



The home A two-storey Victorian shopfront in Melbourne's inner-north with two bedrooms, a generously sized bathroom and a compact older-style kitchen.

Who lives here Interior designer Kate Challis with her husband Andrew Hollo, a management consultant, their son Jasper, 6, and Burmese cats Chai and Fez.

What we did "We bought the house 13 years ago and it was painted beige with Italian tiles throughout. Apart from installing a new bathroom upstairs, the changes have all been decorative: new paint, new wallpaper and curtains. I've tried to add a sense of drama," says Kate.

My favourite room "It's a toss-up between the hallway, with its Fornasetti "Clouds" wallpaper, and our bedroom, with its aqua walls and the cupboard I covered with the crazy 'Napoleon Bee' wallpaper."

The 'hood "I love the diversity of our inner-city community. It's real, not sanitised," says Kate.

Future plans "We are about to do a major renovation to add a new master bedroom, garage and roof-top garden," says Kate. "One part of me feels sad because some rooms will go, but I'm also excited about the new possibilities."

TOP *SHOP*

A tiny shopfront terrace gets a decorative makeover that adds a character and a dash of drama.

Words Heather Nette King Photography Armelle Habib

Opposite: *Kate's dining room painted in "Priscilla" by Porter's Paints. The room features a vintage Murano glass chandelier and the photograph on the wall shows her grandmother at Speakers' Corner in London.*



Right: *a purple Utrecht armchair by Cassina in the lounge room.*
Far right: *"I got the vintage chandelier at Leonard Joel's auction rooms," says Kate.*



Left: *"I covered an Ikea wardrobe with "Napoleon Bee" wallpaper by Timorous Beasties, then added beautiful handles," says Kate. Below: the kitchen has an industrial-style factory lamp and French-inspired toile fabric, also by Timorous Beasties.*



Right: *The bathroom was created by knocking out a wall between the tiny old bathroom and the third bedroom.*
Far right: *Kate commissioned a blue from Porter's Paints for her bedroom. The painting is by Pacquita Maher.*

