

YOUR HOME, MADE EASY

FREE *garden plans for you*

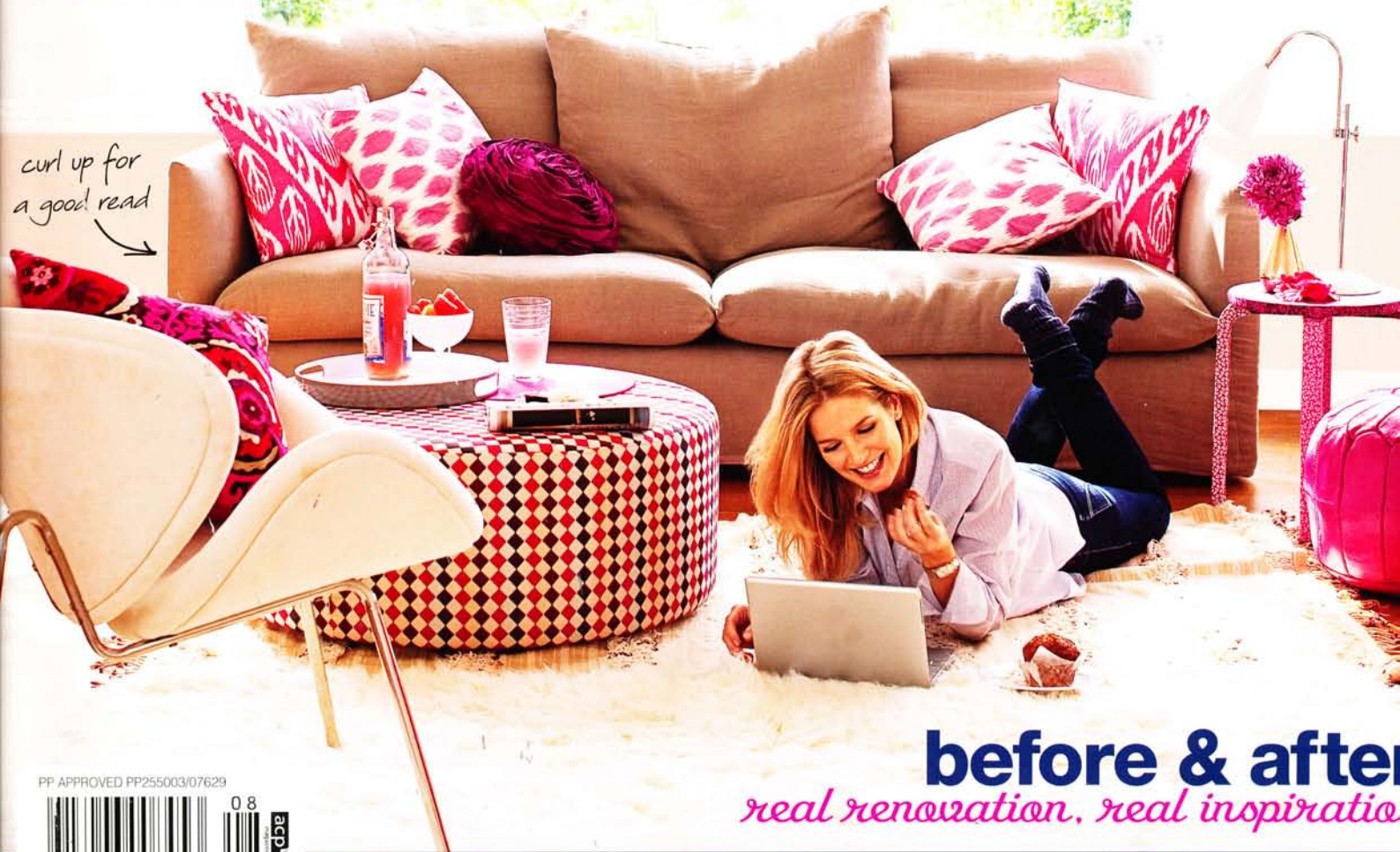
# realiving

AUGUST 2010

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## Style IDEAS THAT WORK ON ANY BUDGET

