

PAVED NEW WORLD Wall and floor tiles in charcoal hues are durable, easy to maintain and a style statement. "The greys are the colour foundation, setting the exterior stage to enhance the interior experience," says designer Ruth Levine, of RLD.

(From top left) 'Shima Scuro' marble, \$137.39 per sqm; 'Paddington' vitrified tile in Charcoal Brown, \$52.69 per sqm; 'Element' Black textured vitrified tile, \$49.39 per sqm, all from Skheme, (02) 8755 2300.



HOT COOL "The home's colour scheme is built on a natural palette punctuated with burnt-orange highlights," says Ruth Levine. The study's striking orange is 'Omega' fabric in Hops from James Richardson, (03) 9428 1621; try this paint palette for a similar feel. (From left) SpaceCote in Moroccan Spice, \$41.15 for 1L; Zylone 20 in Double Stonehenge, \$93.94 per 4L, both from Resene, 1800 738 383, www.resene.com.au.

WORDS & SOURCING BY KERRY RAMSEY. MAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICHOLAS WATT

IN DETAIL

ideas from the Hunters Hill home

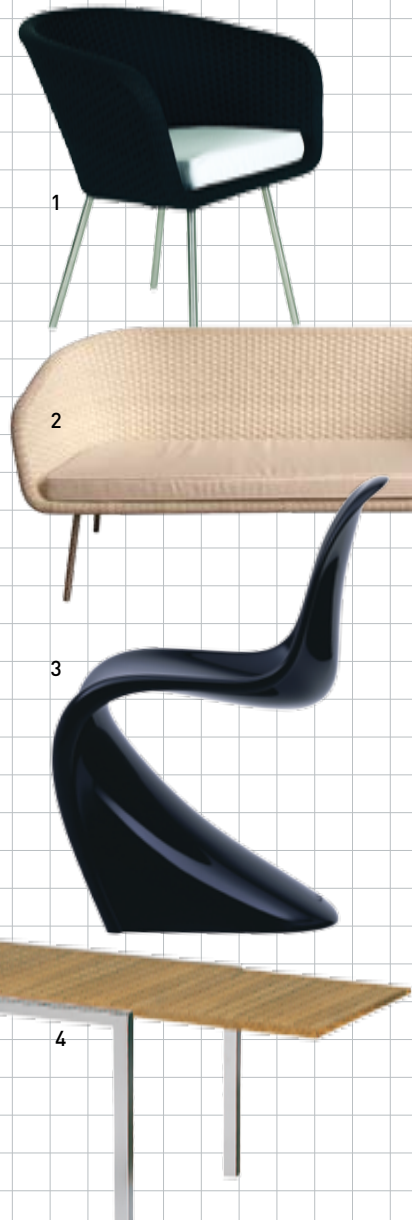
Material world

Step over the traditional threshold of this house in Sydney's north west and you find a modern interior with a refined-meets-adventurous colour palette. Slate and charcoal hues – in flooring and soft furnishings – work as a strong backdrop and allow vivid pink, tangerine and citrus to shine through. Art is key in the success of the interiors and ranges from Aboriginal paintings to beautifully formed sculptural objects. Even the lighting makes an artistic statement – from a Moooi 'Dandelion' pendant to suspension lights with gold-leaf elements. Clean lines and a streamlined interior create an atmosphere of considered simplicity.

keep it out

Located close to the pool, the outdoor room has become one of the most popular spaces of the house. While the parents get to kick back and relax under the adjustable awning, they can also oversee their children playing in the pool. Grey vitrified floor tiles are slip-free and durable and mimic the indoor surfaces, while the outdoor furniture pieces are stylish and long-lasting – they're made from teak, marine-grade stainless steel, polypropylene and water-repellent tough-stuff fabric. Together, the elements create a space that is not only inviting, but decidedly practical.

1 & 2. Fuera Dentro 'Shell' easy armchair, \$1650, and sofa, \$2990, both from Parterre, (02) 9356 4747, www.parterre.com.au. **3.** Vitra 'Panton' chair in Black, \$415, from Space, (02) 8339 7588, www.spacefurniture.com.au. **4.** Royal Botania 'Flexy' extension table, \$7900, from Parterre, as before. →



Q&A WITH INTERIOR DESIGNER RUTH LEVINE, OF RLD

Describe your design style in three words.

Intuitive, textural, functional.

What should our readers think about when planning to undertake a renovation?

How they want to feel in their home, the renovation's purpose and their budget for building and decorating. Style is also essential - tearsheets from magazines help communicate specific likes and dislikes to their chosen architect/designer.

How often should you revitalise your home?

Well, is the interior reflecting and suiting your lifestyle? If not, make changes to ensure practicality and beauty that works for you.

Some items may need updating due to wear and tear, others because you want things to feel refreshed. Easy changes can be as simple as a new painting, cushion or accessory.

Where do you find inspiration when designing?

My clients inspire me, as our designs are bespoke. The particular style and, therefore, the influence per project is individual. My inspiration is varied: from the colours and textures in nature (I just love the Tasmanian wilderness) to Picasso's perfect composition and Christian Liaigre's sophistication.

For further information, call RLD on (02) 9331 4066 or visit www.rldesign.com.au.

LIGHT WORKS

In the bedroom, two curtains of different opacity were installed on separate tracks. "The sheer works well during the day, letting in light and adding a sense of luxury," says Ruth. "The blackout curtain can be used at night for light protection and privacy." Not only do these curtains transform the room, they also complement the white plantation shutters.



THINGS TO SOURCE . . .

→ **SUSPENSION LIGHT** The 'Saturn Ring 100', designed by Australia's Dean Phillips, features a gilded-leaf interior and a high-efficiency LED. Phillips's design philosophy - classic but contemporary - is encapsulated in this luxe light. For more on Dean Phillips, call 1300 332 674 or visit www.deanphillips.com. 'Saturn Ring 100' lamp, \$2759.90, from Light Culture, 1300 300 904, www.lightculture.com.au.

← **DANDELION LIGHT** Designed by Richard Hutten in 2004, the 'Dandelion' lamp is made from laser-cut steel and inspired by the humble plant. At night, the light source at the centre creates silhouettes from the metal circles, giving an exotic and mesmerising look.

Moooli 'Dandelion' pendant, \$3825, from Space, (02) 8339 7588, www.spacefurniture.com.au.

→ **ARMCHAIRS** Launched in 2005, B&B Italia's 'J.J.' seating range by Antonio Cittero began with a chair available in two different sizes - one with a high backrest for lounging and a lower one for conversation. Later versions included a chair draped in Mongolian fur (released in 2007) and a rocker (2009).

B&B Italia 'J.J.' chair in black pony skin with ivory straps by Antonio Cittero, \$5375, from Space, (02) 8339 7588, www.spacefurniture.com.au.



RATHER THAN HITTING GALLERIES, THE OWNERS TURNED TO ARTDUO TO SUGGEST AND ACQUIRE SUITABLE WORKS, SUCH AS THE EMILY PWERLE ARTWORK (LEFT). VISIT WWW.ARTDUO.COM.AU