRL the simple secrets to decorating *(with his stuff)*

FAMILY MEALS YUMMY RECIPES NOW WITH NUTRITIONAL INFO!

Natural palette
"White, blues and greys are the colours that I lean most toward as a canvas to add colour or a dash of silver," says homeowner Ursula van Schoonhoven. The Moroccan teapot was a wedding gift, while the silver tray was bought on a recent trip to Amsterdam.

tip#1 "Place cushions around the coffee table for informal Japanese-style dining," Ursula says.

amazing STYLE
quick tips, clever tricks!

A Melbourne couple create a harmonious home while celebrating the best of **Australian & Dutch design**

Going Dutch
After living in Amsterdam for 10 years, Ursula added many European design features to her home, including blonde timber floors and an "obligatory" coat rack, which is a vintage piece from Holland. The hall cabinet in New Dutch Blonde and the Myles half bench seat in Domino Black are from Ursula's store House Of Orange. →

tip#2 "Keep beautiful windows relatively curtain-free and open."

tip#3 "Add texture and colour to your interior through accessories."

writer & styling natalie walton | photography chris warnes/warnesandwalton.com

who lives here? | Ursula van Schoonhoven with her husband Hans, and daughters April, 10, and Nina, 5. The couple are co-owners of furniture design business House Of Orange. House-of-orange.com.au

1 Back to basics When it came to furnishing her home Ursula says she's followed a philosophy that's at the heart of their business, too. "The motto that reinvigorated our business 3.5 years ago was 'back to basics'. Start with the basics when decorating," she says.

2 Size doesn't matter "My style is mainly informed by apartment living," Ursula says, "so this house was a bit of a challenge at first. I know how to embrace small spaces and make spaces within small spaces. Large rooms don't have to feel vast."

3 Rental pros In regards to renting, Ursula says that they've created a long-term lease with their landlord, "creating a great sense of continuity for our landlord and us. He grants us a long-term lease and we look after the place as if it was ours," Ursula says.

tip#5 "Use lots of corner lighting to create warmth. It's a great way to add ambience in a vast space or to a room with high ceilings."

tip#6 "A house, regardless of budget, is and should be a place that informs your day-to-day activities – how and where you read a book, have a conversation, sleep or cook. Best, therefore, to make those spaces a part of your sense of wellbeing."

tip#7 "Mix and match – designer with high street, vintage with modern, neutral with colour – for an interesting, unique look."

Old-style cool
"The kitchen is original to the 100-year-old house. Modern HK Living pendants hang above a House Of Orange island bench. The original school clock is from Tarlo & Graham. →

Oversized elegance
The north-facing living room gets beautiful afternoon light. The sofa, love seat and ottoman are by Dutch designer Jan des Bouvrie. "They embody that classic Dutch robust oversized elegance." Ursula says. Artworks, painted by friends and family, add vibrancy to the neutral decor.

tip#4 "Black floors are natural and yet a bit dramatic and moody without a hint of country or twee. When you have classic features in your home black floors are an easy way to modernise the look."

FROM THE OUTSIDE, the brick Melbourne home of Ursula and Hans van Schoonhoven looks like many other Federation houses in the leafy suburb of Prahran. It was built in 1908 and has barely been touched since – one family owned it for 104 years up until 2006 when it was sold at auction. However, on closer inspection, there are signs of a different style of life inside. There is a small European Smart car in the driveway and a huddle of bikes near the front door. When that opens it feels as if you've stepped into another country. However, again, on closer inspection, you realise how much the style is also distinctly Australian.

Inside, the ceilings are over 3m high and adorned with pressed metal. The wide floorboards have been sanded back in the hallway and bedroom to reveal a subtle blonde timber. The rooms are in their original configuration, although their purposes have changed. What would have been living rooms to receive guests at the front of the house are now bedrooms, complete with large bay windows. And the back of the house, with its smaller rooms, is where you find the kitchen, dining and bathroom. There's also a second toilet and laundry outside.

But the old-fashioned layout of the house is a compromise that Ursula and Hans are willing to make given that they live in one of their favourite Melbourne suburbs, and are within a "perfect triangle" of the showroom →

Grand designs (below)
April requested a bunk bed for her 10th birthday. The result is the House Of Orange "April" bed, which she describes as "cosy, cool and easy to decorate". The sofa is from Ikea.

Timeless simplicity
The spacious master bedroom was previously the living room. The canvas behind the bed is a Marimekko print fabric bought in Helsinki. The armchair and ottoman are works in progress – Ursula plans to recover them in grey felt.

