

**BLUE HORIZONS** Colour played a huge role in transforming a dated worker's cottage into a coastal haven. For homeowner and interior designer Angela, the home's original features were the perfect canvas from which to create a more relaxed, New England vibe. "Once we changed the custard-coloured walls and ceilings to Porter's Paints Alpen, it really enhanced the sense of space," says Angela of the home she shares with husband Andrew and son Nicholas. One of the colours she is most often asked about is the exterior (opposite), which was painted in Resene Atomic and offset by Dulux White On White on trims and the new front door - where CJ the Maltese/poodle loves to wander through. Angela warmed up the interiors with layers of classic soft furnishings from her company, Interior Solutions Brisbane, including a striped Dash & Albert rug (below), library bookcases and nautical curios picked up on her travels. >



ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) / PRINT INTERIOR SOLUTIONS BRISBANE

# LITTLE CHARMER

A WORKER'S COTTAGE IN DESPERATE NEED OF LOVE AND CARE HAS BEEN GIVEN A STYLISH NEW LEASE OF LIFE BY A SAVVY INTERIOR DESIGNER

STORY KYLIE JACKES STYLING LANA CAVES PHOTOGRAPHY ELOUISE VAN RIET-GRAY



**HALLWAY** Boasting elegant arches and breezeways, the hallway's classic heritage features sold Angela and Andrew on the home. To accentuate the panelling, walls were painted in soft Porter's Paints Elegance above the picture rail, with boards below providing crisp contrast in Alpen. Rattan trunks provide storage and enhance the tropical vibe evoked by pineapple lamps from One World and framed palm posters. A vintage style pendant from Emac & Lawton sets the tone for statement lighting throughout.

## FLOOR PLAN

### FIRST FLOOR



### DINING AREA

"I blew the budget on windows," says Angela of the custom eight-pane windows by Woodworkers. Yet she saved on flooring, opting for durable vinyl planks from Carpet Court. "Because it was impossible to match the original timber boards, I wanted something completely different and went with a lighter toned flooring for a beachy feel," she says. The white timber table from Angela's design company teams with striped 'Barcelona' chairs from Lincoln Brooks to complete the relaxed coastal look.



Angela and her husband, Andrew, made an offer on their Brisbane home just hours after they saw it – which is all the more remarkable when you consider the poor first impression the 1910 worker's cottage had made on the couple. "It looked ugly from the outside and stunk to high heaven inside," recalls Angela, still cringing at the memory. "It had been converted into a dingy six-bedroom share house, with a kitchen and living room in a lean-to tacked on the back. The walls were a yucky custard colour, the bathroom tiles were cracked – it was just awful."

Despite the disrepair, however, there was one redeeming feature. "The hallway just sang to me," says Angela, an interior designer. "I'd always had my heart set on a beautiful arched hallway with breezeways above the doors and, despite everything, I fell madly in love with it." Their offer was accepted the same afternoon and, within months, a full-scale renovation was under way.

The entire cottage was gutted, with the lean-to torn down to make way for an extension to accommodate a new kitchen, living area, laundry and deck. Existing rooms in the home were reconfigured to incorporate a living area, bathroom, office, bedroom for their teenage son Nicholas, and a guest room, with space also carved out for a new ensuite linked to the main bedroom.

On site daily to manage the six-month renovation, Angela admits she experienced "a roller-coaster of emotions", and there were several

moments she questioned her decision to take on such a huge project. "When your house becomes a building site surrounded by rubble, and you realise there's no going back, it can be incredibly daunting," she says. "But I realised it's okay to feel like that. Ultimately, I knew it would be worthwhile and it's come together just as I envisaged."

Inspired by their time living in England and a holiday to Martha's Vineyard on the east coast of America, the couple opted for a grey-and-white colour scheme. In keeping with the cottage's traditional look, vintage-style light fittings were sourced for every room and spaces were layered with oversized striped rugs and generously sized furniture, while in the new living area custom eight-pane windows evoke the feel of a sun-drenched conservatory. "What I love about the New England style is you don't have to live by the beach for it to have that effortless holiday feel," says Angela. "It's all about using a light colour palette and mixing new and old pieces so people feel relaxed the moment they walk through the door."