**HOW TO...**  
ADD COLOUR TO YOUR LIVING ROOM  
**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MANTLE**  
GET CRAFTY WITH FELT



*curl up for a good read*

**before & after**  
*real renovation, real inspiration*

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AUGUST 2010 \$6.95 (incl. GST)

**ONE-DAY BATHROOM MAKEOVERS**

## IDEA 6

### Moodboard mantel

Mirrors and artworks may be the obvious choices to hang above a mantel, but why not think outside the square and turn a functional **inspiration board** into a fabulous feature (see "Make")? This is a great idea for creative types, or those who have no office space. **Be selective** with what you choose to pin up – wads of receipts and bills are not the most aesthetically pleasing items to display. Postcards, Polaroids, **stylish invitations, pretty stationery** and inspirational tear sheets from magazines can all work well.

**Decorating tip** Colour-coordinate items on your board with the pieces displayed on the mantel. An easy way to do this is through book covers, flowers, and pictures and postcards on your board that can be easily updated. ①

### make

#### Mantel moodboard

Make a frame for your board with decorative moulding and paint it in a colour that works with your theme, and also creates a bold contrast with the wall. Prop your board on the mantel for a temporary solution, or hang on the wall for a more permanent fixture. EchoPanel **board** in Chocolate, \$140 for 2.4m x 1.2m x 12mm panel, Woven Image. Dado rail **moulding**, \$35 for 3.6m, Bunnings, **painted in** Porter's Paints "Lava".

#### Functional feature

London **mantelpiece** in Mahogany, \$499, and Lux Fire **insert**, \$349, Recollections. **ON MANTEL** For glass **domes**, try Lifelongmemories.com.au. Bone china **birds**, \$24 each, Have You Met Miss Jones. Polaroid **camera**, \$40, Camberwell Markets. Small papier-mâché **bowl**, \$12, Tractor Home. Antique **lassi cup** in Brass & Silver, \$69, Caravan Interiors. **Poppies**, \$12, Flowers by Teresa. **Books** from Borders. Small noodle **bowl** in Citrus, \$36, Mud. Recycled glass **bottles**. **ON BOARD** Bone china Love Heart **gift tags**, \$10 each, Have You Met Miss Jones. Assorted **business cards**, Polaroids and magazine **cut-outs**.

**OTHER ITEMS** Vintage **chair**, \$80, Major & Tom. Vintage **books** from Gertrude & Alice Cafe Bookstore.

**Wall painted** in Dulux "Star Gate". For stockists, see page 161.



## make

### Whimsical wall display

A string of glass droplets threaded through twine and fixed to the wall with masking tape adds an original and creative touch to the rough-rendered bricks.

Handblown **glass droplets**, \$4 each, Heaven In Earth. **Twine**, \$3.50 a ball from newsagent.

### White & whimsical

London **mantelpiece** in Antique White, \$499, and Lux Fire **insert**, \$349, Recollections. **ON MANTEL** Vintage **camera**, \$40, Camberwell Markets. Traditional Hurricane **candle holder**, \$10, and Pillar 30-hour **candle** in Crème, \$3.99, Dusk. Diptyque **candle**, \$90, Studio Imports. Marbella oak **bowl**, \$79.95, and Waysun large **vase** (holding David Austin **roses**, \$20, Flowers By Teresa), \$49.95, Country Road. "X" **letter block**, \$40, Davidmetnicole. Vintage **cotton spools** from markets. Classic round votive **candle** in Clear (just seen), \$8.95, Queen B. Acrylic **tile picture** (30cm x 30cm), \$178, Lumi Tiles (also available in other sizes); supply your own image for a tile to be made.

