

SCHOOL OF REAL LIVING P18

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Cosy Chic

A DECORATING
STYLE GUIDE
JUST FOR YOU

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TRICKS

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right now
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& LIGHTING

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AUGUST 2013 \$6.95 (incl. GST)

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APARTMENT FIVE TRIXIE AND JOHNNO

Lucky winners of the penthouse in the first challenge, Queenslanders Trixie and Johnno managed to keep their feet firmly on the ground for the task ahead. That sense of the practical was possibly helped by the fact they are the oldest of the competitors and sensible parents of three. Also, mother Trixie, 37, and electrical fitter, Johnno, 40, have gutted and rebuilt a couple of homes and spruced up another, all on a budget, so they were savvy at making the dollars stretch to achieve a look that said elegant with a hint of the exotic. (Trixie's two-year carpentry apprenticeship helped, too.)

They describe their style as "eclectic and artistic", matching vintage with new, and retro with modern. "My inspiration came from the wooden tiles used in the first bedroom," Trixie says. "I loved their organic look and pattern. The colour was beautiful, as well – I decided to use the blue as a tie-in palette throughout the home and continue using timber and patterned shapes." That's apparent the minute you enter the foyer – the Tapestry wallpaper, with its exotic, Moroccan-inspired motif, is a standout and sets the tone for the apartment.


While the team operated like a well-oiled machine, there was one difference of opinion. "Our only little discussion was when I said I wanted to paint the ceiling the same colour [a pale grey] as the walls," Trixie says. "Johnno wasn't sure if it would work, but we did it and it looks amazing! The judges loved it, too. I will never paint a ceiling white again!"

THE SHOPPING LIST

In the kitchen Joinery with Caesarstone "Frosty Carrina" benchtop from Freedom Kitchens. Tex tiles on splashback and in pantry from Urban Edge Ceramics. Replica Victoria "Ghost" chairs from Matt Blatt. NUD Collection "Classic" pendant with Spiral Weave shade and Samantha Robinson ceramic cups from The Assembly Hall.

In the living area Powrie & Kedge Trading sofa, chaise and two small canvases by Ali McNabney-Stevens from The Assembly Hall. Urbio "Big Happy Family" plant pots from Top3 By Design. Blooming rug from Fenton & Fenton.

In the hallway Quercus & Co "Tapestry" wallpaper in Prussian Blue, Kyo timber sideboard and Evie Group "Spun" pendants from The Assembly Hall. Butterfly box from Izzi & Popo.

For stockists, see page 191. 



Organic nature

Trixie and Johnno's style is organic and textural – two elements that flow throughout the flat.

Feeling blue

Blue is a common thread throughout the apartment, including this Quercus & Co "Tapestry" wallpaper.



It's a wrap (above)

Light Ash veneer shelving from Plywood Distributors was wrapped around a dividing wall to create extra storage. The walls and ceiling are painted in Accent "Surfmist" from Mitre 10.