

get tonal, get tactile...



Taylia, Karen, Peter and Portia (left to right) sit below an oil painting by Gerald Jones which was a prop in a play. Right: in keeping with the Tuscan theme, pencil pines have been planted between ornate urns from Menduni Garden Artistry. See Resources for stockist details.

Colour comes to Canberra in a family villa

"WE WERE INSPIRED from our travels through Europe, where we met 10 years ago," says Peter Sarris of the home he shares with his wife Karen and their two daughters, Taylia and Portia. "When we returned to Italy on a backpacking holiday in 1994, we stayed at a 600-year-old monastery in Verona that had been turned into a youth hostel." It was this villa that inspired the design of their five-bedroom Canberra home. The colours Karen has selected for the home has further cultivated a Tuscan theme. Rich, textured ochre was rag-rolled onto living room walls using three different paint colours. "It took four attempts before we were happy with it," recalls Karen of the process. "It's hand done, so it's difficult to get the effect right." And outside, on the brick wall surrounding the pool, red oxide was added to the render to achieve an aged Tuscan look ►



KAREN AND PETER'S HOME also won the HIA Home of the Year award in the open category for their region and Karen now admits, "All my homework did pay off." With three bedroom wings – a master, children's and guest wing – the kitchen and living areas provide the nexus of the house. This layout promotes adaptability for the family's changing needs. Covered, ground-level verandahs can be accessed through cedar French doors off the children's bedrooms, and inside, antique and custom-made furniture for the children's rooms were bought as an investment in the future. "We worked out the kids' rooms before they were even born," says Peter. "We designed it for 20 years down the track." The children also have their own separate bathroom which features bright yellow and blue tiled walls and terracotta tiles on the floor.

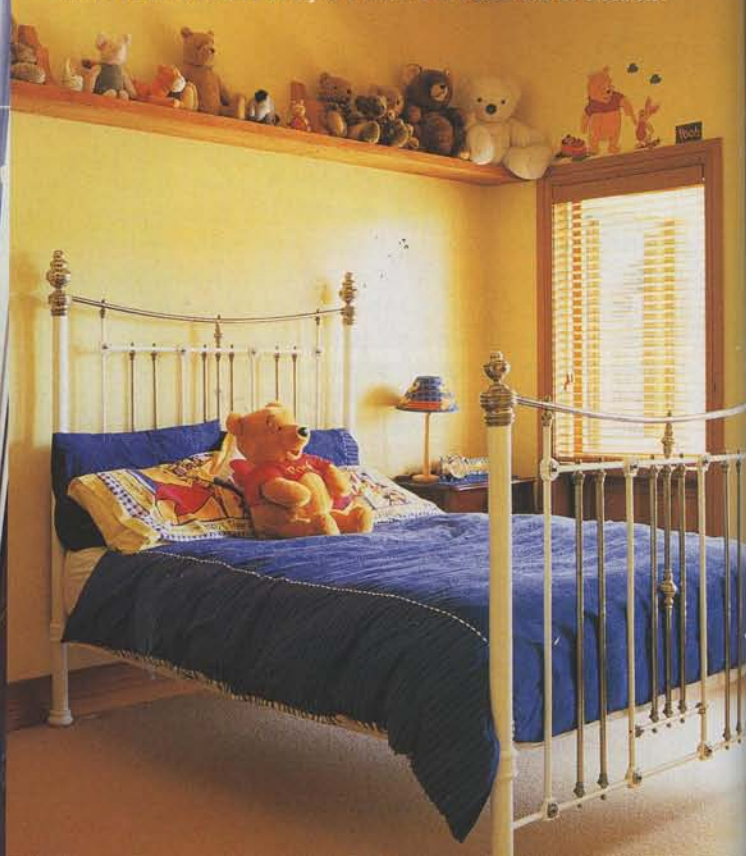
Further illustrating the flexibility of the house design, the office, which is next to the master bedroom, was originally used as a nursery. "Every room in the house gets used," Karen explains. "It's a very functional home." High ceilings in the master wing accommodate dramatic columns that have been textured with coloured plaster to give an aged Roman look. Double French doors lead out onto a private courtyard, which is separated from the play and entertaining areas of the garden by a hedge of English box.

