



Redesign with hint of luxury

WHEN Hamilton homeowner Shalie approached Stewart Horton, of Horton & Co Interior Design, with her budget for her federation home, she thought he would laugh her out of the room. Instead, Horton worked with Shalie to develop a story for her home with charm typical of his charismatic personality.

"My budget was conservative and Stewart really took the time to work with it," she says.

"A clever designer will spend money where it's going to make a difference but save money where they can," Horton adds.

The pair collaborated in the sympathetic renovation and refurbishment, working carefully with the existing structure to create coherency and individuality. Now with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a back deck, the home exudes a seamless combination of serenity and luxury.

"We wanted the space to be comfortable with a little bit of luxury, but not untouchable," Horton says. "I wanted to build a bit of a subtle story."

He worked closely with Shalie's choice of neutral tones such as



beige, silver, white and charcoal, but also introduced tones of blue in the home, including rugs, ornaments and a statement armchair.

"Stewart said we needed a colour, but I really didn't like strong colours," Shalie explains.

"He basically said, okay, blue or green – pick!" she laughs.

One of Shalie's favourite features of her home is her armchair, finished in sky-blue velvet. Sourced through Casa Mia, the statement piece oozes comfort. It is also perfectly offset by Designers Guild English gold cushions, which feature a regal stitched floral pattern.

"That chair was a no-brainer," she says.

"When I saw it, I knew I had to have it."

Horton paired statement Hamptons pieces such as the



SUBTLE: Colours in the main bedroom are neutral.



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favourite feature

Shalie's favourite feature of the home is her blue velvet armchair sourced through Casa Mia, which she says is perfect for making those important calls in.

armchair with slight hints of federation-style interiors, as a nod to the era in which the home was constructed.

Turn-of-the-century light fittings provide character and charm in the living, study and dining area.

Hanging boldly in chrome, bronze and gold, they work perfectly opposite the rich dark floorboards in creating solidity against the light neutral tones of the walls and furnishings.

"The floorboards provide a bit of contrast between the lightness of the home," Horton says.

Hints of this industrial finish are also suggested in the antique barstools in the kitchen, which tuck under a Quantum Quartz charcoal breakfast bench, providing the perfect spot for tea and toast.

Horton also echoed an existing diamond panelled detail in the doors of the home throughout the panelling of the kitchen cupboards. The cupboards are finished with bold jumbo silver handles, which provide the perfect puncture to the clean, white subway tiles and cabinets.

This bold combination of ergonomics and an old-world twist is carried through in the main bathroom, which also features a jumbo silver shower head and bath tap.

Shalie was surprised when Horton suggested a bathroom theme consistent with the era in which the home was built, but with a classically structured basin and a navy-and-white tiled pattern, the room is strikingly nostalgic.

"I was surprised when Stewart suggested we renovate the



VISION: Interior designer Stewart Horton, from Horton & Co Interior Design, who styled the home.

Pictures: Max Mason-Hubers



bathroom in a federation style, but I'm really happy with the result," she says.

Another choice that pleasantly surprised Shalie was the wallpaper in the lounge room. Inspired by William Morris, the Fornasetti "Chiavi Segrete" design features a dense leaf print in cream with hanging gold keys.

"When we got to the stage when I decided to go with that wallpaper, I really trusted Stewart and his vision," she says.



ANTIQUE: The barstools suggest an industrial finish, while pink is the dominant hue in the child's bedroom.

"It was probably my bravest decision, and I really like it now."

Shalie says it was a pleasure to work with Stewart in bringing to life her vision of her home.

"Stewart was perfect for what I needed. That fact that he was quick and decisive, but also very patient with options, paired with his eye for design, made the whole thing a great experience," she says.



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