

1 well framed A love of art is key to this home's build. "I needed maximum wall space for the artwork, so there are skylights and high windows," says owner Courtney. "Every time architect David Boyle came to me with a new window in the design, I'd scowl and ask him for more wall space." The deck's 4.2m roof allows the thick-glazed windows to remain uncovered to maximise light.

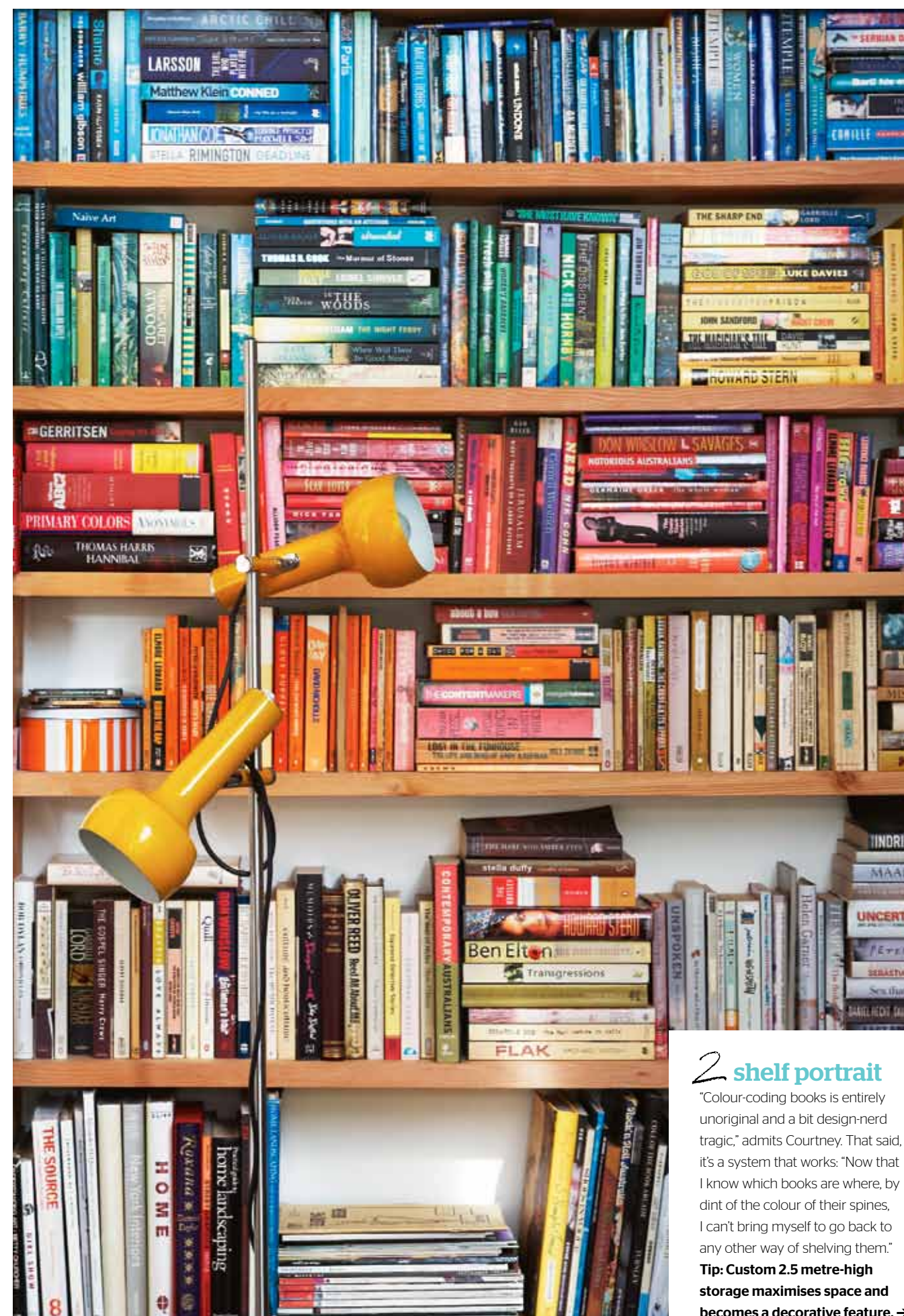
Tip: Protect artworks from direct sunlight with UV frames and careful positioning.



STATE OF THE ART

An innovative Sydney split-level home proves a playful approach to colour is always worth the effort. Here are 12 great ideas

WORDS LEE TRAN LAM STYLING VANESSA COLYER TAY PHOTOGRAPHY BRIGID ARNOTT



2 shelf portrait

"Colour-coding books is entirely unoriginal and a bit design-nerd tragic," admits Courtney. That said, it's a system that works: "Now that I know which books are where, by dint of the colour of their spines, I can't bring myself to go back to any other way of shelving them."