Making the renovation a true family affair, Angela's brother Steve did all the carpentry work in the cottage, while sister Nichola and brother-in-law Grant volunteered to put together the 95-piece Ikea flatpack kitchen and butler's pantry. Completed less than a year ago, the newly renovated cottage is still a novelty for Andrew and Angela, and a joy to come home to. "Every time I walk through the front door and see the beautiful tiles and hallway I get a buzz," says Angela. "And, now all the hard work is done, we can just enjoy it." >



**KITCHEN**

With the cottage's original kitchen demolished, Angela was able to start afresh and create an open-plan space (above left) in the extension, which flows on to the informal lounge and dining area. As an interior designer who has had countless requests from clients to design a custom Ikea kitchen, Angela decided to try one out herself and was thrilled with the result. "I wanted a classic look so I chose the 'Svedal' cabinets, with a 'Domsjo' sink, 'Energida' cup handles," she says, "and I sourced a white reconstituted stone for the benchtops." For similar, try Caesarstone in Calacatta Nuvo. The couple - who are keen cooks - chose a 90cm Smeg oven to ensure they could cater for a crowd.

**KITCHEN DETAIL**

Within a sea of white, 'Monaco' tiles in Gunmetal Gloss on the kitchen splashback from The Tile Mob draw the eye (left). "I just love them," says Angela. "They're one of my favourite tiles as they really add depth to a space and the slight glossy finish reflects light." Mango wood shelving adds another tonal and textural element, and provides a ledge for plants or personal kitchen collectables.

**KITCHEN/DINING ROOM**

Although the new vinyl plank flooring clearly delineates the new extension from the old part of the home, Angela added VJ boards on walls and the raked ceilings (above right) to give added continuity. "My poor builder Brendan," she says of the work involved to install the boards. "He did it during a summer heatwave and was relieved when the final one went in." A structural post that needed to be installed beside the island bench also brings rustic charm, with the natural tones of the timber adding warmth.

**CASUAL LIVING ROOM**

A favourite spot of Angela's is the light-filled living area which opens out to the deck, opposite. A 'Martinique' mirror in Black from Provincial Home Living reflects views and mimics the French doors. Angela says her Ikea 'Ektor' sofa, with removable slip cover, teamed with Pillow Talk cushions, was a fantastic buy. "I have two covers because CJ will jump up on it with muddy footprints, so there's often one in the wash, but the marks always come out," says Angela (pictured). The lobster print and clusters of shells reflect her passion for East Coast style. >

ARTWORK (THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE) PRINTS INTERIOR SOLUTIONS BRISBANE

"MY MORNING RITUAL IS TO HAVE a coffee and snuggle WITH CJ ON THE COUCH OUT THE BACK. IT'S SUCH A LOVELY SPOT TO START THE DAY" ~ ANGELA



WE LOVE...  
*statement tiles*

Instantly eye-catching, fabulous feature tiles add personality in the ensuite. "I just love beautifully patterned floor tiles and have used three different types in the house," says Angela. "It's a way to make each space unique and striking tiles provide an element of surprise." Angela opted for Black 'Zamora' Matt Era tiles 25cm x 25cm, from The Tile Mob, tilemob.com.au.



**ENSUITE**

Rooms in the home were carved up to give the main bedroom an ensuite (opposite), beautifully framed by custom cupboard doors, which Angela designed and had made by her brother Steve, of Arriba Building And Carpentry. Dream Shadows carpet in Wayward from Carpet Court is delightful underfoot and presents a beautiful transition to the elegant ensuite, which has a marble-topped vanity, by Vanity By Design, teamed with a mixer from Jamie J. To cope with the steamy conditions, original timber boards were replaced by moisture-resistant VJ panelling in Porters Paint Alpen. The wall lamp was sourced from Fat Shack Vintage.

