

essential interiors



Living room

- The credenza was intended to be both beautiful and dominating, South says.
- Paint colour on the laser-cut panel is Dulux's Wash & Wear Namadji (13 25 25, dulux.com.au).
- South helped select new furniture including the plush Giorgetti sofa and B + B Italia Harry large round ottoman from Space (8339 7588, spacefurniture.com.au).



Rumpus room

- The plywood bookshelf is double-sided – where there's open shelving on one side, there are coloured rectangular and square panels on the other. The timber panels are painted in Dulux Wash & Wear Young Leaf, Herbalist and Lexicon.
- The new sofa is by Ligne Roset from Domo Collections (8354 6222, domo.com.au).



Kids' rooms

- Fabrics on panels are all by Marimekko from Chee Soon & Fitzgerald (9360 1031, cheesoonfitzgerald.com). They include Hevoskastaanja (olive and black flowers) and Tsunami (blue waves).
- Lighting chosen includes Kreon wall uplights from De De Ce (9360 2722, dedece.com) with Cosmoluce spots on ceiling tracks from Cosmo Lighting Kensington (9662 1517).
- Each cubby-like child's bunk bed is accessed via a ladder. The girls' ladders are timber; Felix has galvanised steel treads with openings for foot-grips.
- Slot peepholes bring light into Felix and Lucy's bed areas providing a relationship with the rest of the room.

Window coverings

- All blinds are in Designers Guild fabrics made by Tempo Interiors, Mosman (9960 2844, tempointeriors.com.au).

Inside innovation

With no structural work needed, there's more time to play with ideas in this family home.

Words **Judy Barouch**
Photos **Alex Donnini**

FOR an architect with a love of bespoke joinery, this project was a dream brief. Nikki South's clients had purchased a solid, yet architecturally unremarkable, home in Mosman.

"The intention was to transform it with their art collection and a revitalised interior," South says. "The big house felt empty and the existing fittings were tired."

The commission was for a series of custom-made, contemporary joinery items for two living areas, three children's bedrooms, an office and a bathroom.

"The idea was to have everything built-in rather than separate pieces of furniture," the owner says.

"Built in the 1970s, the house was renovated in the '90s," South says. "It had limestone and timber floors and timber windows and my

clients wanted to use a combination of natural materials and finishes within this framework. Lighting and paint finishes were also to be updated and all had to be designed around their artworks. Happily, they were committed to innovation and practicality."

For the family living room, South created a five-metre-long credenza to house audio-visual equipment. Plentiful shelving was incorporated for books and ornaments. "The credenza was intended to be the feature piece of the whole house," she says.

With contrasting limed oak and limed walnut veneers and a brown polyurethane panel punctuated with squiggly cut-outs, it takes its cue from the bold, curving lines of the work of sculptor Steve Jensen, a favourite of the clients. The decorative, laser cut-outs allow the use of remotes without the need for opening doors.

For the children's bedrooms, South dreamed up similar, yet individual, joinery units com-

prising raised king-single bed, chill-out zone beneath, bookshelves and workstation.

Each was designed to reflect the child's personality. Sixteen-year-old Charlotte's room has a sleek white-and-timber chequered theme, 13-year-old Lucy's is pure funk, incorporating a retro cool Marimekko fabric panel with olive flowers, while 10-year-old Felix's is a playful space awash with blue wave-design wall panelling, multi-striped blinds and a Felix The Cat sculpture.

The rumpus room was treated to a double-sided bookshelf-room divider that hides an unrenovated second kitchen. "This wacky piece has irregularly placed, Mondrian-style blocks of colour," South says. "An olive palette recurs throughout the house which fits in with the bushland setting."

Unlike her usual architectural gigs, no structural work was involved, yet with these joyful joinery pieces, South treated an ageing interior to a tailor-made, punchy update.

How they did it

Architect
Nikki South of Southmarc,
0422 463 588, www.southmarc.com.

Joiner
Carl Fisher of Fisher Fitouts, 9966 8711,
www.fisherfitouts.com.au.

Timeframe
Design: three months. Fabrication:
three months.

Hurdles
Each bedroom had an existing built-in wardrobe on one side and a window wall opposite, so little wall space was available.

Clever ideas
Exposed plywood edges topped with a veneer gives an industrial aesthetic to the workstations and bookshelves.

Sustainability
The New Age Veneers (newageveneers.com.au) are reconstructed timber veneers made from selectively felled plantation poplar using water-based dyes.

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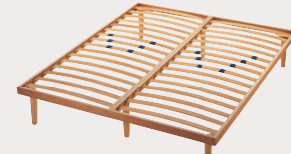
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