

TIMELESS BEAUTY

A QUEENSLAND COUPLE SAW A BRIGHT
FUTURE FOR THEIR GROWING FAMILY
IN A HOME RIPE FOR A NEW CHAPTER

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PHOTOGRAPHY ANASTASIA KARIOFYLLIDIS

EASY ELEGANCE Interior designer Angela and her husband, Bronte, had their eye on this beautiful Queenslander in Toowoomba long before it was theirs. "We always loved the home and admired it," says Angela. "We saw a lot of potential to bring it back to its former glory." The couple bought the house when their eldest child, Ruby, now 13, was just a baby, and their renovation plans have evolved along with their family, which now includes Harriet, 11, and Hugo, eight. Classic kerb appeal comes courtesy of a bright white exterior in Dulux Lexicon with bold Dulux Monument trims, bordered by layers of linear Japanese box, murraya hedges and camellias. >





Breezing through the wide, sun-soaked hallways and fresh white rooms in Angela and Bronte's home in Queensland's Toowoomba, it's hard to imagine it was ever anything but the elegantly relaxed family abode it is today. For Angela, an interior designer with a passion for beautiful textiles, the memories of what came before are still vivid. "Carpets were bright blue and had been eaten by moths, the bedrooms had a different colour for every wall, and there were burgundy velvet drapes and blue doors with gold paint detail throughout," she recalls.

But none of this was enough to deter the couple from a home that had bewitched them from afar for several years. "We could see our family growing here," says Angela, who at the time had baby Ruby. "When I saw the 'For Sale' sign I just had to have a look inside. I rang Bronte, who was on the roof of our home at the time doing repairs, and asked him to come and have a look, too. The next morning we both woke up knowing we had to have it."

The family moved in, and one child became three with the arrival of Harriet, now 11, and eight-year-old Hugo. As they grew, so too did Angela and Bronte's dream floor plan. "We changed our plans three times over the years before we finally got it the way we wanted," says Angela. The couple tasked local company, Aspect, with drawing up their much-pondered ideas and gave builder Tim van Tricht the job of meticulously realising their dreams.

After an initial spruce of the interior with new carpets and a few coats of paint to wash away all that clashing colour, the bigger job of extending the home happened in stages, over several years. "Being an old Queenslander, everything took longer than we expected thanks to uneven floors and other problems, which in turn meant more dollars," Angela explains. Two new bedrooms, an ensuite and laundry were added in a new wing, and walls were removed to create an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area. Fences and gates were repaired or replaced, verandahs extended, the old hallway ceiling was lifted and the roof redone. And along the way, Angela and Bronte were busy getting their hands dirty outside. "We've been working on the garden for years!" says Angela.

Nature's palette permeates the indoors with vivid greens and abundant shades of blue the constant companions of Angela's classic canvas of bright white. "I love the freshness of it and the versatility it brings, it's a great foundation," she says. "I much prefer to bring colour through with art, soft furnishings and floor rugs."

The interior designer has also weaved beautiful patterns into the mix with textiles she samples and sources from all over the world. "I like unique pieces, particularly bespoke soft furnishings," she says. "I don't tend to have any one style, I just aim to create spaces that are relaxed and comfortable." An ideal combination for a home that's now made to measure for her family's future.

HALLWAY "I love sitting here in the afternoon and having a glass of wine with a friend, or a cold drink with the kids after school," says Angela of the light-drenched hallway area (above), once an exterior deck. Neutral tones in the custom linen sofa from Beadles and an Armadillo & Co rug warmly complement the floor. "It's an Indian tea stain and it took a bit to get right," says Angela. "I wanted an oak look with a slight hint of black throughout it."
LIVING ROOM A homage to Angela's favourite hues, the living room is all about comfort and family time (opposite). "I find green so refreshing and have always loved blue - I adore the combination," says the mum-of-three. Mix-and-match seating allows for plenty of space and lots of colour combinations to play with - forest green and vivid denim linen custom-made couches from Colby Furniture, and an antique occasional chair Angela had reupholstered, evoke a refined yet relaxed feel. An oversized pewter pendant from One World Collection adds drama above. >

ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDSIGN.COM, ARTWORK (THIS PAGE) SHANE DRINKWATER, (OPPOSITE) DESIGNER BOYS



WE LOVE...
a kitchen white-out

Creating calm in the busy hub of a home comes easy with a classic canvas. "A white kitchen will never date - it's fresh and timeless," says Angela, who opted for custom 2-pac cabinetry in Dulux Lexicon Quarter and white subway tiles on the splashback. For a similar look, try Agrestic White Gloss 150mm x 75mm tiles, \$38.59/sqm from Beaumont Tiles, paired with a pale grey grout. Visit beaumont-tiles.com.au.



"I LOVE HAVING beautiful THINGS THROUGHOUT, BUT OUR HOME STILL FEELS lived IN" ~ ANGELA

KITCHEN

With a growing family and plenty of dinner guests to cater for, clever cabinetry design was the priority in the kitchen (opposite). "We created a new hallway behind the kitchen to separate it from the rest of the house, so we lost floor space and had to be smart about storage," says Angela. Every bit of the Caesarstone-topped island has built-in storage, and a concealed walk-in pantry keeps benchtops clutter-free. Foundry stools from Interiors Online are an edgy addition, as are the trio of 'Augusta' medium hanging lamps from Emac & Lawton.

