



GILDED GLAMOUR

Adding a sense of opulence and intrigue to an interior is no easy task - but this Melbourne couple's sophisticated home stands as a shining testament to a dash of daring

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home truths

Who lives here: Daniella and Marcus Balscheit, owners of design consultancy company Surround Interiors.

Style of home: The three-bedroom, three-bathroom 1970s home in Melbourne's Brighton has been reworked with a moody palette of opulent details. →

DINING AREA Daniella and Marcus's home exudes glamour, with a monochrome look teamed with decadent features. The 'Exe' timber dining table is one of their own creations.



LIVING AREA (above) Inspired by the Brighton beach foreshore, Marcus painted a bespoke artwork. Placed above a Knoll sofa, the piece picks up on the metallic tones of the throw cushions. **KITCHEN (below)** “Green, black and grey are just a fabulous combination,” says Daniella of the palette she treated the kitchen to. “It’s bright and lively, and it makes you feel good.”



3 great finds



TREE FEATURES Offering a shapely silhouette, motifs of limber timber branches are scattered throughout the home, bringing an element of the outdoors in. **1. ‘Droplet’ lamp** with ‘Branches’ shade, \$339, MRD Home, mrdhome.com.au. **2. Pluto Produkter ‘The Decor Tree’ jewellery stand**, \$79, Nordic Fusion, nordicfusion.com.au. **3. ‘Sherwood’ accent table**, \$US840, Arteriors, arteriorshome.com.

With her foot on full throttle, homeowner Daniella Balscheit has a high-speed style metabolism. Every day, the interior designer refuels on fresh stimuli: taking it in, trying it on for a while and then hunting for more. She is dynamic – fast-talking, jump-right-in, change-things-up dynamic. And any moment that’s not go-go-go is a moment wasted. But then, Daniella loves what she does.

Together with husband Marcus, the multi-tasking style maven runs Melbourne interiors showroom and design consultancy company, Surround Interiors. The couple also operates an outdoor advertising business, Teamcycad (“those bicycles you see pulling advertising trailers about town,” explains Daniella); the company has been operating throughout Australia and the USA for five years now. Then came Goldie, Daniella’s line of vintage costume jewellery, collected during her time in the States and Paris. “I’m a pretty busy woman,” she says. “I am always trying to work out how I can evolve and make our businesses bigger and better.”

Turning her many loves into commercial opportunities is Daniella’s greatest skill. Much of the motivation, she says, comes from an intense passion for fashion, and all things aesthetically satisfying. “The business satisfies my desire to buy – I get bored really quickly,” she says.

As a collector, designer and retailer, Daniella is forever dabbling with beautiful things, without being weighed down by too many possessions. “I get to own pieces for a while and then they are appreciated and loved by someone else,” she says. “There’s a story behind each collectable and I like adding to that.”

When the couple first met, Daniella was studying interior design while Marcus was making his name as an event designer for fashion shows, nightclubs and parties for clients such as Mercedes-Benz and Stolichnaya Vodka. They soon joined forces and, in 1996, the couple established House Of Balscheit, an emporium of classic Danish and Italian furniture in St Kilda. Five years later, they added product design, residential consultancy and, for a short time, retail design and construction to their repertoire, and Surround Interiors was born. →

3 GREAT FINDS SOURCING: RACHEL POLIVKA

Kitchen tricks

Boasting a green, black and grey palette, the kitchen features Miele cooktops set into granite benchtops with taps from Par. But it’s the bold colour choice that is the hero of the space with green MDF cabinets stealing the show. The glass splashback, framed with a powdercoated border, adds a further touch of green from outdoors.





bathroom ideas

For a pamper zone that leaves a lasting impression, “Go dark and very dramatic,” says Daniella. “Darkness creates a beautiful mood.” Using ‘Rococo’ wall tiles from National Tiles brings baroque appeal. Further luxurious details, such as the Calacatta marble-topped vanity and the ‘Lotus’ bath from Apaiser, add softness to the bathroom’s darker elements.

