

Fence painted Dulux Softsun.
Awning painted Dulux Softsun and
Dulux Vivid White. Emu Retrouvé
planters and chair from Hunter
Valley Design. For Where to Buy,
see page 268.

HELLO SUNSHINE

This miner's cottage has been treated to an uplifting revamp and is now basking in the glow, prompting a smile from all who pass by.

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PHOTOGRAPHY JASON BUSCH

Interior designer Stewart Horton was convinced there was gold in this miner's cottage in the town of Newcastle, NSW. While it had been 'brutalised' in the '60s and many of its quintessential features lost – including the streetfront verandah that had been bricked in – he knew it had potential. "It was about stripping back to what was original and putting something bright and cheery on the street." Here's how he took it from desperate to delightful:

Exterior

First impressions With some near-identical neighbouring homes as a reference, Stewart reinstated traditional cottage elements such as the striped bullnose awning over the verandah. "Lots of the [nearby] cottages have this frontage and the stripes on the bullnose are quite traditional but we wanted to give it a bit more edge with the yellow. We wanted to make it happy!" A picket fence and letterbox contribute to the warm welcome.

Delighting in the details Heritage architectural features such as the Victorian-era lacework were restored. The theme was then reinforced with the addition of the Emu Retrouvé chair and planters, which echo the lacework with their retro filigree profiles. "We wanted a more modern take on the old Victorian style. We took the traditional and mixed it with brighter, bolder '50s and '60s references and tones."



'WE WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CEILING HEIGHT AND KEEP A FEELING OF FORMALITY IN THESE SPACES.' STEWART HORTON, INTERIOR DESIGNER

HALLWAY Greg Natale for Designer Rugs Como carpet. *Untitled* artwork by Ira Morgan.
KITCHEN/DINING Benchtops in Caesarstone Black. Kartell Louis Ghost stools from Space. Eames dining table and chairs from Living Edge. *Dude* by Jumbo.
LIVING Jordan Sky sofa from Hunter Valley Design. Cushions in Designers Guild Chinaz in Amberglow from Radford Furnishings (plain) and vintage floral. Vintage lamp. Casa Mia armchair, upholstered in Kvadrat Maharam Alexander Girard Double Triangles with cushion in Alexander Girard Checker Split. Zuster coffee table from Hunter Valley Designs. Murano glass chandelier from Edwards Chandeliers. Ivory voile curtains from Design Curtains. *Bouquet* by Piero Fornasetti. For Where to Buy, see page 268.

Hallway

3 Hall stories Crisp black and white make a statement with strong contrasting architectural moulding added to define the area and draw you along the hall. "We wanted to take advantage of the ceiling height and keep a feeling of formality in these spaces." The geometric-print carpet is repeated in the living room beyond.

Dining

4 In with the noir The original oregon floorboards throughout were restored and matched with imported additions in the rear kitchen/dining lean-to, seamlessly blending the interior spaces. Black floor tiles were then chosen for the bathroom to further unify the home. "Keeping the floor colour consistent helps the house to read as a larger space."

5 Old is new again "In reinstating the original lean-to, the idea was to hark back to the humble miner's cottage but in a clean, architectural and modern way. The black joinery accentuates the ceiling slope — there's something quite modernist about that." Wire Eames Eiffel chairs add texture without weight in the dining zone.



Living room

6 Easy living Once again, the key is contrast with the formally framed architectural moulding offset by a '60s-style geometric rug by Greg Natale for Designer Rugs. The repeated use of black and white ties the two together. A black Murano glass chandelier pops against white and a few key yellow notes help to balance the scheme. "A lot of bright colour here would be jarring and break up the space too much," says Stewart.

7 Curtain call The living room's north-facing window is dressed in a wall-to-wall sheer curtain with a roller blind behind to control the light. "We wanted privacy from the neighbour while letting in as much light as possible. Running the curtain full width makes the space feel bigger."



Bedroom

8 Soft touch A paler shade of yellow (Dulux Soft Daffodil) graces the walls of the main bedroom, where traditional lines and a pretty floral pair up for a serene, more feminine feel. "We wanted to tone things down in the bedroom with a delicate pastel version of the scheme." The classic mid-century bedhead profile adds a romantic touch of Hollywood Regency. A boldly patterned rug and colour-block cushions deliver the modern edge. ➤

Custom-made bedhead in Designers Guild Brenan in Cappuccino, cushions in Designers Guild Chinaz in Amberglow and Ralph Lauren Home coverlet, all from Radford Furnishings. Louis Poulsen AJ Wall lamp from Cult. Side table from Ikea. Custom-made bed end in Designers Guild Trento from Radford Furnishings. Rug from Designer Rugs. **For Where to Buy, see page 268.**



Bathroom

9 **Rise and shine** Acid yellow mosaics define the amenity blocks of bath, toilet and shower in the cheery bathroom. "It's a dominant feature and we didn't want to do every single wall, so we kept the colour to the services and then grounded them with black and white." A marble vanity top and ornate mirror add decorative detail to a functional space. "The mirror again reflects those romantic Victorian shapes but in a modern way." >

Smalto Series mosaic tiles, White Gloss wall tiles and Lifestyle Series floor tiles, all ColorTile. Carrara marble benchtop. Mirror from Villa Clone. Emu Retrouvé stool from Hunter Valley Design. For Where to Buy, see page 268.



Outdoor entertaining

10 Shady, character A paved area demarcates the quintessential alfresco setting under the shade of a sprawling orchid tree. "The Robert Plumb dining chairs really underline what is going on in the whole scheme," says Horton. "An old-world, shaker-style look (bamboo) done in a modern way (die-cast aluminium)." ➤

Vintage sunloungers.
Robert Plumb Chunky
dining table and Robert
Plumb Foxy chairs, all
Hunter Valley Design.
Bradstone pavers from
Boral. For Where to
Buy, see page 268.

