

Winner!



DARE DEVIL

Bold colour choices, graphic wallpaper and shots of bright accessories are a winning formula

Text by **Johanna Thornton**. Photography by **Helen Bankers**.

When Debra Yearsly and her husband Adam bought their 1988 “Miami Vice-style” home in July 2012 it was crying out for colour. The art deco house in Auckland’s St Heliers features an eight metre-high atrium, with dramatic curved walls and split levels, which Debra saw as unpainted surfaces ripe for a colourful makeover.

She chose an eclectic range of Resene paints to decorate her home, teamed with mid-century furniture. “Colour is a must,” she says. “I’m drawn to this look because

I think it makes a house look more lived in and adds a personal aspect to your decor.”

Debra found inspiration for her colour palette from furnishings in her collection – the blues of the dining room and the fuchsia of the study came from rugs. Rooms run the colour gamut, with the TV/games room painted in dark blue Resene ‘Nite Life’ while the kitchen provides a break from colour with a coat of Resene ‘Alabaster’.

It’s not often that New Zealand homes are treated to an array of bold shades, and in this case it’s a winning combination.

Opposite Artwork by Yann Legendre entitled ‘Arizona’ steals the show in the TV room. **Above left** Colourful accessories pop in the kitchen and dining area, which is painted in Resene ‘Alabaster’. The wallpaper is Sanderson ‘Poppies’. **Above right** This fuchsia study painted in Resene ‘Smitten’ was Debra’s original Resene entry, and the room that won the judges’ hearts.



DESIGN DETAILS

- ✦ **The living room**, painted in Resene 'Awash', features a red chair from Debra's business Chair Squad, which sources and re-upholsters classic pieces of furniture. Debra says each room has its own feel. "The cool blues in the lounge are welcoming and homey," she says.
- ✦ **In the dining room** a vintage Italian track bike bought on eBay hangs on the wall, painted in Resene 'Roasted Orange' from the Karen Walker Paints range. "Adam has a passion for beautiful bikes and we thought it was a unique piece of sculpture for our wall."
- ✦ **Bright orange** Resene 'Daredevil' features on a wall of the boys' study nook. The rest is covered in Norwall wallpaper from Resene ColorShops. The orange in the zigzag rug is repeated in the accessories.
- ✦ **"Our bedroom is** calming and relaxing," says Debra. A "soothing blue" – Resene 'Seachange' – was chosen for the walls. A bedhead designed by Debra and built by Adam anchors the space and a starburst mirror from online store Then Again hangs above.



COLOUR TIPS + TRICKS

- ✦ **Dark colours make** a room feel more intimate and cosy – great for bedrooms, media rooms or large living spaces. A far wall can appear closer when painted in a dark colour, or use a dark wall colour to offset a beautiful sideboard, mantelpiece, free-standing bath or upholstered chair.
- ✦ **Be brave and** experiment. Give yourself time to get used to new colour options –

often your favourite will not be the one you liked first but the one that grows on you as you see it over the day and in different lighting.

✦ **Colours pick up** on other elements in the room. If you have lots of greenery out the window, expect your walls to take on a green look. Use a strong blue rug or furniture, and your walls will pick up on that.

Get the mid-century modern look with these colours

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