



THE PERFECT RETREAT

Styling Tahn Scoon Photography John Downs





“Our brief to Tahn was to create a beautiful home but one that could withstand a little wear and tear!” — Homeowner, Dinithi

DINING ROOM

The couple opted to replace all their furniture during the renovation, except for a much-loved dining table and pendant, both from Coco Republic. However, the table was re-stained from brown to black to better work in with the new scheme, and teamed with

Claudia dining chairs in dark green velvet from GlobeWest. Blackbutt floors throughout were also refinished in Japan Black. Walls were painted in Resene Half Alabaster.



Single and with a flourishing career in medicine, homeowner Dinithi wanted a place of her own to retreat to at the end of a busy day. She found a property in one of Brisbane’s leafy inner-west suburbs, just a stone’s throw from her parents’ home and a short commute to work. “It’s more exciting than your typical suburb; it’s buzzing with cafes, restaurants and parks,” says Dinithi.

Though the property already had a house on it, the previous owners negotiated to take it with them and Dinithi readily agreed. “It meant I could build the perfect house from scratch,” she says. To keep costs down, she chose a project home design but had her architect dad adjust it to better reflect her own tastes.



LIVING ROOM

Converting the former courtyard into the living room instantly provided the growing family with more internal space. "The footprint hasn't changed but the way we live has," says Dinkhi. To ensure the room could take some wear and tear from children and pets, the custom upholstered furniture is covered in commercial inky-blue fabrics and the patterned Scout bamboo and silk rug from Boyd Blue received an anti-stain treatment.

Metallic accents such as the Indra iron bronze-finish coffee table from Boyd Blue, the Benson buffet in antique nickel and the Manning floor lamp from Café Lighting add a touch of glamour. Accessories include a Crackle Gloss Ceramic Pear from Xavier Furniture, Christian Fischbacher Puro baby alpaca throw, and Chain Knot and Horn Button cushions from Bandhini.



The main design feature in the narrow two-storey property was a central courtyard in the downstairs living area. "This seemed a brilliant idea at the time, as I thought it'd be great for entertaining. However, I met my now husband, Aaron, just two months after moving in and we started our family shortly after. Once our son, Theo, arrived, we realised the layout didn't work for a family at all. We never used the courtyard, but it took up so much valuable living space."

we love

THE STUNNING ROYAL
BLUES IN THE LIVING ROOM

**KITCHEN**

Repositioning the kitchen to the back of the house allowed space for a butler's pantry and created a better connection to the outdoors. "It was also lovely to see how much more natural light came in," says Dirithi. On warmer days, the light is softened with linen-look sheer curtains in Warwick Palermo Snow. Lower cabinets are two-pack in Dulux Domino, while the upper cabinets are painted in Resene Half Alabaster to work in with the walls. Benchtops are in Michelangelo by Quantum Quartz. Slatch Tami barstools are from GlobeWest.

"We love to cook together," says Aaron, "and the screen on our Samsung Smart View fridge means we can look up our favourite recipes on the go." The Smeg oven is another firm favourite, as are the Voronoi II tinted bulbs from LightCo. Styling touches include a Berg Misty Green pot, potted plants from Urban Plant Boutique and Dane glass vases from Country Road.



ed's fave
THE STYLISH
MODERN ARTWORK

**ENTRY**

Theo and Max in the light-filled entry, which is decorated with a bespoke ottoman in Unique Fabrics Perry in Ebony, and a custom-sized Cromwell rug from Bayliss. The monochromatic scheme is complemented by the leather-detailed Meridian mirror and basket from Xavier Furniture, and topped with a glamorous Celeste pendant from Café Lighting. "I wanted the entry to be really elegant, but in colours that would withstand muddy pawprints," Dirithi says.

A Cocktail mirrored console table in Antique Gold from Café Lighting is styled with a Georg Jensen Alfredo vase in Light Green and Maison Balzac Volute candle holders in Teal. The colours tie in beautifully with the exquisite Viridian Rhythm commissioned artwork by Lisa Taylor King. Crackle Gloss Ceramic Pear from Xavier and Gentle Wave ceramic bowl by Nikki Sharp for Tahn Interiors also feature.



MAIN BEDROOM

"I love the soothing tones," says Dinithi of the main bedroom, which has been painted in Resene Quarter Truffle and furnished in teals and silvery greys. "It's my favourite room in the house." The sumptuous bed is layered in a floral Capriccio Prussian Blue comforter by Bianca Lorenne and Dupas Wicker comforter from Sheridan. Bespoke cushions in Casamance Montecristo and Mokum Waterfly Lagoon.

A custom ottoman, also in Casamance Montecristo, provides storage for cushions at night and functions as a step-up for the dogs to access the bed. An original figure drawing by Melle Varoy hangs above the plush bedhead, which has been custom-made in Warwick Victory Teal. The existing bedside tables were repainted in a warm metallic silver and adorned with Marston table lamps from Pottery Barn.

A Velux skylight allows natural light to be controlled at the push of a button, and the windows are covered with simple white linen Romans.

"With its soothing palette, it's such an inviting space," reflects Dinithi.

ENSUITE

The long feature wall in the elegant ensuite is finished in a hexagonal Carrara mosaic. "I love how the pattern works with the cushions in our bedroom," says Dinithi. "It makes it all feel so soothing, which was our brief for the master." The floors and remaining walls are finished in Paradigm matt grey 600 x 600mm tile, a travertine-look porcelain tile sourced from ASA Tiles. Custom cabinets are in two-pack in Dulux Domino and bench in Caesarstone Snow. A left marble tray and holder by Country Road completes the look.

The family were lucky enough to be able to stay nearby at Dinithi's mother's while renovating. The main change was to convert the courtyard to a living room. "This also gave us the added benefit of adding a bedroom above, which we now need," laughs Dinithi, who has recently given birth to daughter Francesca.

Other changes included moving the kitchen to the rear of the house to create room for a butler's pantry, and removing a wall between the study and media room upstairs to create a more open-plan space. "The other big difference to our daily lives was the inclusion of built-in storage. It's so much easier to stay organised and tidy."

The couple also decided to update the decor and contacted Tahn Sooon of Tahn Interiors after seeing examples of her work on Instagram. "Previously our furnishings were mainly cream and they were utterly destroyed by children and pets," says Dinithi. "Our brief to Tahn was to create a beautiful home but one that could withstand a little wear and tear!" **HD** tahninteriors.com.au