DINING ROOM

Camellias from the garden in urns from Orient House mimic a striking piece of art by Angela's friend, Tarn McLean (top left). "It's so detailed - you can see so much work and thought has gone into it," says Angela. As for the

12-seater table from Harolds Finishing Touches (top right): "I found the biggest table I could as we love having friends and family over, so it's well used," adds Angela. Softness underfoot is delivered by an Armadillo & Co 'Kalahari Weave' rug in Natural/Pumice, while eras gently collide with an industrial-style One World Collection pendant hanging from the traditional pressed-tin ceiling, which, like the rest of the interiors, is painted in Dulux Lexicon Quarter.

FAMILY ROOM

A wall was removed to create a more family-friendly flow through the living, kitchen and dining zones. Angela had the plush custom Colby Furniture couch (right) covered in a bolt of bright blue fabric, while a rattan chest from Angela Smith Interiors doubles as a stylish and durable coffee table. >



ARTWORK (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT): BEADLES



ENSUITE

The ensuite (top left) has been thoughtfully appointed to make the most of a small space. A mirror from Duet Home Styling and a wall light from Emac & Lawton convey old-world charm. For a touch of luxe, custom cabinetry, painted in Dulux Lexicon Quarter, is finished with a tumbled marble splashback from SNB Stone.

RUBY'S ROOM

Eldest daughter Ruby had grown past the pink phase when it came time to decorate her new room (top right), so Angela opted for soft blue accents including the 'Marrakesh' rug in Skylark from Armadillo & Co, and a Laura Ashley lampshade and chair. "I wanted to go with a style that would grow with her," explains Angela. The interior designer sourced ginger jar prints on Etsy and had them framed for either side of Ruby's window. Custom cushions in Beacon Hill Fabric's 'Hidden Temple' add pops of pretty colour.

HUGO'S ROOM

Navy rules in Hugo's room (left), where a custom bedhead and skirt in William Yeoward fabric command the room. Horse art throw cushions, painted by Laura Douglas, add some fun, and exotic animal prints sourced through Angela Smith Interiors are hung directly above side tables from St Barts - just the right height for an eight-year-old.

MAIN BEDROOM

"I wanted our room to feel peaceful, a sanctuary where we could relax," says Angela of the sublime parents' retreat (opposite). Crisp white walls envelop the space, allowing soft blues, greys and greens to steal the show. A nude sketch by Madonna Kelly-Ford creates impact, and neutral bedding is paired with a custom bedhead in 'Carnival' fabric in Green from Christopher Farr. Decorative silver lamp bases from Harolds Finishing Touches are customised with shades from Magnolia Interiors. >

"I DIDN'T WANT THE HOME TO FEEL TOO 'heritage', BUT I DID WANT IT TO BE STYLED IN KEEPING WITH ITS era - I'VE ADDED A freshness WITHOUT GOING TOO MODERN" ~ ANGELA





OUTDOORS Hugo, Harriet and Ruby enjoy a game with their spoodle, Josie. "In the warmer months we spend most of our time on the verandah," says Angela. The cast-iron fretwork was mostly intact when the couple bought the home. They had it removed and powder-coated before putting it back up.

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COUNTRY CHARMER



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INSIDE STORY
 ANGELA & BRONTE'S HOME

Who lives here?

Angela, an interior designer; Bronte, a national magazine sales manager; their children Ruby, 13; Harriet, 11; and Hugo, eight; and Josie, the dog.

Best advice for anyone starting a renovation on a period home?

Angela: "Add three months and 30 per cent to your budget. Expect the unexpected, and live in it if you can to really get a feel for your family's needs."

Your secret to mixing pattern and colour?

"I choose a hero fabric first and then add smaller-scale patterned fabrics, mixing prints and weaves. I use plain or small patterned fabric on large upholstered pieces such as sofas and use the hero fabric on smaller pieces."

How do you keep your home kid-friendly?

"Since my children were babies I have never put special things up high. They grew up learning to respect their environment and appreciate nice things and are good at keeping their rooms tidy."



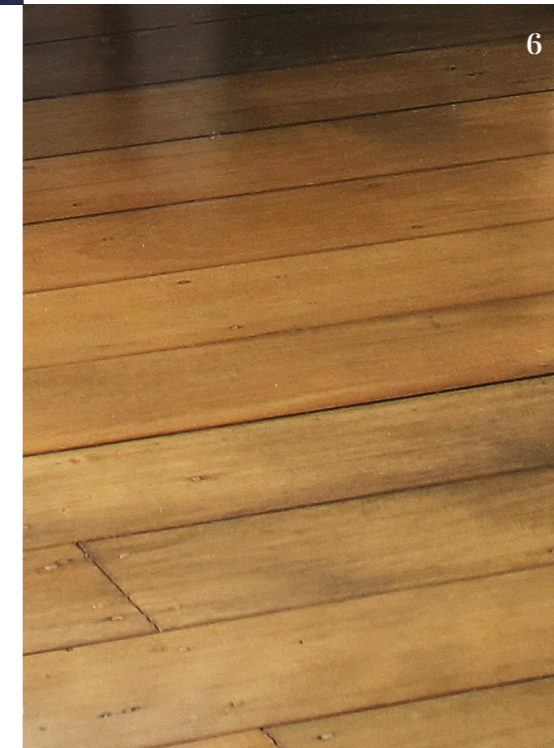
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- 1. Classic VJ boards in Dulux Lexicon Quarter.
- 2. Angela and Bronte enjoy an afternoon drink on the verandah in a setting from Naturally Cane.
- 3. Verdant vessels from The Cumquat Tree.
- 4. Dreamy equine cushions painted by Australian artist Laura Douglas.
- 5. Original pressed-tin ceilings, spruced up with glossy white.
- 6. Perfectly imperfect hoop pine floors revived with an Indian tea stain.
- 7. A custom lampshade created with William Yeoward fabric from Angela Smith Interiors.

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



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