

PERIOD DRAMA

Monochromatic schemes and bold design decisions have brought a modern aesthetic to Terri and Luke Shannon's Edwardian house

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB/LIVING INSIDE

LIVING AREA

Terri designed the huge corner sofa to suit the relaxed feel of the space.

Bespoke sofa and ottoman, Bloom Interior Design. Ottoman covered in Gramont in Indigo, £123m, Manuel Canovas. The portraits (between the windows) are by Melbourne artist Nunzio Miano, whose work can be found at Forman Art & Framing. Sabrina wood-turned stool, AUD\$1,260, Zuster



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A detached house, built in 1912

LOCATION Australia

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, pantry, utility room, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2009

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a smaller Edwardian property nearby,' says Terri.



KITCHEN-DINER

Concrete worktops add an industrial edge to the striking black cabinetry, with a bespoke marble and oak dining table complementing the herringbone oak floor.

Neptune's Henley kitchen cabinets are similar. Washakie linen chairs, £320 each, Oka, have this look. Sommerard triple-arm chandelier by Aerin Lauder for Visual Comfort, £1,403.98, Lightsource. Try Butler pendant lights in Antiqued Brass, £87.90 each, Jim Lawrence





FAVOURITE ROOM
*'I adore my bedroom,
which I wrapped with
beautiful blue grasscloth
wallpaper. It always feels
warm and inviting'*

MASTER BEDROOM
Terri selected an oversized light to add to the sense of drama. Walls in Surat Sisal, £280 for a 7.32m roll, Jim Thompson at Fox Linton. Have a look at the Marea merino wool throw, from £156, Larusi. Painting by Anastasia Wiltshire

It is hard to imagine that when Terri and Luke Shannon first viewed this house 11 years ago, they could see the sky through the ceiling. 'It really was the worst wreck you could find,' laughs Terri, who together with Luke had spent a year searching for their next home in Williamstown, an historic port just outside Melbourne. 'Heritage houses are something of my speciality, so this Edwardian property instantly appealed, particularly as the original details, such as the cornicing and the fireplaces, hadn't been touched.'

Terri runs a successful interior design practice, Bloom Interior Design, with Luke, who looks after the building works on their projects, so the pair were well equipped to take on this new challenge. They undertook it in two phases. 'We originally renovated the house and lived in it for a few years, but after the arrival of our third child, we added an extension so that the building could grow with us,' explains Terri, whose son Samuel is now four while daughters Chloe and Charlie are 12 and 14. 'Working with Luke had its advantages as I was able to tweak the design as I went along,' she adds. 'It's a luxury you don't usually have when you are undertaking a big project like this.'

EXTRA SPACE

The new open-plan extension, which houses the kitchen, dining area and family space, has a contemporary feel, with its glass-framed doors and black cabinetry offset with concrete worktops and metro tiles. 'I always knew this kitchen would be black, but I also felt that it was important to introduce some classic touches, so that the space connects with the rest of the house,' explains Terri, pointing out the warm herringbone floor in American

oak, which blends with the timber floor in the hallway and sitting room. 'I carpeted the bedrooms in sisal but I made sure I matched it to the colour of the wood so that there is a sense of continuity, even if the textures change,' she notes.

SEAMLESS STYLE

Terri describes her design ethos as 'classic with a modern edge' and her considered choices work with both the extension and the elegantly proportioned rooms in the Edwardian part of the house, which now contains the formal sitting room, four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Blue plays a key role. 'It is my favourite colour and I gravitate to it,' says Terri, adding, 'It sits so well with other colours, such as black, greens or soft pinks. I think that it is important to team it with warm tones such as the oak floors, and I have also included metallic touches.'

Brass features on many of the statement lights, which include oversized frosted glass lanterns in the master bedroom and a contemporary sculptural pendant in the extension. 'The ceilings are high so it was vital to find pieces that could hold their own,' says Terri. 'A lot of people think about lighting last, but for me it is one of the things I consider first. Good lighting sets the mood of a house – it helps tell the story of what it is all about.' 25

CHARLIE'S ROOM
Choosing wallpapers was one of Terri's favourite tasks.

Bird and Thistle wallpaper in Aqua, £210 for two 10-yard rolls, Brunschwig & Fils at GP&J Baker

BATHROOM

Over the years, this room has been black, navy and white, but currently Terri loves this pale pink iteration.

Dulux's Ballerina Dance matt emulsion, £29.16 for 2.5ltr, is a similar colour. Sorrento Marinella tiles, £8.83 each, Fired Earth. Claudia freestanding bath, £1,012, Bathandshower.com



TERRACE
 Complete with an outdoor kitchen, the covered terrace provides a wonderful entertaining space.
 Bloomingville black and natural rattan armchairs, £219 each, Made In Design, have this look

