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rooms

DECORATE, DESIGN, CREATE

118 **Create a home with reclaimed objects**

Yep, you can give your place a gorgeous new look by using old stuff! Don't believe us? Turn the page for heaps of ideas

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Get ready for a raucous and rebellious mode of decorating - it's time to rock a room! Jacinta Preston reveals how

133 **Build from scratch**

A couple design and build their family home in Sydney. Check out their valuable sources, secrets and style tips



Reclaim it!

If you want to give your home (or perhaps just one space) a vintage, rustic vibe full of character and charm, why not get clever with reclaimed pieces? Flip the page and we'll show you how. →



Antique revival

A coat of black paint brings this antique sideboard into the 21st century. The cupboard doors were removed to create open shelving for a modern look.

CREATE A HOME WITH RECLAIMED OBJECTS



There's something **charming and soulful** about reclaimed objects. Read on to discover what to look for and how to work them into your own home

IN WITH THE OLD

So, you've spotted something in the council pickup pile on the side of the road that you just can't resist. Sure, it's a little shabby, but it's free and full of potential! The issue is, how do you make something reclaimed work in your home without it just looking like someone else's trash? With a few key tips and tricks, on the following pages, we show you how... whether you've received a beautiful hand-me-down from a family member, you're working with a tight budget that excludes brand-new buys, or you simply adore the palette and patina of older, well-loved pieces. →

writer elle lovelock | photography fabrizio cicconi/living inside



Home made

This transitional zone makes the perfect playroom with plenty of room to scoot around, plus pint-size seating made from reclaimed crates (you could always add a homemade cushion or two for added comfort!) and tables with black-painted legs and salvaged-timber tray tops.

WHERE TO SHOP

- ACT**
Aardvark Furniture Market
 32-34 Isa Street, Fyshwick
 (02) 6280 6220
Aardvarkfurniture.com.au
- NSW**
Rust Well-worn Interiors
 45A Avalon Parade, Avalon
 (02) 9973 4268 Rustonline.com.au
The Bower Reuse & Repair Centre
 142 Addison Road, Marrickville
 (02) 9568 6280. Bower.org.au
- NT**
Tudor House Fine Arts & Antiques
 5 De Latour Street, Coconut Grove
 (08) 8948 3499
- QLD**
Underwood Demolition Market
 98 Kingston Road, Underwood
 (07) 3208 7922. Udm.net.au
- SA**
Stepneys Restoration Centre
 25 James Congdon Drive, Thebarton. (08) 8352 4855
Stepintostepneys.com.au
- TAS**
Launceston Salvage Co
 93 Cimitiere Street, Launceston
 (03) 6334 2264
- VIC**
Recycled Lane
 445 High Street, Northcote
 0430 042 778. Recycledlane.com.au
2ndhandShop
 10 Binns Street, Montmorency
 (03) 8364 0301
Thesecondhandshop.com.au
- WA**
Revival Hill
 63A Edward Street, Osborne Park
 0401 868 594. Revivalhill.com.au
Hunters And Collectors
 614 Stirling Hwy, Mosman Park
 (08) 6101 4004
Huntersandcollectorsinteriors.com.au
 And don't forget your local **Vinnies** (Vinnies.org.au) and **Salvos Stores** (Salvosstores.salvos.org.au) →

CONDITION & FINISH

When you've found something you like, but think it might need a little restoration work, there are a few ways to go about it. First, **examine what you love** about the piece and make sure it remains intact. If it's the way the timber peeks through a peeling paint finish on a cupboard, simply give it a **wipe down** with a damp cloth. Any more and you'll strip back too much paint. When it comes to rusty metal, say, a chair, you might need to give it a buff with **sandpaper** or use a chemical stripper to remove enough rust so it doesn't damage other furnishings or your clothes. A **protective sealer** (head to your local hardware store) is a great idea for wood, ceramics and metal, too.

