



deck the halls

Enjoying their fabulous new extension will be the highlight of Christmas for this Melbourne family.

Words and styling Heather Nette King Photography Armelle Habib

"Everyone's looking forward to our first Christmas in the extension," says Terri. "Hopefully it will be warm enough to fling open the doors and have a fabulous, Australian-style indoor-outdoor day."

INSIDE STORY

The home

A four-bedroom Edwardian weatherboard home in Williamstown, in Melbourne's south-west.

Who lives here

Terri Shannon, the owner of Bloom Interior Design and the Bloom & Co. stores, with husband Luke, owner of Think Shutters, their daughters Charlie, 11 and Chloe, 9, son Sam, 1, and Honey the cavoodle.

What we did

"We bought it in 2011, then renovated in stages, first tackling the lounge, bedrooms and bathroom," says Terri. "This year we extended to create an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining room that overlooks a new pool and a deck with an alfresco eating space."

Our favourite room

"The formal lounge, where we retained the beautiful period features – a bay window, fireplace and detailed cornices on the 3½-metre ceilings. It's such a cosy, traditional-feeling room."



Bedroom perfection in Charlie's room, with Brunschwig & Fils wallpaper and art by Sara Winfield (left), Rachel Castle and Arite Kannavos (above bed).



Charlie, looking very much like a Christmas angel herself, helps to decorate the mantelpiece in the formal lounge.



"Christmas is such a great excuse to dress yourself and the kids up – it all adds to the festive fun," says Terri. The bathroom floor tiles are from Jatana Interiors.



"I've been collecting blue and white ceramics for years, and I love to update the table each year with new pieces I've sourced for my store," says Terri.



"I designed this kitchen for beauty and practicality, and having so much space will be a game-changer this year – there's going to be a lot of delicious Christmas treats."



A contemporary marble fireplace surround adds luxury to the extension. The cloud painting is by Sydney artist Min-Woo Bang and the lights were bought in New York.

"All the local kids love watching what we do here each December," says Terri of the decorations adorning their block-fronted home (right).

The 'hood

"Williamstown still has a historic, village-like atmosphere, with great beaches, restaurants and shopping," says Terri.

Future plans

"The renovation is officially completed – but as a designer, I'll always be dreaming up something to do next!"

Our Christmas

"We'll watch the carols with the kids on Christmas Eve, then be woken at dawn for the excitement of present giving," says Terri. "This year we'll have a big lunch at home around the new dining table – with all of the trimmings including a big roast turkey and our favourite, a delicious Christmas pudding."

Festive decor

"We always go all out and decorate the front veranda with garlands, bows, lights, and even a life-sized blow-up Santa," says Terri. "The girls love decorating the tree and adding their beautiful decorations."



Charlie and Chloe share dessert by the pool. "It was the smallest pool we could find, but it certainly does the trick," says Terri. "The kids love it."



Ribbons and wrapping. "The girls get heavily involved in the Christmas prep – it's all part of the excitement." The chair artwork is by Du Chonggang.

