

Resene  
the paint the professionals use

COLOUR HOME AWARDS  
WINNER

DIY INSPO  
MAKE YOUR OWN  
FEATURE WALL WITH  
A HAND-PAINTED MURAL  
FOR THE ULTIMATE  
WOW FACTOR.

**MAKE AN IMPRESSION**

"The wall surrounding the fireplace has been painted in a joyful abstract manner incorporating all the colours in the house," Karen says, which includes the likes of Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Cinnamon and Resene Glorious. For a respite from colour, Karen used Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Quarter Iron in the kitchen (right).

# Pure imagination

This year's Resene Colour Home Awards winner uses colour theory to knock a win out of the park

Text **Caroline Moratti**  
Photography **Gina Fabish**

## home profile

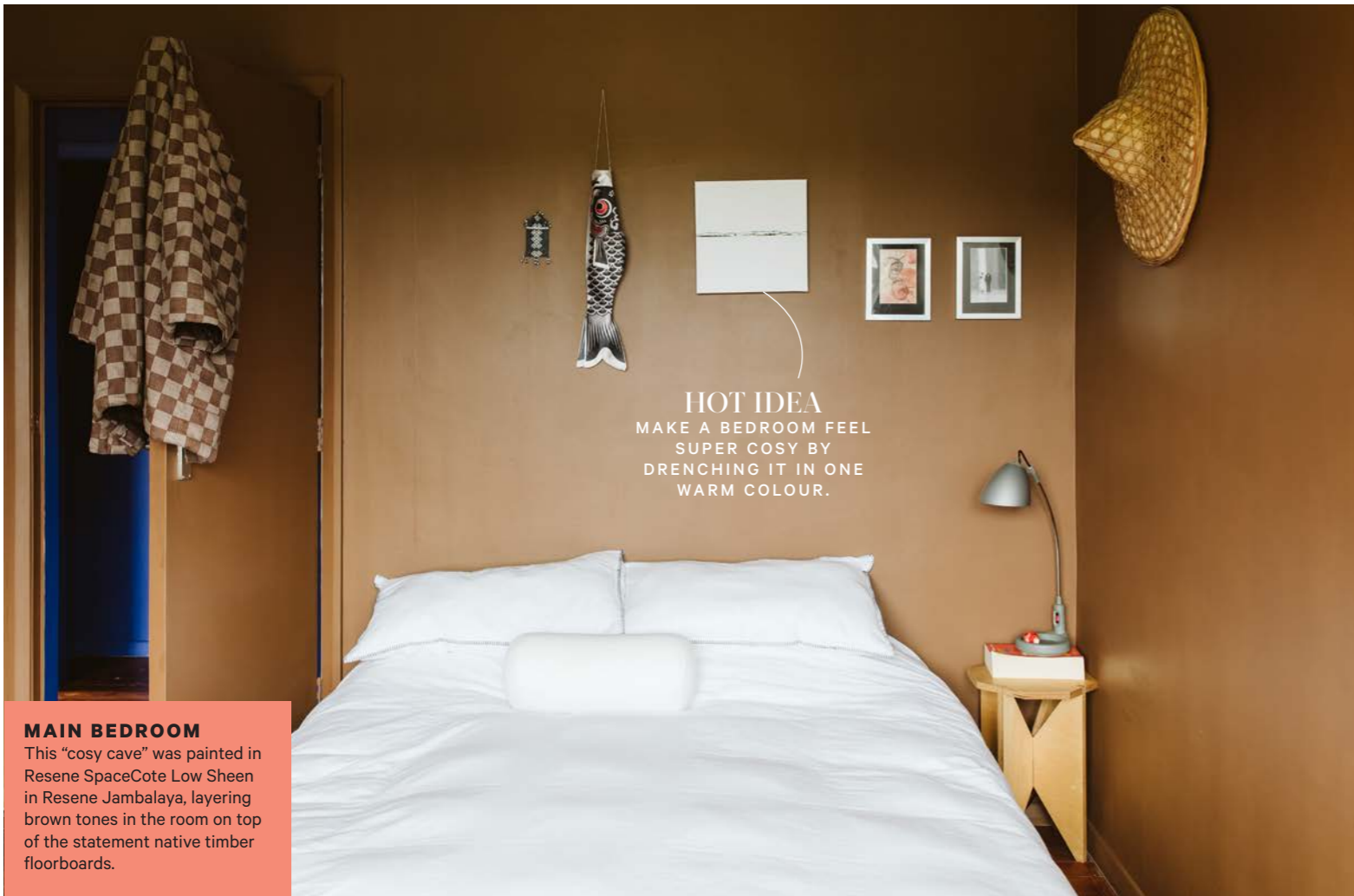
**MEET & GREET**  
Will (sustainability manager) and Karen Durbin, (florist and hat maker), and daughter Nina, four.

