



Devonport Villa



The client had purchased a four bedroom villa with large proportions. With white walls throughout, and very little existing furniture that the client wanted to keep, it was a blank canvas for design work in all areas of the house. The client wanted to retain the integrity of some of the villa features, yet create a contemporary elegance incorporating a quirky eclectic feel that could include reference to other eras. They wanted a sense of luxury and surprise incorporated into the design.

With the entire house being white, and the existing black painted floorboards and grey carpet, a black and white base to the colour scheme was layered with accents of red and aqua, mixed with metallic silvers and charcoals. The starting point for this colour scheme was a painting the client had for the living area which had a soft touch of aqua in it.

The existing kitchen was dark and heavy and required a complete redesign, but had to fit with the existing large scullery area in behind it and incorporate all the modern storage within. The new design brought together pattern, texture and light. The cabinets above the hobs were printed with graphics which incorporated a large scale traditional pattern and a touch of soft aqua blue. The main bench top and cabinetry were kept white, to connect with the rest of the house, and an asymmetrical feature bench top in Petra Grigio marble was added to balance the asymmetry of the high wall cabinetry on the back wall. This high wall cabinetry was kept open on the right, to visually connect with the scullery.

The splashback tiles on the back wall and tiles on the back of the island were heavily textured and played with the light to create a sense of interest and movement. The kitchen and scullery floor was also replaced with quirky tiles. To complete the area, high gloss black glass lights were hung over the island.

The dining family area was open plan to the kitchen. A large American ash dining table with a charcoal stain was added with the fully upholstered dining chairs, sitting on a custom designed rug.

Contemporary cabinets in Resene Black White sat on either side of the fireplace which had the hearth replaced in black Basalt and a new gas fire retro-fitted into it. Three contemporary chairs and small black leather and chrome side tables gather around the fireplace sitting on a custom designed rug. All the fabrics and rugs pulled together the aqua, black and white colour scheme. Each chair around the fireplace was upholstered in a different luxurious velvet fabric, pulling together the traditional and retro elegance.

The formal lounge connected to the kitchen area and the back patio area of the house. The furniture was custom built for comfort and luxury. The fabrics incorporated velvets and texture, and the custom made rug added a high silky sheen to the room. Red was introduced into this area along with the aqua and the black-white base. A black Basalt hearth was overlaid on the existing hearth, and the client's existing entertainment cabinet was recoloured to work with the scheme. A large traditional decorative silver framed mirror reflects back to the kitchen connecting the areas.

The entrance hallway had large proportions. New hall lights were added that were made from a contemporary medium of black acrylic, yet were a modern take on a traditional chandelier. The pattern of these lights was reflected in the design of a custom made hall runner, the scale of pattern oversized to enhance the proportions of the hallway. A touch of red was added in to bring interest into the colour scheme, you can see the formal lounge at the end of the hallway and the red leads you in. There is a real sense of an eclectic mix of scaled and over the top luxury in this space.

The master bedroom continued the theme. A large white painted wardrobe was built into the room to look as if it has always been there. A feature wall was added in the way of a painted frame made from villa architrave applied to the wall behind the bed, this was wallpapered inside the frame with a black and silver flocked striped wallpaper.

The windows were voluptuously treated with the use of dark charcoal fabric with a metallic silver over scaled traditional pattern. They were hung higher than the architraves to enhance the sense of scale in the room. A long shaggy silver custom made floor rug adorned the floor and a 1600mm long ottoman was custom built for the bay window area.

Lampshades were custom made in a heavily textured fabric that connected the copper wood colour of the client's existing bedroom furniture and the new colour scheme. The existing fireplace was completely out of character with blue tiles, so it was covered over, rather than demolished, with a more in keeping surround and a black Basalt hearth was overlaid.

The existing bathroom, while simple and fresh, had no sense of luxury. A feature wall of tiles was added which echoed the patterned metallic theme. Under-floor heating was also added under the new floor tiles. A new bathroom cabinet, mirror and lighting completed the changes here. The decorative pattern adorns the cabinetry and echoes the feeling of the tiles.

Off the hallway is a bay windowed room that was converted into a home office. A Cape Cod style cabinet was built into the wardrobe space, and white painted modern office furniture was added, as well as soft seating and a custom made rug.

Colour Selection: Amanda Neill
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Interior Designer: Amanda Neill

Stylist: Debbie Neill

Photographer: Nathan Koppens, First Light Photography

Colours Used: Resene Black White

Products Used: Resene decorative paints

Black
White