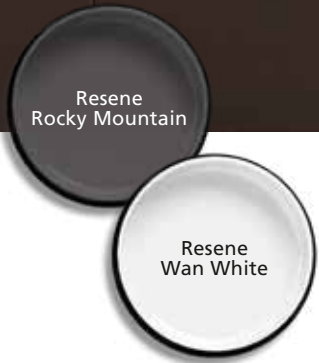




*top tip*

Some complex colours change drastically with different lighting such as Resene I Do, which can look pale grey in some lighting to light lilac in other lighting.

ever  
evolving



**L**ike many homeowners, stylist and interior designer Annick Larkin spent the first lockdown taking notice of all the things around her home that she'd fallen out of love with. She and husband Tim originally purchased their 1901 villa in 2009, and they embarked on their first renovation a few years later.

"At the time that we bought the house, we only had Lottie, who was six months old. It suited the needs of our small family then, but by 2012, our family had grown with the arrival of Esther and Tom. The house worked okay while the kids were really little, but once they were all at school and much more independent, the house wasn't functioning how we needed it to," she says. "We looked at moving, but we couldn't find anything suitable within our budget and in close proximity to school – so that's when we decided to renovate."

"Our large living/dining room was originally situated where Tom's room and the master bedroom are now. We installed a partition wall between the living and dining room, creating a new bedroom space – which we desperately needed."

Their previous home was full of bold colours, which Annick loved, but she was ready for something new. "I still wanted to use colour, but through a much more refined and mature palette. I'm also a lover of wallpaper, so I knew I wanted to use wallpaper in some of the

rooms for colour, texture and interest. It was important that the house felt modern, light and fresh, but I also wanted to bring back the beautiful character features that the previous owners had removed."

"My kids are also not great sleepers, so I wanted to create rooms that were restful and calming but were still fun and reflected their personalities. I knew I wanted the upstairs living spaces to feel light, fresh and airy while I wanted downstairs to feel cosy and relaxed."

The results were spectacular, and Annick was thrilled. But it's been nearly eight years since the family's initial reno wrapped, and you know what they say about idle hands when they find unexpected extra time – Annick picked up some new Resene colours and got stuck in to repainting everything that had been giving her those niggling feelings.

First came the laundry, which went from white to deep and dusky Resene Rocky Mountain. It's since joined ranks among Annick's very favourite Resene ➤

**Opposite:** The walls, architraves, skirting boards and elegant detailing in Annick's airy bedroom looks extra chic in Resene I Do. Ceiling and crown moulding in Resene Wan White.

**Above top:** A skylight floods extra light into the open plan kitchen and dining area. Kitchen island in Resene Nocturnal, walls and ceiling in Resene Half Black White.

 Resene Half Black White



Resene  
Wallpaper  
Collection  
LL-04-05-7

Resene  
Wallpaper  
Collection  
219292

**Above:** The living area was recently given an update with freshly painted feature walls and a bulkhead in dramatic Resene Balderdash – Annick’s current favourite colour. “Its jewel-like tone makes the space feel cosy and inviting, but because not all the walls are painted dark, it still feels light and inviting. I love it,” she says. To contrast, the tongue-and-groove panelling is in Resene Wan White and the ceiling, skirting boards and architraves are in Resene Half Black White.



Resene  
Balderdash 

**Left:** Annick just updated her son Tom's bedroom in August with a ceiling and crown moulding in Resene Bismark. Walls, window trims and skirting boards in Resene Double Alabaster.

Resene  
Double Alabaster

**Below:** The downstairs rumpus room, where the kids can have hangouts with friends without worrying about mum and dad interrupting their fun, doubles as a media room for the family to cosy up and watch TV together. Walls and ceiling in Resene Coast help to create a cocooning space and keep screen glare to a minimum.

Resene  
Half Black White

Resene  
Wan White

Resene  
Bismark

Resene  
Coast



colours. Next came the kitchen island.