display favourite photos  
that suit the theme

## IDEA 5 (above) *Romantic rustic*

This pretty display is great for those wanting to achieve a **country cottage** feel in their home. The roughly rendered painted brick wall and creamy-smooth white mantel are the perfect **blank canvas** to showcase an eclectic mix of items. Choose pieces with a neutral, pastel colour scheme

to suit the soft-and-sweet theme. The idea is to keep the display looking **informal and relaxed**, as though you've been adding to it for years. To achieve this, group similar items together to create a **series of vignettes**, like our cluster of wooden trinkets and candle votives. We arranged our pieces on the mantel in a **descending order**, with the vase of dusky pink roses

drawing the eye to the right of the scene, and gently staggering down to the small vintage camera at the opposite end. A **stack of books** with just the white parts showing can make a great platform for a cluster of candles, and is an easy way to change the height of the display. Think about how you **space** the items, too – there needs to be a slight gap between each group so it doesn't

look too busy. A string of **glass droplets** (see "Make") along with a **vintage-style postcard** attached to the wall with Blu-Tak are novel display ideas that complete the whimsical look. **Display tip** Don't line your items up perfectly on the mantel as this will result in a too structured "try hard" display. And, don't overdo it – combining too many media will create a cluttered effect.

## IDEA 3

### Layer & stack

A **mirror** is a classic accent piece for a mantel, and for good reason – it bounces light around the room, creates a feeling of space and helps bring the focus to the mantel display.

We propped an empty **ornate frame** (see “Make”) against the mirror to create a **layering effect** and then added a few well-chosen accessories. The overall look is subtle, elegant, and achieved by keeping things simple.

It's the contrast in **textures and finishes** that makes this arrangement effective.

A large vintage bottle in the centre and two chairs either side provide **balance and harmony**.

**Display tip** If your fireplace is no longer functional, use it as a mini library – stack books to give your room a “novel” point of interest.

### make

#### Painted frame

Paint an old empty frame the same colour as the frame of your mirror, and then prop on the mantel with one side overhanging slightly. The ornate frame contrasts with the sleek lines of the mirror. You could add a smaller frame in a different style to add an extra layer.

**Frame**, \$8 from garage sale, **painted in** Watty! Aqua Trim in Magic White.

#### Traditional with a twist

London **mantelpiece** in Antique White, \$499, and Lux Fire **insert**, \$349, Recollections. **ON/UNDER MANTEL** Waysun large **vase**, \$49.95, Country Road. Yellow **tulips**, \$25, Flowers By Teresa. **Antlers**, \$70, Tarlo & Graham. Blue glass **bottle**, \$50, Doug Up On Bourke. Brown **bottle**, \$4, Garlands. **Mirror** and empty **frame**, garage sale finds, **painted** to match the walls. **Books** from Borders.

**OTHER ITEMS** Wicker **trunk** with leather handles \$295, Cotton Love Home. Timber **chair** (at left), \$80, Junktique. **Magazines** and **notebooks** (on chair) from Borders. Tapestry **chair**, \$495, and 8-light **chandelier**, \$450, That Vintage Store. Katstrup flatwoven **rug** (1.4m x 2m), \$199, Ikea. Leather **ottoman** \$289, Silk Route. Remy **sofa** in Ash Grey, \$3350, Orson & Blake. Samara **cushions** in Citron, \$39.95 each, Kas. **Wall painted** in Watty! Interior Design i.d in Magic White.

MANTELPIECES can be tricky to decorate. They often end up a dusty ledge with a couple of candlesticks, a vase, or a few family photos. Worse case, they're a dumping ground for keys, mail and general clutter. If your mantel is looking more eyesore than eye-catching, read on.

