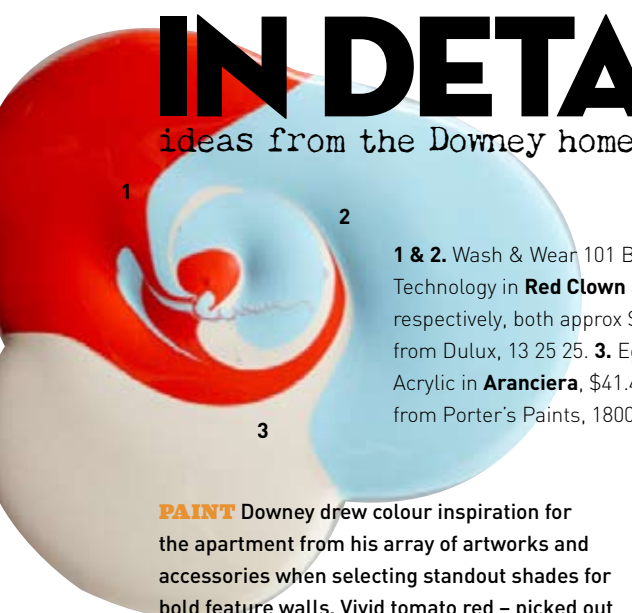




Artistic splashes It's the lack of pretension that makes this apartment an irresistible blend of inviting and wonderfully offbeat. Owned by artist/musician Daimon Downey and his partner, actor Georgia Gorman, the two-bedroom home in Sydney's shimmering Bondi Beach has personality plus. The place brims with Downey's artworks, his collection of mid-century furniture and a cacophony of kitsch. But it's the colour palette that makes the interior sing, with extrovert bolds living happily alongside candy pastels.

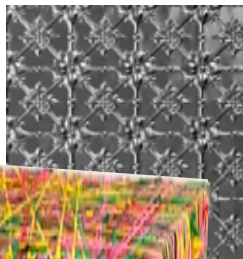
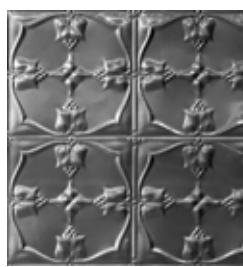
IN DETAIL

ideas from the Downey home



1 & 2. Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology in **Red Clown** and **Betsy** respectively, both approx \$45 per 1L, from Dulux, 13 25 25. **3.** Eggshell Acrylic in **Aranciera**, \$41.40 per 1L, from Porter's Paints, 1800 656 664.

PAINT Downey drew colour inspiration for the apartment from his array of artworks and accessories when selecting standout shades for bold feature walls. Vivid tomato red – picked out from paintings hanging above the dining table – is a no-bones approach to decorating embossed walls. Elsewhere, mellow timber and yellow accentuate a golden-orange wall.



THINGS TO SOURCE...

← **LEATHER ARMCHAIR** The 'Marenco' chair by Mario Marenco was released in 1970 for Arflex, with a modular version reissued in 2007. "Each piece moves, so it wears evenly," says Downey, who maintains the design is so timeless it will look just as good in 20 years. Arflex 'Marenco' leather **armchair**, \$7590, and pouf, \$3430, both by Mario Marenco, from Poliform, (02) 8339 7570, www.poliform.com.au.

← **EMBOSSED DETAIL** Nineteenth-century plasterwork was beautifully ornate but quite expensive and time-consuming to install, so decorative metal was developed as an alternative, with intricate patterns that were reminiscent of the original plaster designs. Wunderlich launched its pressed-metal ceilings and wall panels in 1885 and continued until the 1950s. In 1983, the company rebranded as Wunderlite, producing lightweight .5mm conversion coated aluminium and galvanised iron panels in a range of its original designs. The sheets are easy to fit and can be painted. (Left, from top) **Pressed-metal** sheets in 'Tulip' and 'Floral', \$75 for 600 x 1800mm, both from Wunderlite, call (02) 6334 4545 or visit the website at www.wunderlite.com.au.

← **BALLOON STOOL** The 'Balloona' stool by Canadian-based designer Natalie Kruch appealed to the artist's sense of the absurd. "I love how silly it is – like a jar of confetti," says Downey. The stool consists of around 500 balloons twisted and tied by hand to a wooden frame. The 2008-released stool was snapped up by the Philadelphia Museum of Art as part of its permanent design collection. Shipping costs mean that the 'Balloona' **stool** is not available in Australia. If you're holidaying in the US or Canada, you can order it online for \$US262.50, from Umbra, www.umbra.com.

IN DETAIL



creative chaos

Downey's art studio is rich with energy and colour. But he's more pragmatic in his assessment of the evocative space. "It's just another room in the front of the house," he says. From here, he creates sculptures and fluoro works while also finding time to release a scarf range with Bay & Fyfe (bayandfyfe.com), put together a New York exhibition, launch a hip Double Bay supper club (opening mid-March) and plan an upcoming Sydney exhibition. Who could blame him for working in such a beautiful mess? Downey's work is available from MCM House (www.chuckandbob.com) and www.daimonddowney.com.

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO... PARKER FURNITURE

In 1935, Jack Parker and Alf Dagger started producing kitchen cabinets in Sydney, graduating to Scandinavian-style furniture in the early '50s. By the 1960s and '70s, Parker Furniture was synonymous with modernist teak dining settings, bedroom suites and sideboards like the one in Downey's home. Parker closed in the '90s, but pieces can still be found in vintage stores, including Brisbane's AddVintage (www.addvintage.com.au) and Sydney's FormBeforeFunction (www.formbeforefunction.com.au) and Vampt Vintage Design (vamptvintagedesign.com).

Parker **sideboard**, \$1495, from AddVintage in Woolloongabba, Qld, (07) 3161 6335, or from its Annandale NSW store, (02) 9560 8883. Visit the website at www.addvintage.com.au.



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