"When we renovated, I had always planned on painting our timber floor white, but as this was one of the last things to be done in the reno, the budget annoyingly ran out," she says. "Unfortunately, I had planned my bleached oak and arctic white kitchen cabinetry – ordered months prior to installation – around having a white floor. The floor we have is rimu, so even though we've sanded it back, it still has a slight orange hue – and it didn't blend with the bleached oak cabinetry, which drove me batty. Given that painting the island was far more budget friendly than painting all the floor, I opted to paint the island cabinets and back in Resene Nocturnal. It's not a true black, so it still has warmth to it and doesn't contrast the other white cabinets too severely. I love how it defines the kitchen now."

But once she spun around to face the living area, something was missing. Out came the dropcloths and rollers and on went Resene Balderdash on the two walls and bulkhead that wrap around behind the sofa. For balance and levity, the tongue-and-groove panelled accent wall in Resene Wan White and the ceiling and architraves in Resene Half Black White stayed as they were. After that came son Tom's bedroom, with a brand new wallpaper and a ceiling and crown mouldings in Resene Bismark. While she loved his old colour scheme in Resene Kangaroo, he had definitely outgrown it. ➤



Resene  
Rouge



**Opposite left:** Esther studies in her pretty bedroom, which features a magnetic noticeboard made by mum. Annick used basecoats in Resene FX Magnetic Magic and topcoats in Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Rouge – which works just like chalkboard paint. Right wall, skirting boards and window trims in Resene Double Sea Fog. Team with a wallpaper such as Resene Wallpaper Collection LL-04-05-7 or paint your own design (see p23 for tips).

**Opposite right:** Lottie's dreamy bedroom has rusty accents which are picked up in her bedding and pillowcases. Left wall, skirting boards, trims and ceiling in Resene Wan White. Team with a wallpaper such as Resene Wallpaper Collection 219292 or paint your own design (see p23 for tips).

Resene  
Double Sea Fog

# paint it right

Choose the right Resene colours and paints for the job.



## adjust accordingly

Many of the rooms in Annick and Tim's home benefit from amazing natural lighting, which keeps the mood light – even in areas like the stairwell (painted in Resene Indian Ink), where the walls are dark. No matter which hue you paint your walls, ceiling and floor, be sure to adjust your lighting accordingly so your colour and space look their best.

## style tip

Annick gave her laundry an update over lockdown in Resene Rocky Mountain, chosen for its moody, sophisticated tone that contrasts the whiteware. "I absolutely love the finished look – it honestly makes the time I spend in the laundry so much more enjoyable," she says. Try Resene Rocky Mountain with deep wine reds, light greys or inky blacks such as Resene Rustic Red, Resene Surrender or Resene Nero.

Resene Rustic Red

Resene Surrender

Resene Nero



## dressed for drama

For darker coloured walls, opt for Resene SpaceCote Flat, which creates a soft, velvety finish as it reflects less light. Of course, a great finish starts with proper preparation, so be sure holes have been repaired, old wallpaper has been removed and any old stained plasterboard has been sealed with Resene Sureseal before you dip into your topcoat colour.

Resene Indian Ink

Resene Rocky Mountain



**Above:** Annick and Tim's 1901 villa looks tidy and handsome with weatherboards in Resene Sea Fog trimmed with Resene Alabaster and a roof in Resene New Denim Blue. The porch is in slightly deeper Resene Triple Sea Fog while the front door makes a statement in Resene Blue Bark.

While she's over the moon about her recent colour changes, Annick's favourite room is still the master bedroom – the walls of which are dressed in chic wainscoting painted in Resene I Do, a genteel misty greige. Like many other hues in her home, it has an added level of complexity and looks extra inviting with teal accents and a ceiling and crown mouldings in Resene Wan White.

Since we visited, Annick has already made another trip to her local Resene ColorShop. Her upcoming decorating plans involve Resene Quarter Bison Hide, Resene Eighth Joss and Resene Rakaia – and we can't wait to see what she does next. **H**

**design** Annick Larkin

**images** Emma MacDonald, [www.fotographicnz.com](http://www.fotographicnz.com)

Resene Alabaster

Resene Eighth Joss

Resene Quarter Bison Hide

Resene Rakaia

Resene I Do

Resene Wan White

Resene Sea Fog

Resene New Denim Blue

Resene Triple Sea Fog

Resene Blue Bark

turn the page for alternative looks for this home's master bedroom... →