

Whose hue? Effective use of colour can really bring an interior to life and this home is a perfect example. *Flip the page to learn how to create your own palette.* →

photography derek swalwell | design lucy bock



DECORATE

HUE DIMENSIONAL

Colour is a fundamental element of interior design. Here's how to master it and apply it at your place



The bridge The hallway in interior designer Lucy Bock's home features a lilac-painted archway that connects the original Victorian front with its contemporary addition. The engineered floorboards in Almond White are by Woodcut and the ceiling rose is from Hopkins Plaster. **Feeling blue** In the living room, an artwork by Lydia Wegner called *Gold Angle* was a starting point for the interior colour palette. A petrol blue velvet Arflex sofa and lilac cushion from Poliform continue the scheme.

photography derek swalwell styling lucy bock words elle lovelock

who lives here?

Lucy Bock, an interior designer, with husband Peter and children Valerie, 8, and Hector, 5. Lucybock.com | [@lucybock](https://www.instagram.com/lucybock)

colour: the starting point

"Each interior design journey starts with an intrinsic feeling – a feeling in response to the existing architecture of the home," says interior designer Lucy Bock, who owns this beautiful Victorian-fronted home with a cool, contemporary rear addition in Melbourne. Indeed it's true that the best interiors reference the style of the property, the area it's located in and the direction it faces, but not always as expected. For example, if the home is contemporary, do you fill it with modern furniture or juxtapose it with antiques? Perhaps your property faces south, so the rooms may not have lots of natural light – you could paint them in light earthy colours to add warmth, or go with the shade and paint them a dark hue. These elements inform the next phase: colour selection and personal style. →





what to use where

When it comes to colour, think about how you want to feel in a room. “For the bedroom, blue was used on one of the robes but only as a playful focal point so as not to over-dominate the space. Everything else in the space is white-on-white which is very pure and calming,” Lucy says. The blue carries through to her living room and kitchen, keeping the design connected throughout the home. However, here the spaces are for activity and the architecture is contemporary, so Lucy turned up the volume with dramatic dark bricks, hits of black and a deep grape hue on sections of joinery.

keep your temper

When decorating with colour, remember to temper it with neutrals and naturals. Black and white are great all-rounders, as seen in this home, while a spectrum of grey, taupe and cream shades will work a treat depending on their colour undertones and the hues you’re teaming them with. Use materials such as timber, stone and metal to ground colour and bring in texture and different finishes. →



Feature wall In the living room, Midnight Blue bricks from Robertsons Building Products were selected specifically to tie in with the Philip Wolfhagen painting. **Material world** The kitchen was designed with a beautiful palette of materials including an Artedomus ‘Elba’ marble splashback and a Signorino terrazzo island (opposite). The joinery is finished in Porter’s Paints ‘Black Grape’. In the foreground, a Gubi ‘Y’ table is surrounded by Fritz Hansen ‘Series 7’ chairs, all from Cult.

surprise!

To bring an interior to life, it's important to have an element of surprise. One of the easiest ways to do this is with colour. Think of the joinery in your bathroom, kitchen or wardrobes – you don't have to go with standard white! Why not try a pop of colour or a deep, dark navy or forest green? And that goes for inside and out; if you want to keep the room palette neutral, go bold inside your cupboards or drawers.

Another way to incorporate an unexpected hint of colour is to paint out architectural details as Lucy has done in her hallway. "A high-gloss lilac reveal defines the transition between the old and new part of the house," she says. It's not only visually pleasing, but helps demarcate parts of the home, too. →



Cool and calm The bedroom (above and opposite) features custom wardrobes with a 2-pack finish in Dulux 'Pannikin', which are complemented with walls in Dulux 'Vivid White'. The bedlinen is from Cultiver and the throw is from Kip&Co. Above the bed hangs an artwork by Amber Wallis. **Look up** The ensuite (left and above) continues the colour-blocking from the bedroom. "The walls, ceiling and cornices are also painted blue which makes the bathroom feel whimsical," Lucy says.



The line-up Even Lucy's accessories are in variations on the colour theme. On this sideboard in the living room sit a series of pieces: a David Herbert lead crystal glass sculpture, a Ryan L Foote ceramic vase, a Dinosaur Designs 'River Stone' resin vase in black, a Tessy King 'Matt Blue' vase, and an Alexandra Standen 'Take Me With You' sculpture. **Lovely layers** Next to the bed (opposite), the striking silhouette of an Oluce 'Atollo' lamp makes for a playful white-on-white decorative feature.

see it through

To achieve a truly resolved interior scheme, continue colour throughout the home so that it takes you on a journey. For example, in Lucy's home there's a distinct beginning, middle and end. "The Victorian part of the house features vivid white walls, which mimic the exterior façade, to create a light and airy interior. The master bedroom and ensuite feature playful colour blocks of blue," she says.

From the hallway that connects the old and new parts of the home, there is an increasing depth of colour. The blue evolves into lilac, painted on the reveal that leads to the contemporary addition. From here, even more red and black is added to the lilac, taking it to the deep grape hue on the joinery, echoing the brickwork and Philip Wolfhagen painting.

Because the colours in this home come from the same families – blue, purple and red – they look good together. That's the beauty of playing with the tints, tones and shades of a limited colour palette – as long as you balance them with naturals and neutrals, it's hard to get it wrong. 🍷