## IDEA 1 (left)

### Natural touch

For a rustic vintage look, animal ornaments mixed with antique pieces and elements from nature, such as the bird's nest, work well. Choose **everyday pieces**, like the glass cakestand (see "Make") and science beaker and use them in a decorative manner. When you've decided on your main items to display, arrange them casually – **overlapping, clustering, stacking** – then add in a few smaller objects that tie in with your theme. We used tealights and vintage-style stamps (spelling out the word "HOME") for a cute touch. When it comes to floral arrangements, **country flowers**, or a few small **branches** or **feathers** arranged haphazardly in a vintage bottle or jug, will keep the look laid-back and rustic.

**Display tip** Choose items that share a common theme and fit the style of the room, but also reflect your interests.

## IDEA 2 (right)

### Bold backdrop

Let the wall become the focal point of the fireplace by using a striking **wallpaper panel** (see "Make") as a backdrop. The traditional use of a **clock** for decorating a mantel never goes out of style – choose classic or contemporary to suit your theme. Black and white accessories will blend beautifully with the paper, but you don't want the display to

look too matchy-matchy, so add a few **pops of colour** – through flowers and a statement ornament – to bring the display to life.

A large **structural plant** in a striking urn at one end of the mantel adds interest and draws the eye, while a **pendant light**, in coordinating colours to the backdrop, ties the look together.

**Decorating tip** Be bold with your wallpaper choice for a wonderfully dramatic effect. →

### Statement stripes (above)

London **mantelpiece** in Antique White, \$499, and Lux Fire **insert**, \$349, Recollections. Vintage enamel pendant **lampshade**, \$175, That Vintage Store.

**ON MANTEL** Mercury glass **urn** with insert, \$249, and antique Uzbekistani ceramic **bowl**, \$99, Caravan Interiors. **Magnolia leaves**, \$22 a bunch, and **purple hyacinths**, \$15 a bunch, Flowers By Teresa. **Books** from Borders, covered in black **wrapping paper**, \$4.99 a roll from newsagent. Newgate Mini Napoleon **alarm clock**, \$89.95, Outliving. Vintage **teapot** (just seen), \$50, Mitchell Road Auction Centre.

**Wall painted** in Watty! Interior Design i.d in Freesia.



### make

#### Wallpaper panel

Make a striking backdrop by papering the section directly above the mantel. Create a border with a decorative wall trim (see [Porta.com.au](http://Porta.com.au)).

Wide Stripes **wallpaper** in Black & Silk Road, \$150 a 10.5m roll, Porter's Paints.

## make

### Sweet display

Make a cute and quirky arrangement by stacking a few of your favourite items in a glass cake dome. Displaying in clusters of three always works well.

Nancy **cakestand & dome**, \$44.95, Freedom.

## make

### Peg card

This card looks like it has been pegged to the wall, but it's simply stuck on with Blu-Tack. Easy! The wooden clothespeg and birdhouse design on the recycled kraft card tie in nicely with the rustic/nature theme.

Me And Amber "Bird House" **card**, \$9, Planet.



# Mantelpiece makeover

## HOW TO DECORATE & DISPLAY

Fireplaces are functional but mantels can become a focal point, bringing **character and style** to a room. We've got six ideas that are quick, clever and creative

### Home sweet home

London **mantelpiece** in Antique White, \$499, and Lux Fire **insert**, \$349, Recollections. **ON MANTEL Books** from Ariel and Berkelouw. Schleich **animals**, from \$4.95, Dymocks. "Home" **blocks set**, \$39.95, Laura Ashley. Science **beaker**, \$45, Max Watts Industria. **Orchids**, \$28, Flowers By Teresa. Bone china **hanging mouse**, \$16, Have You Met Miss Jones. Prophet beeswax **candles** in porcelain dishes, \$17.50 each, Northern Light. Antipodes 1L water **bottle** (empty), \$8 (full) from dell. Empty **bird's nest** from a farm. **ON WALL Peg**, \$1.97 for 48, Coles. Dulux Wash & Wear 101 Advanced Low Sheen **paint** in Blue Ballerina.