



so frenchy

A renovation that takes you on a trip around the world

Dramatic and romantic artwork is carried through the interior with
blood-red cushion fabrics and lace





Before the renovation the home was a mix of Indonesian and Mediterranean furniture, colours and feel," tells Noela Coffey of Department of Interiors. "The walls were painted in heavy blues and yellows with the furniture oversized." The kitchen, Noela informs us, was in a dark timber with granite tops and splashbacks. "The rangehood was even clad in granite," she exclaims, saying that the timber bulkhead over the island bench and heavy lighting completed the heavy, cold décor.

The client wanted a redesign of the home to minimise the Asian feel and lighten up the house to create a more spacious, practical and ambient space.

Department of Interiors was chosen by the client to redesign

and manage all the work for the foyer, formal lounge, formal dining, family room, kitchen and master bedroom. The team set about repainting and refurnishing these areas with the client wanting to retain some of the existing furniture. Noela combined the new with the old to form an eclectic yet traditional look.

"I believe the style of the home to have a French overtone — a cohesive but dramatic contrast reflecting the client's individuality and personality," says Noela. The home contains treasures from the past and contemporary pieces reflecting the personality and lifestyle of the client.

Many of these older pieces were timber and quite heavy, needing to be lightened and given a

Above An elegantly carved day-bed offers an inviting European alternative to the typical loungeroom seating plan. **Below** French doors can enclose a room to create intimacy or fold out to achieve a more open-plan design. **Opposite page** Dark-toned furniture punctuates the luxurious, light palette perfectly.

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softer edge. With French pieces, this was most definitely achieved. The scrolling details, pastel colours, wrought-iron and rustic finishes work perfectly against the harder background of the timber.

Incorporating French fabrics was also a big part of the transformation, with some existing piece reupholstered in softer shades and textures. Velvet and chenille lounges designed by Noela were used along with soft, ivory shag pile rugs from Designer Rugs. Accessories such as French lamps from Vioré and artwork

commissioned by Noela Coffey from Marilou Palizon enhance the look, with occasional pieces finishing the French ambience.

The kitchen, as Noela describes, was one of the biggest transformations and she tells us that "rather than removing and installing a new kitchen, I revamped the old one at minimal cost but with dramatic effect." French-white was hand-painted on the doors by David Horgan, who also applied an antique finish. Black matt tiling replaced the splashback and black mirror now covers the granite on

the rangehood — a chic, modern approach.

The most important part of the design was the client/designer relationship and outlook, which was based on trust and a parallel vision for the direction of the home, as well as a realistic understanding of budget and works to be involved. Without this, the outcome would not have been possible.

With such a stunning finished design, it's hard to believe the dark and garish past from which it came. It's a testament to Noela's eye for transforming a space and seeing the possibilities. ■

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This magnificent multi-level platform and bed canopy, with its masculine lines and warm finish, commands a very strong presence in the bedroom.