



## Another world

Transforming a Victorian worker's cottage into an exotic oasis is not your typical renovation. This couple, Tory Flanigan and architect Giovanni Mangano, has mixed treasured antiquities with newer works from around the globe, but it's the interior's pared-back aesthetic – whitewashed walls, glowing timber and furnishings in a restrained palette – that provides pure sophistication. The original aspects of the home are underplayed or repurposed, while lavish elements, such as carved doors and ornate light fittings, bring character and soul.

# IN DETAIL

ideas from the Prahran home



3 really great

### URNS

Handmade and beautifully weathered, ethnic planters and decorative pots in different shapes and sizes look just as good inside or out. The owners of this home have mixed glazed antiquities with contemporary ceramics, topping them with tactile succulents for an injection of colour.

1. **Rustic urn**, \$195, from Fitzroy Nursery, (03) 9417 3272, [www.fitzroynursery.com.au](http://www.fitzroynursery.com.au).
2. **Antep Yesil terracotta pot**, from \$125, from Garden Life, [www.gardenlife.com.au](http://www.gardenlife.com.au).
3. **Moroccan jar**, \$750, from Julian Ronchi Garden Design & Nursery, (03) 9500 8322.

## kasbah cushions

Recline against these richly patterned cushions, and you'll be transported to your own private sultanate. Intricate, geometric designs work in perfect harmony – never clashing, never too busy. They evoke the opulence of a North African palace while retaining a quiet, earthy charm.

(Clockwise from top left) **'Casbah'** cushion in Charcoal, \$49.95, from Kas, (02) 9317 5700, [www.kasaaustralia.com.au](http://www.kasaaustralia.com.au). Marimekko **'Kulkunen'** cushion, \$150, from Safari Living, (03) 9510 4500, [www.safariliving.com](http://www.safariliving.com). **'Lattice'** cushion, \$29.95, from Freedom, 1300 135 588, [www.freedom.com.au](http://www.freedom.com.au). **'Kyla'** circular **ottoman** in Natural, \$119.95, from Kas, as before.

THIS 'SAARINEN' SIDE TABLE WITH A WALNUT-VENEER TOP, FROM \$2134, FROM DE DE CE, (02) 9360 2722, IS A WARM VARIATION ON THE MARBLE-TOP VERSION SEEN IN THE HOME





## like a prayer

Some use religious iconography for worship while others appreciate the pieces for pure aesthetics. In Tory and Giovanni's home, the spiritual objects are family mementos.

(Clockwise from top left) Ceramic **rosary**, \$95, from Amor Y Locura, [www.amorylocura.com](http://www.amorylocura.com). **Cross** made from recycled Cape Town timber, \$55, from Cumquat Interiors, (03) 9572 3444. Wooden **cross** with rosary beads, \$990, from Amor Y Locura, as before. Saint **bracelet**, \$20, from Holy Kitsch!, [www.holykitsch.com.au](http://www.holykitsch.com.au).

## THINGS TO SOURCE...

↑ **DISTINCTIVE DOORS** There's an old Moroccan saying that a beautiful house is known by its beautiful door. Often built as the entrance to the main internal courtyard, the doors use geometric motifs that reflect a Moorish history. The doors can be made of metal, wood or **plaster** with panels of rich design and often bear ornate, hand-carved doorknobs. While they transform any doorway into a dramatic access point, they can also be used for purely decorative purposes. Moroccan doors hung on white walls are a feast for the eye, evoking images of crowded bazaars. For a similar style, try a local outdoor furniture retailer, like Fitzroy Nursery, or a specialist such as Kasbah Moroccan Imports, which sources doors from Fez and Marrakech.

(Above) Moroccan **door** from an old Medina house, \$8000, from Kasbah Moroccan Imports, (03) 9593 3801, [www.kasbahimports.com.au](http://www.kasbahimports.com.au).

← **PATTERNED RUG** The restrained elegance of this rug anchors the room with a neutral palette that quietly plays off against the furniture and artworks. The geometric design complements the Moroccan influences without ever trying to compete for attention.

(Left) Kasthall Hägga 'Goose Eye 909' **rug** (wool yarn woven on linen warp) by Gunilla Lagerhem Ullberg from the Häggå collection, \$10,195 for 300 x 350cm, from Space, (02) 8339 7588.

## INSIDER'S GUIDE TO... THE MOROCCAN LOOK

Although the interior of the cottage embraces different design elements, a Moroccan influence dominates. The couple has drawn inspiration from *dars* (houses) and *riads* (dwellings with central courtyards) in the bustling cities of Fez, Casablanca and Marrakech. Elaborate carved doors, detailed furniture and filigree lighting are featured throughout the residence. Vibrant colours in textiles and art are part of the tradition, but for owner-architect Giovanni, the look is exemplified by a more sensual, earthy feel, creating an idyllic oasis in inner-city Melbourne.



## let there be light

Moroccan lighting features intricate ironwork, which throws a web of patterns on the walls. These lanterns, pendants and sconces were originally designed to work with candles, so it's worth using a low-wattage light source to set the mood. Traditional ranges are highly decorated with bursts of colour, but Giovanni and Tory chose a selection of white pendants for the living area, providing a more contemporary look. For ideas, try Amor Y Locura, (03) 9486 0270, Kasbah Moroccan Imports, (03) 9593 3801 or Hamimi (see below). 'Fnar' **light**, \$90 for medium (22 x 22 x 70cm), \$170 for large (30 x 30 x 90cm), and \$330 for extra large (40 x 40 x 120cm high), all from Hamimi, (07) 3168 1894, [www.hamimi.com.au](http://www.hamimi.com.au).