Tip: Custom 2.5 metre-high storage maximises space and becomes a decorative feature. →

CUSTOM SHELIVING BY DAVID BOYLE ARCHITECT. ARTWORKS: (OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT) SIMONA JOVANOVIC. (BOTTOM LEFT) JOAN ROSS. (TOP RIGHT) FIONA LOWRY. (BASKET ON TABLE) EMMA DAVIES FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE. BLACK ORCHID (02) 9559 7731



3 sunny side "It's like a folly and I love it," says Courtney of the kids' bathroom. "I decided to not only go the bright yellow, but to go all yellow. David liked the madness of the idea." The tub was painted in Dulux's Golden Marguerite and her "sparky" even found a yellow power point cover. **Tip: Opt for custom Laminex wall panels for a seamless look with minimal grout lines.**

home truths

Who lives here: Owner Courtney and her two kids. **Style of home:** In a lot that once housed a small, decrepit cottage, architect David Boyle has built two split-level, space-smart, three-bedroom homes. Courtney lives in one residence and rents out the adjoining space.



4 new wave "The splashback is wallpaper behind glass," says Courtney. "The wallpaper was the first thing I ever bought for the house - years before the build." Although it was rolled up in her drawer for a long time, the decorative design played a key part in the residence. "All the colours in the house came off the back of that paper," says Courtney. **Tip: While placing wallpaper behind an oven means the heat erodes it, Courtney likes seeing the design degrade over time.**

5 against the wall "I just choose things I like and put them with other things I like; then what's not to like?" says Courtney of her decorating approach. Besides art, she enjoys collecting fabric and "bits and bobs" at markets and op-shops. Her bowerbird style is seen here in the bedroom of her eldest daughter. "She 'approved' what went up on the walls." **Tip: Mix styles and dimensions for contrast and impact: team sculptural paper art with witty prints and textile creations.**

6 grand entrance "We like to incorporate site-specific artwork into our projects," says David. He thinks this is partly why Courtney approached his firm. The mural is an "homage to the Australian garage doors of the '50s and '60s". While Googling images for ideas, Courtney came across the work of Louise Tuckwell, who she commissioned to produce the mural. **Tip: The mural's palette of exterior paints ensures a "tough and durable" result that withstands any weather conditions. →**

ARTWORKS: (FROM LEFT) NICHOLAS JONES, ANNE LYNCH, MARK HETHERINGTON, TREVOR SMITH AND GINA SINOZICH



7 on display A clever mix of 'salon' and 'New York' hangs gives a gallery sense to artwork displays throughout the home. In the master bedroom, pieces are applied straight onto the wall. Tip: "Have the discipline to leave tracts of blank wall," says Courtney. "Otherwise it'd be like living inside the pages of a stamp album."



"EVERY TIME I OPEN MY FRONT DOOR I THINK 'WOW', BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A GREAT HOME FOR US"



8 join the dots Coloured pegboard is used as doors on all the built-in cupboards: grey in the kitchen, blue in the lounge room and green in her son's bedroom. Deco and modernist handles, which Courtney has collected over the years, are mixed and matched with them. Tip: Pegboard is a budget-friendly way to add retro appeal; air flow is a bonus. →

ARTWORKS (THIS PAGE) ELAINE CAMPANER, (OPPOSITE, LEFT) ROBERT RUBBISH, (OTHER ARTWORKS) JOAN ROSS



9 mind the gap "Storage was an important part of the brief," says Courtney. And, though her home was completed in 2010, "the built-ins are still going in, even now!" David designed the daybed nook at the end of the built-in desk in her office, and his wife Leah Bennetts (of Sean The Prawn, sean-the-prawn.blog.spot.com.au) upholstered the seat using Courtney's vintage fabric. **Tip: Tame open-storage chaos with patterned boxes, such as these red and blue polka dot patterned ones.**

10 fine diner "I love our big eat-in kitchen and the way the front door opens straight into the kitchen," says Courtney. "You walk across a small brick patchwork of my children's hopscotch grid, saved from the old house when it was knocked down." Also retained here are the '30s pendants and some of the original brickwork, which allows the artwork to stand out. **Tip: Seating from all ages (including a stool from when the kids couldn't yet reach the table) tells a unique story.**

11 ripple effect "We loved the colour and patina and wanted to use this as a garden backdrop," says David of this back fence. "You can see this green wall as soon as you enter the front door." The NSW Architecture Awards jury cited the "clever use" of the wall and its scene-setting presence in the garden when honouring the home in its 2012 Residential Architecture category. It evokes the area's industrial past, too. **Tip: In an urban setting, opt for sculptural plants.**



12 scenery change

You can still decorate outdoors, even if you're limited to weatherproof objects. Courtney has used sculptural baskets by Lorraine Connolly-Northey and seashells to create a comfortably jumbled look. **Tip: Use found objects to create inspired and personal displays.** For more info, visit davidboylearchitect.com.au.

ARTWORK (TOP RIGHT): JOHN A. DOUGLAS