Mono fabulous (left)
A simple monochrome palette in Nina's bedroom is brought to life with a hit of bright yellow through the stripy Ikea bedlinen. The light pendant is HK Living, while the ladder is House Of Orange. →

Piece of history (below)
All the bathroom fittings are original to the house, including the shower rail, which adds to the traditional charm of the home.

for their furniture design business, House Of Orange (which is the exclusive distributor for Dutch homewares brand HK Living), its factory in St Kilda, and the school for their daughters April and Nina. The couple rent the property, a decision they made 10 years ago so they could focus on growing their business. "Renting this place also gives us access to a lifestyle that would be different if we owned," Ursula says.

Living in a rental hasn't prevented Ursula and Hans from creating a beautiful and comfortable home for their family. And it's their backgrounds that have influenced their decorating style. While Ursula was born and raised in Melbourne's St Kilda – to a Finnish mother and Dutch father – the couple met in Amsterdam, where Hans was born and raised. Their home is a showcase of the best of both Australian and Dutch design, mixed-up products, and high- and low-priced furniture. It's a philosophy that informs not just their home but their business, too. "I love the aesthetic of Dutch and Belgian design," Ursula says. "The moody blues and greys, pale canvases – mixed at the last minute with a twist of something quirky or unexpected. I find this a reflection of the imperfection in life and the random beauty of the natural and uncontrived." And this sums up their home perfectly. ⓝ

tip #8 "When styling a room and mixing up pieces, it helps to start with a great canvas. I love a good monochrome canvas."
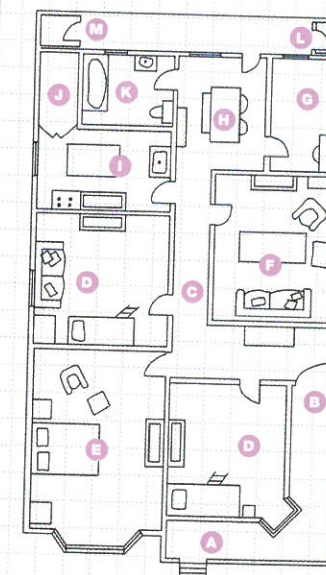
KEY
A Verandah
B Entrance
C Hallway
D Bedroom
E Master bedroom
F Living room
G Study
H Dining room
I Kitchen
J Pantry
K Bathroom
L WC
M Laundry

PAINTS

WALLS Haymes Interior Expressions Low Sheen Acrylic in **Worn White**, $67.95 for 4L. **TRIMS** Wattyl Interior Design Silky Satin in **White**, $59.90 for 4L.

WORN WHITE

WHITE

Bright flex
Alix metal **pendant light** in Black with flex in Red, $89.95, Beacon Lighting. *31.5cm diameter.*

Mirror, mirror
Devine medium **mirror** in White, $50, Fantastic Furniture. *75cm x 65cm.*

Textile art
Marimekko "Tulli" **fabric panel**, $72, Kiitos. *1.04m; 100% cotton.*

Display nook
"The bench behind the sofa acts as a sort of landing space between sofa and wall where I display artwork and place lighting in an informal way that creates cosiness," Ursula says.

Form & function
April **table** in White On White, $1995, and Café **bar stools** in Charcoal, $159 each, House Of Orange. *Custom made.*

URSULA'S MOODBOARD Go back to basics for European-inspired timeless beauty

Creature comfort
Deer **cushion** (34cm), $19.95, Typo.

FINISHES
FLOORING Formica in **Basilica** (A), from $67 a sq m. Boral timber hardwood planks in **New England Oak** (B), from $70 a sq m. **SOFA FABRIC** Cordonne corduroy in **Storm** (C), $39.60 a m, Warwick Fabrics. *For stockists, see page 161.*

Sculptural stick
Aspen Bronze **candlestick** (45cm), $98, Dunlin. *Cast from white tail deer antlers.*

Dutch touch
Flinders ceramic **pitcher** in Charcoal, $139, House Of Orange. *Made from pigment coloured, slip-cast porcelain.*

Ursula sits in a sunny spot of her lounge

tip#9 "Enjoy what you have! While we would like to remove the wall between the dining room and kitchen, and have a larger bathroom, we have enjoyed the quirks of the current layout, too."

tip#10 "Embrace the story in the pieces that you accumulate."

Art house
The dining room is not only where the family eat but where the children create artworks. The April table and Myles benchseat in White Opal are from House Of Orange. Vintage chairs are covered in canvas by Carina Sherlock.