The home also has a five-star energy rating. Large windows and cedar-framed doors keep the house cool in summer, while under-floor electric heating warms the house in winter.

What matters most to Karen and Peter is that their home works for them both now and in the future. Adding texture and colour has simply brought the house alive in a tribute to Tuscan memories. □
Contact Terry Ring of Architects Ring & Associates, Griffith, ACT by calling (02) 6239 7177. Call interior decorator Karen Sarris of KS Design on 0407 112 227.



Portia (above left) beside her custom-made bed by Uneke Furniture. Handmade dolls, which Karen has been collecting since Portia's birth, were bought from craft markets and now sit on the picture rail. Left: the 'kids' bathroom features bright yellow and blue tiles. Below: a custom-mixed colour was used in Taylia's room. See Resources for stockists.

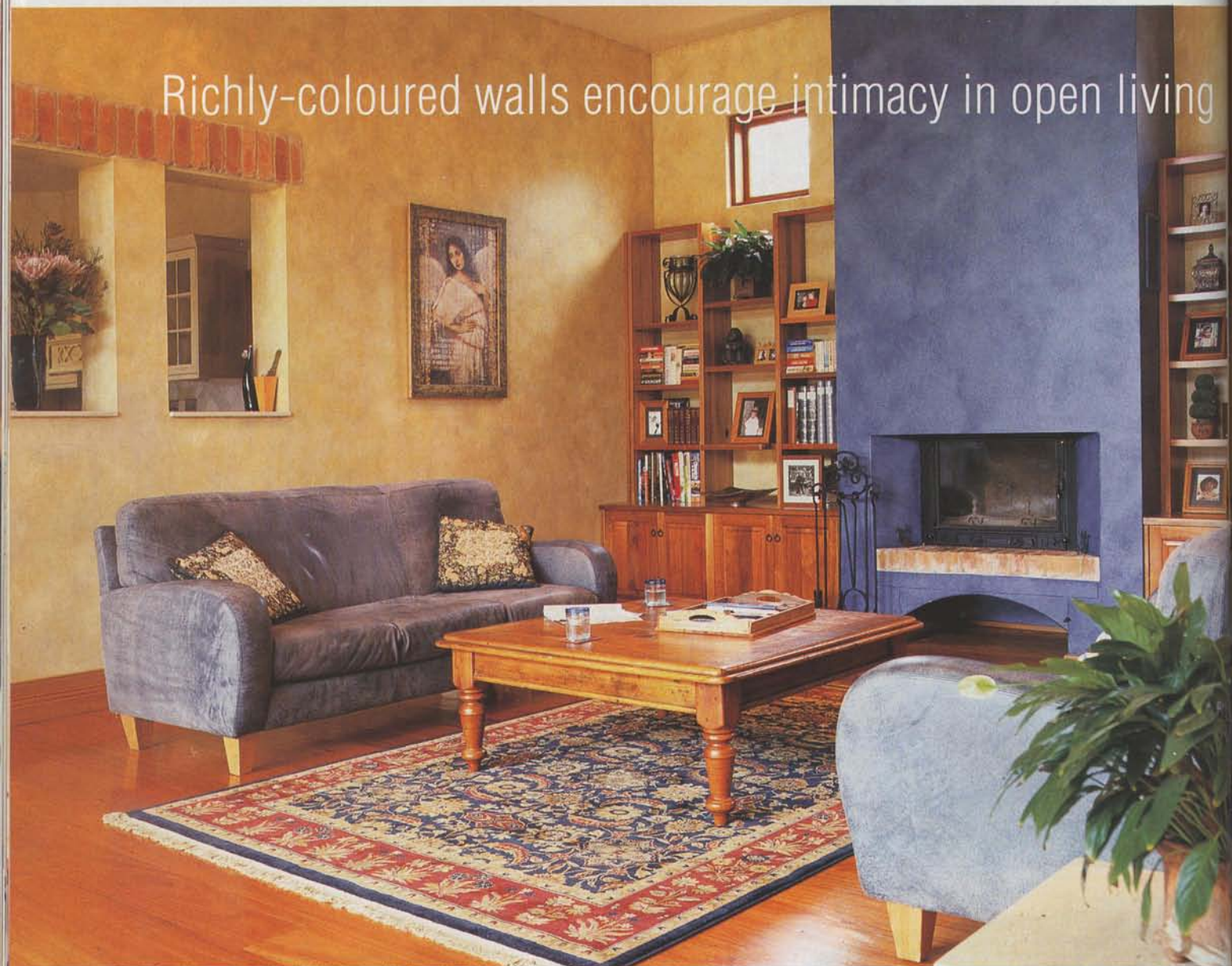


spaces with warm and cool colours creating a balance



The kitchen (this page) cabinetry was built by P&K Joinery, Mitchell, ACT (02) 6241 5699. Forged iron stools from David Jones complement the iron grate on the wine rack which was custom-made by House of Brosch. Opposite top: the living room walls are rag-rolled Dulux's Shell White, Sea Gull Grey and Hemp Gold. The chimneybreast is highlighted with a rag-rolled finish in Federal Blue from Dulux and Aquaduct from Taubmans. Painted finishes by Gordon Kildare Special Finishes, call 0418 485 056. Opposite bottom: exterior render was mixed with a sandy-coloured oxide for a durable, low maintenance finish that will soften in colour with age. See Resources for stockists' details.

Richly-coloured walls encourage intimacy in open living



A BRASS SHIP'S BELL perched in a mini-tower over the entrance to Karen and Peter's home is more than an old-style chime. Long before the house was built, the bell – from the bell foundry in South Australia – was a first purchase; and it remained under the couple's bed awaiting its Mediterranean-style tower. In keeping with that style Karen and Peter have used hand-cut bricks in three different colours for the roof edging and had a specially-mixed oxide applied to the exterior for a weathered look.