More traditional antique pieces often benefit from a **fresh coat of paint**, in black, white or a colour, to bring it up to date. You can even **combine** bits from different pieces of furniture, such as the legs from one table and the top from another.

TIME TO DECORATE

The most fun part of bringing home reclaimed furniture and objects is seeing how they fit into your home. Some pieces might have obvious uses, but think outside the box and **repurpose objects**. Use chairs as bedside tables, baskets and bottles as pendant lampshades, wire containers, porcelain cups and tin boxes as storage. If you're handy, why not **make your own furniture** out of salvaged timber? Some reclaimed items are purely decorative – you can **hang anything on your wall** and call it art. If it appeals to your aesthetic, go for it!

Using only reclaimed objects to create a home can be tricky, but to make it easier, start with a **simple backdrop**. White wall paint is best friends with this decorating style. If you want to work reclaimed objects into a mixed scheme **with new pieces**, try to choose complementary shapes, or paint old pieces in colours to suit what you already have. Whatever look you choose, it's a surefire way to inject your interior with character and soul. ④



Preferred patina
Instead of a traditional dining setting, in this eat-in kitchen a mix of chairs surround a trio of small square tables. The look works because they all share a similar aged patina.



The soft touch
Reclaimed furniture can look a little tough, so soften the scheme with floor rugs and vases of pretty blooms.



Store in style
Kitchen storage consists of pottery planters, old wooden crates and wire baskets.



In the group
A vignette of assorted vintage vessels filled with flowers make a charming display.



Temper the tone
Highlight weathered timber with a crisp white-on-white background.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Whether you're in a vintage shop, a salvation yard or your granny's place, when deciding whether to bring home a reclaimed piece of furniture or object there are three points to consider: patina, palette and period. Inspect the **patina** of the object. Does the rust on a metal piece make it charming or just grubby? Check for hazardous chips and cracks in glassware. Water marks in timber add to its character, and, these days, the mottled finish of an antique mirror is a sought-after feature.

Due to the aged nature of reclaimed objects, the **palette** will usually be the same – **earthy, moody, weathered tones** – but with variations depending on the material – for example, cool metal, warm wood, creamy porcelain and translucent glass. Use these indicators to decide if a piece will work in your interior or not. Finally, consider the **period** of an object. Often, "reclaimed" implies an industrial vibe, but it can, in fact, be from any period. Perhaps Art Deco will suit your home, or mid-century, or even antique styles. Let the shape and detailing of a piece guide you. →

rooms



Top table (above)
The beauty of customising a table from reclaimed timber is that you can make it to any size you like.



Use it again
If you're building or renovating, use reclaimed windows and building materials where possible.



Door to door
Use reclaimed materials to create a custom-fit door. It'll make for a characterful decorative feature as well.

GET THE RECLAIMED LOOK



Pendant lights
FROM LEFT Large **Phane Prismatic** in Aluminium/Glass (43cm), \$598, Dunlin Home. Recycled **Wood Ruler** in Yellow (35cm x 32cm), \$257.40 for small, Bisque Interiors. **Urban** in Grey (25cm), \$119.90 for small, About Space.



Stools
FROM LEFT **Industrial** (45cm), \$110, Doug Up On Bourke. **Industrial + Recycled Low Bar** (46cm), \$190, Ghify.com. **School** chair in Recycled Timber (89cm), \$297, Soundslike Home. **Sailmaking** stacking (51cm), \$132, Alliance Furniture Trading.



Coffee tables
FROM LEFT Katz & Trope **Quarry Cart** in Green (1.3m x 70cm x 40cm), \$658, Alliance Furniture Trading. **Raft** (1.7m x 95cm x 35cm), \$1599, Walk The Plank.



Storage
FROM LEFT Atelier **boxes** in Recycled Teak (30cm x 24cm x 42cm), \$189 each, Soundslike Home. Timber packing **crates**, from \$25 each, Doug Up On Bourke. Industrial 2-drawer **cabinet** (36cm x 36cm x 76cm), \$299, Milan Direct. For stockists, see page 175.

Rapee

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