3 great finds



BAROQUE BEAUTIES Daniella and Marcus added key pieces in textural velvet and ornate gold for an opulent feel. **1.** ‘Josephine’ chaise, \$4695, Laura Ashley, laura-ashley.com.au. **2.** ‘Gabor’ chandelier, \$1299, Domayne, domayne.com.au. **3.** ‘Twisted’ side table, \$595, Coco Republic, cocorepublic.com.au.



MASTER BEDROOM (above) Daniella first spotted the diamond-button upholstered bed three years ago at a trade show but lost out. She kept searching until another popped up. “I knew I wanted that bed,” she says. Florence Broadhurst wallpaper adds an unexpected graphic detail to the ceiling. **ENSUITE (below)** A burnished gold stool from Surround Interiors adds shimmer to the space.

While the couple was originally looking to build, their discerning eyes could not pass up the potential of the 1970s house. “When you see an opportunity at the right price point, you jump at it,” explains Daniella. “And there was serious room for improvement.”

Post renovation, the home now holds three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a study, a semi-circular walk-in wardrobe and bi-fold doors that open up in the front and back; the open-plan kitchen, living and dining area leads out onto an alfresco entertaining zone. “It’s a perfect party house,” says Daniella.

Both Daniella and Marcus’s style personalities have a place in their home and their instincts amplify the home’s modern-glam factor; it’s a little baroque elegance, a bit mid-century chic. The mix of equal and opposite forces gives Daniella and Marcus license to be a little outrageous, without leaving a bad taste. In the living area, the elegant and tactile Knoll sofa is decked in disco-esque cushions, and Marcus even painted the huge forest scene, while oversized Murano ‘Seguso’ lamps frame the upholstered bed in the master bedroom for a luxurious boudoir feel.

Many of the pieces throughout the home were designed by the pair and are available from their company Surround Interiors. Other pieces, such as the bedside tables in the master bedroom, were given a Daniella makeover; she found them at a junk shop, had them gilded and added Venetian glass handles to seamlessly integrate them into the rich decor.

Grey floors, charcoal steel window frames and textured Arte wallpaper serve as a unifying backdrop for the vast assembly of furniture and accessories. “Grey is a great colour base,” says Daniella. “It’s the softest colour for the eye to digest.” A swath of emerald green in the kitchen adds a zesty hit of hue against the subtle grey.

Daniella’s only decorating mantra is to trust her instincts, buy what she loves and then find a place for it at home. “I don’t plan, and I don’t second-guess,” she says. “Somehow, it always works out for the best.”

For more details on Surround Interiors, visit surround.com.au.

3 GREAT FINDS SOURCING: RACHEL POLIVKA, MISSONI HOME BATH & HAND TOWELS, SAFARILIVING.COM





Daniella's tips for giving a modern home a touch of Baroque

1 Wallpaper wisdom Establishing which wall to make a feature is often a tricky choice for home decorators. The wall most commonly chosen is one behind a sofa, however, a textured wallpaper in a warm tone can be the perfect option for a wall behind a mounted TV. The texture will conceal the harsh black frame, create a balance and bring ambience to the room.

2 Let in light We can't get enough of lighting in all its forms: table and floor lamps, pendant lights and wall sconces. The introduction of decorative lighting adds striking visual focus, contrast and mood to a space. Dynamic lighting choices can draw attention to important areas and subtly disguise others.

3 Fabulous furniture It's all about sourcing the right pieces. The form, colour, scale and positioning of furniture is what makes a space come together to create a dramatic and ambient room. We like to source unique and unusual pieces, and mix vintage and new designs. Modern furniture elements bring vintage pieces together nicely to create a depth of vision. ❖



BLUE THROW, MISSONI HOME CUSHION AND MISSONI HOME POUF, SAFARI LIVING, SAFARILIVING.COM

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OUTDOORS (opposite, top left & right)

The dining setting that sits on top of the reclaimed merbau timber deck was designed by Daniella and Marcus.

HALLWAY (opposite, bottom right)

A lino artwork by Susan Hewitt adds interest. **LIVING AREA (this page)** The 'Disco' drum coffee table and cowhide, both from Surround Interiors, stay true to the home's modern, glamorous look.