Karen spent two years compiling a portfolio of their dreams for the house while she completed a certificate-level courses in Soft Furnishings and Interior Design at the Canberra Institute of Technology. When the time came to build, she took the portfolio and three pages of specifications to their architect Terry Ring. Terry explains that he had never before encountered two clients who knew exactly what they wanted in a design.

With Terry's help, Karen designed the functional kitchen layout which won the 1998 HIA (Housing Industry Association) ACT/Southern NSW Housing Award for a Kitchen. "The kitchen was the most integral part of the house, and I wanted to be able to see as much as possible from it," Karen says. From the marble island workbench she can keep an eye on the girls as they play in the family and living rooms as well as outside. ►

get colour

● **GET TACTILE** Make the most of different paint finishes. You don't have to paint a whole room in one single colour and you don't have to use the same finish for every wall. Textures add visual movement to a room and are a wonderful way to link the indoors with the out.

● **GET TONAL** Creating tone is vital to the success of a room. Using the right colours will give warmth, atmosphere and a sense of occasion. Tertiary colours – colours mixed with grey or black – and layered painted finishes give rich results.

Story by Louise Gee. Tips by Rose Marie Hillier. Styling by Maya Kelett. Photography by Simon Kenny.

inspired by the weathered textures and washed hues of Tuscany

CAPITALGAINS

A master bedroom with a vaulted ceiling and two large, fluted columns. A cherrywood sleigh bed with a white sheet and blue blanket is in the foreground. Behind it, a tapestry hangs on a dark wall. A chandelier with multiple lights hangs from the ceiling. Large windows with cedar shutters are in the background.

“We were inspired from
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Cedar shutters filter light through double French doors in the master bedroom. Behind the cherrywood sleigh bed from Fanuli Furniture hangs a tapestry from David Jones. Chandelier from Project Lighting. See Resources for stockists' details.