**MAIN BEDROOM**

The star of the serene main bedroom (top) is the custom bedhead, upholstered in gorgeous 'Hothouse Flowers' fabric from Schumacher. "I just find it a relaxing haven," says Angela of the bed, dressed in linen from Pottery Barn and velvet Theo

& Joe cushions. Canvas and Sasson bedside tables and Emac & Lawton wall lights create a 'his-and-hers' evening reading zone. A huge trunk at the foot of the bed acts as a dressing seat and storage for blankets.

**BATHROOM**

While the bathroom has a smaller footprint, Angela cleverly accommodated a bath and shower alongside one another by creating a wet area complete with a nib wall and strip of glass to contain any splashes (right). Restricting the palette to soft grey and white, decorative white 'Zamora' floor tiles help to create the illusion of more space, while Spanish handmade subway tiles above the bath, also sourced from The Tile Mob, were teamed with a grey grout to highlight their irregular edge. The zone's matt black accessories, such as the towel rail and bath spout from Accent Bath, add visual punch, as does a vintage pendant from Beacon Lighting. The lovely freestanding bath is from Highgrove Bathrooms. >



**OFFICE** Even though it meant reinforcing the original floor to cope with the added weight, Angela couldn't resist splashing out on beautiful, albeit heavy, cement feature tiles in her office. For similar encaustic tiles, try Jatana Interiors. Walls in Porter's Paint Obsidian offer a striking backdrop to the space and allow white plantation shutters and Malawi furniture from Coastal Drift to pop. A cute wall lamp from Emac Lawton creates a memorable finishing touch, alongside a framed map of the Caribbean Angela made herself.

**CONTACTS**

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And Renos, 0411 459 926.



**EAST COAST STYLE**



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**INSIDE STORY**  
ANGELA & ANDREW'S HOME

**Who lives here?**

Angela, an interior designer; husband Andrew, a commercial analyst; their teenage son, Nicholas; and CJ the Maltese/poodle.

**How would you describe your style?**

Angela: "I love layering elements of coastal and New England style."

**Favourite room in the home?**

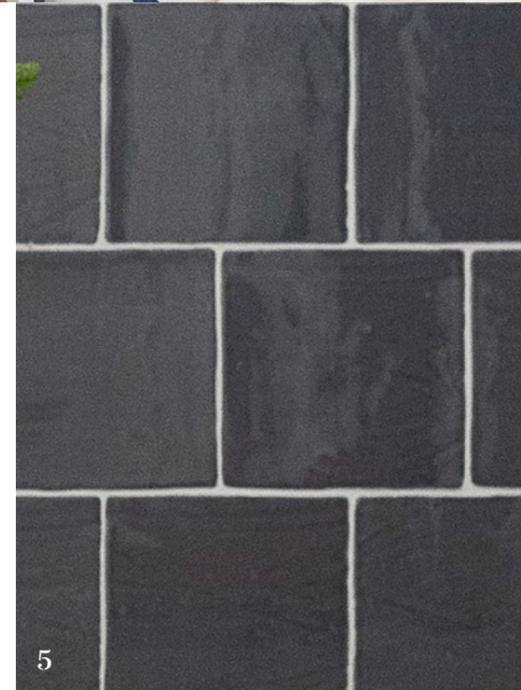
"We spend most of our time in the new open-plan living area at the rear of the property. It gives us that seamless connection between the cooking and entertaining zone and opens out onto our back deck."

**Best decision you made?**

"Rather than do a completely new-fit-out, it was a conscious decision to retain as many of the original heritage features as possible, maintaining the home's historic fabric and enhancing the best features of a Queenslander."



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- 1. Visions Vinyl Plank flooring in Mindle Beach, Carpet Court.
- 2. Angela and CJ at home. For similar rattan trunks, try French Knot.
- 3. Upholstered bedhead in Schumacher 'Hothouse Flowers' in Mineral, fabric available through Interior Solutions Brisbane.
- 4. Seagull print available through Interior Solutions Brisbane.
- 5. Kitchen splashback with Italian-made Gunmetal Gloss Monaco 13cm x 13cm tiles, The Tile Mob.
- 6. Pineapple book ends, One World Collection.
- 7. Exterior paint in Resene Atomic, with trims and fence in Dulux White On White.

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



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