

cheat sheet

Who lives here: Amelie and Jeremy, both doctors, and their two young daughters Simone and Eugenie.

Style of house: A three-storey late 19th-century classical bourgeois house in Bordeaux, France.



The renovation of two floors took three months. Amelie and Jeremy are currently working with interior designer Ninou Etienne on the last floor.



french polish

This house had quintessential Gallic charm but needed a fresh update. Enter one clever interior designer

WORDS **AMANDINE BERTHON** PHOTOGRAPHY **JULIEN FERNANDEZ**





1 divide & conquer

Owners Amelie and Jeremy entrusted this charming home to interior designer Ninou Etienne of FusionD to maintain the building's heritage features while also giving it a modern update. This kitchen and dining area was installed where a bedroom and bathroom once stood. Open and closed storage from IKEA brings in hints of colour and pattern. "We spend more time in the kitchen with our friends and family than in the living room," says Amelie. "It's a joyful area - the kitchen and dining area is our living space."

Tip: Give plain box shelves interest with a graphic configuration and a strip of bold colour.

2 character development

The entrance hall features charming details, which are celebrated by different tones. The white upper half, drawing the eye up to the ceiling, forms the perfect backdrop to the grey wall mouldings and the chequered flooring, which is typical of 19th century bourgeois houses. The skirting boards in a bright turquoise create a visual pause between the mouldings and the floor. Above a vintage sideboard are Mathieu Matégot coat racks.

Tip: Don't be afraid to use paint to highlight heritage details - it updates the look, as well as personalising it.



paint match

Consider an enamel paint for your trim – it provides a smooth and tough finish, so it's great for a busy zone. Try 'Ultratrim' enamel paint in Dream Dust, \$79.95/4L, Haymes Paint, haymespaint.com.au.



3

a matter of perspective

"The house's separate areas appealed to us," says Amelie. "We were against the idea of opening out the smaller rooms." A pair of grand doors open into the living room. A moulded armchair by Charles and Ray Eames complements the tones and retro curves of a 1950s-style coffee table by Red Edition. A cowhide rug on top of the original timber floorboards ups the cosy factor in the welcoming living space.

Tip: Don't forget to consider the scale of your space when it comes to your furniture choices.

4

attention to detail

Relaxed mid-century appeal is at its best in this living room. A 1970s lamp, sourced from a garage sale, sits in front of a feature wall in '50s-inspired Sanderson 'Wrappings' wallpaper. The room's friendly feel is enhanced by sunshine yellow open shelves and multiple seating options, making it ideal for chilling out. Amelie and Jeremy enjoy reading or listening to music in the space.

Tip: Allow original features to inspire your style choices. Here, the fireplace's gold detail is echoed with the clean lines of the bright yellow shelves.





5

plain & simple

"We gave Ninou free rein," says Amelie of her interior designer. "We knew we could trust her to rejuvenate the home and, at the same time, preserve its original feeling." Ninou converted a storage space into a small shower room for the couple's daughters, Simone and Eugenie. A made-to-measure glass panel separates the shower from the sink while mosaic tiles cover both walls and floor. An Alape 'AG' bucket sink was chosen for its utilitarian look.

Tip: Using a small-format tile on the floors and walls creates the illusion of higher ceilings.



6

familiar pattern

All of the chimney surrounds in the home have had a colourful makeover. In both Eugenie and Simone's rooms, limited-edition wallpaper from

a collaboration between IKEA and Art Rebels has been used to freshen up the look. Oriented strand board (OSB) panels - cloud-shaped for Eugenie and house-shaped for Simone (opposite) - feature painted borders echoing the fireplace surrounds' colours and allow bits and bobs to be easily put on and taken off.

Tip: Different colours can work harmoniously side by side, so long as they're from a similar tonal palette. Here, pastels of varying shades create a graphic yet cohesive look.

7

colour match

Painted in grey and yellow, baby Simone's bedroom is neither too girly nor too juvenile, with the scheme setting it apart. The room's

original bookcase was salvaged and is now used as a wardrobe, which has been repainted slate grey. Both the cot and rocking chair are second-hand finds. A rug from IKEA adds a tactile touch, perfect for playtime.

Tip: It's worth investing in custom-made storage to make the most of a small space. Go the extra mile by getting a piece made up to suit your home's heritage.



'Clean & Protect Kitchen & Bathroom' low sheen **paint** in Blue Passion, \$60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

'Clean & Protect Kitchen & Bathroom' low sheen **paint** in Pick Me Up, \$60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.



8

seeing double

The tones used in the bathroom bring a playful feel - the colourful band of paint continuing up to the ceiling is a cosy touch.

Adding further personality to this functional room is the backgammon-board-like 'Bråkig' limited-edition wallpaper, from the collaboration between IKEA and Art Rebels, used on the existing cupboard. The copper-toned wall lamps and hanging mirrors are from House Doctor.

Tip: You don't have to match your bathrooms. Give each space a personal touch with a different look and feel.

9 peace of mind

In Amelie and Jeremy's bedroom, white washes over from floor to ceiling, and on the fireplace, too. "We wanted a very calm and zen atmosphere, without it being too minimalist," says interior designer Ninou. The trio went with second-hand furniture to add warmth.

Tip: Choose striking furniture pieces and soft tones to save an all-white space from being too clinical.

For more on Ninou's work, visit fusiond.fr. **10**



Flooring expert
David Hayward,
national technical
manager with
the Australian
Timber Flooring
Association (ATFA),
afta.com.au

expert advice

"This type of look can be achieved with any timber when using a white paint, but if the paintwork becomes scratched, a lighter coloured timber means the damage will be less obvious. And remember, once you have painted a wooden floor, it will be difficult to revert to the natural timber if you don't like it as the paint would show in any open board joints."