**O**ur 2023 Resene Colour Home Awards winner lives and breathes colour, pushing the envelope on bold shades and a jaw-dropping mural used for a stunning effect. Karen Durbin has transformed her former state house into a visual delight, a chocolate box of blues, browns and sorbets, taking out the grand title and a \$5000 prize in the process.

From the "cosy cave" main bedroom

painted in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Jambalaya, which layers warm brown tones to the garden granny flat decked out in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Glorious, a sorbet shade that's all about eye-candy – it's clear that Karen has an expert eye for colour and design.

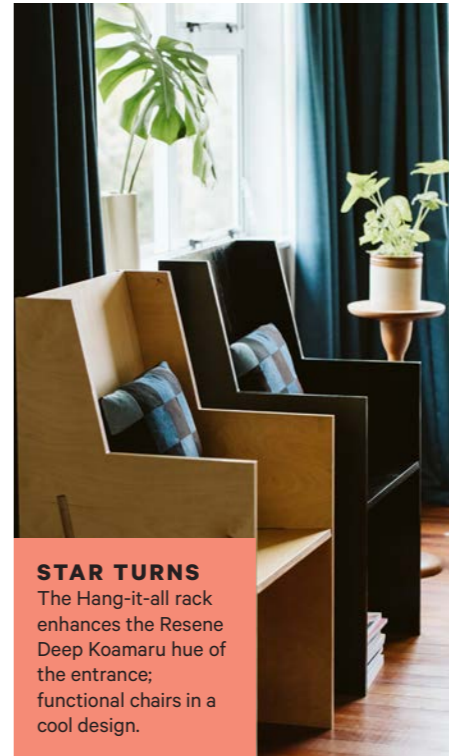
On opening the front door, guests are submerged into a vivid colourscape, with the hallway and ceilings drenched in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Deep Koamaru, which Karen describes as



**HOT IDEA**  
MAKE A BEDROOM FEEL  
SUPER COSY BY  
DRENCHING IT IN ONE  
WARM COLOUR.

**MAIN BEDROOM**

This “cosy cave” was painted in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Jambalaya, layering brown tones in the room on top of the statement native timber floorboards.



**STAR TURNS**

The Hang-it-all rack enhances the Resene Deep Koamaru hue of the entrance; functional chairs in a cool design.



“I’m a big believer in creating beauty without much budget. It’s validating to have that acknowledged.”

KAREEN DURBIN

an “immersive colour experience” as through the tunnel of violet, visitors are reborn into the Resene Low Sheen Resene Quarter Iron white living space.

But the showstopping moment belongs to the hand-painted living room mural, an abstract dreamscape that incorporates all the colours in the house, including Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Cinnamon and Resene Glorious.

“Karen has a real painter’s eye. I love the brown and pink rooms and might copy her, but the mural is next-level amazing,” says editor Fiona Hawtin.

Resene marketing manager Karen Warman agrees. “Karen’s wholehearted embrace of colour is a striking reminder that you can really make your home your own with paint colours you love,” she says.

Karen feels grateful to have won the coveted title, saying she’s “pleased that such a simple home, with a bit of colour, can have that level of impact”.

“I guess I’m a big believer in creating beauty without much budget – that the magic happens

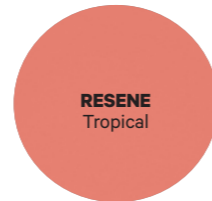
because of constraints. It’s validating to have that acknowledged,” she says.

As for the \$5000 prize, Karen says she should throw the majority on the mortgage, but has her eye on a particular quilt and dreams of installing a huge skylight in her New Plymouth home. Will, however, thinks a new surfboard is in order.

The pair have many plans for their home, although they’re trying to stop and enjoy the work already completed. To manage her “addiction to colour”, Karen has also been developing the interior of an op-shop she manages with more Resene colour combinations and is “exploring ideas I ran out of space for in our house”.

Her advice to others looking to add more colour to their homes is to simply have fun. “Paint is quite a safe way to make some super bold moves that transform a room entirely,” Karen says. “My favourite thing is being in a newly painted environment with an immersive approach to colour; walking in is invigorating, the colour has so much impact emotionally.”

More Resene colours to try:



**RESENE**  
Tropical



**RESENE**  
Amaranth



**RESENE**  
Upside

**Resene**  
the paint the professionals use

For more colour ideas and inspiration, visit your local Resene ColorShop, or order free colour charts online, [resene.co.nz/ordercharts](http://resene.co.nz/ordercharts)



**SWEET AS SORBET**

The pretty watermelon shade of Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Glorious was used in the Durbin’s fun sleepout.



**GREEN LIGHT**

The sleepout’s exterior was boldly painted in Resene Lumbersider Low Sheen paint in Resene Japanese Laurel.