

INTO THE BLUE

AN ELEGANT UPDATE REVIVES THE MAIN BEDROOM OF THIS FEDERATION HOME IN SYDNEY, BLENDING TRADITIONAL FEATURES WITH CONTEMPORARY STYLE

Words SUE WHEELER Photography PABLO VEIGA

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	
PAINTING	\$1500
CUSTOM CURTAINS & BLINDS	\$3015
FURNITURE	\$18,000
LIGHTS	\$2500
RUG	\$4000
ARTWORK	\$600
BEDLINEN	\$500
TOTAL	\$30,115

DESIGNER NOTES

"Choose wall lights over table lamps for smaller bedrooms and free up valuable space for night-time essentials, or even a vase of flowers," says interior designer Jillian Dinkel. "Wall lights can also make a strong style statement, like these stunning linen and brass Visual Comfort 'Clarkson' double wall sconces by Aerin."

Ready to downsize from their large family home and move closer to the beach, Sydneysiders Lisa and David eventually found an abode that ticked all of their boxes – a charming Federation home just steps away from the water on the Northern Beaches; with a north-facing aspect, a beautiful, established garden and also spacious enough for the whole family, which includes two children still living at home. The couple plan to carry out a bigger renovation in the future, but in the meantime they enlisted designer Jillian Dinkel to refresh the older parts of the home before moving in. "We loved Jillian's work and her focus on period homes and felt we would work well together and have fun – which we did!" says Lisa. The room was functional but bland and it "lacked warmth and character", so Lisa says she was keen to "make it their own". The end result is a sophisticated yet inviting sanctuary that balances a contemporary aesthetic with a touch of the classics.

COLOUR PLAY A must-have for Lisa was the custom Indian rug from The Rug Establishment (opposite) as it "features every colour in the room and ties it together," says Lisa. The piece also lends softness and contrast, as it is the only patterned item in the room. "To create lots of visual interest we focused on contrast," explains interior designer Jill.

ORIGINAL ROOM The bedroom had purple walls, tired joinery and bad lighting; overall, it needed a bright, contemporary update.

TIMEFRAME Part of an eight-week refresh of a few rooms in the home.

THE WORKS "We wanted to highlight the beautiful Federation features and bring warmth and softness to it," says homeowner Lisa. This entailed painting walls in the soft blue-grey of Dulux Calandre and the trims and fireplace in Dulux Vivid White, sanding orange-toned floors, installing new lighting and a ceiling fan plus updating the existing wardrobes and hardware. The room also features a selection of new furniture, Hale Mercantile Co bedlinen and luxe curtains, custom made by Simple Studio.

LESSONS LEARNED "To be open-minded about new ideas, especially if you hire someone who has specialised skills in a certain type of property," says Lisa. "We knew we wanted to upgrade the interior but would never have considered many of the colours and finishes Jill suggested, until we saw the samples in the room and loved them."

SOURCE BOOK
INTERIOR DESIGNER JILLIAN DINKEL,
JILLIANDINKEL.COM



BEFORE



SCHEME SETTER

Originally white, the bedroom walls were repainted in dusty-blue Dulux Calandre, which highlights the fireplace and other Federation details Lisa and David fell in love with. It also sets the scene for the white, blue and amber palette that reflects their new home life – moments from the sea and sand – creating a sense of serenity. Pretty hints of blush, seen in Maria Kostareva's artwork, *Sleeping (Moonlight)* from Curatorial + Co, and the Maison Balzac glass and carafe, add another layer of interest to the colour scheme.