

Notebook:

home life: inspiration



THAT'S THE GREAT thing about classic combinations. You can twist them, bend them, play with them, update them, but they remain classic combinations: just reworked versions so it's as if you're seeing them with fresh eyes.

Take willow-pattern and ginger jars as examples in classic blue and white. Where once they were used only in antique or country interiors, these days both are being used in irreverent, playful ways. Ginger jars are being grouped en masse and filled with bold, bright blooms while willow-pattern plates are being turned into jewellery or having shapes cut into them to form clever and contemporary pieces of art (take a look at the Melbourne-based Me Old China shop on www.etsy.com).

INKY AND INDIGO BLUES... ARE DRAMATIC AND VIBRANT

The new take on blue and white doesn't stop there. There are lots of inky and indigo blues around that are dramatic and vibrant, yet can also be used sparingly, which will update a room rather than make an overwhelming statement. Try using them in a bedroom with duvets and quilts against existing white bedlinen for a reinterpreted Ralph Lauren-style vibe. Dinosaur Designs' latest range, 'Moon', also mines this palette with silver-speckled cobalt blue jewellery and deep, dark bowls and dishes washed with Milky-Way whites.

Or go another way and treat your walls to a textured finish, which creates a soft, almost industrial patina. Neutral furnishings and accessories will work well in this case with a few more bolts of blue around the room to



Chandelier, \$530, Vixen & Velvet; vintage painting, \$175, The Junk Company; wooden frame (on side table), \$35, Montreux Homewares; 'Isola' lamp, \$905, Town & Country Style; 'Sagon' side table, \$595, Coco Republic; 'Soho' bed head and bed skirt, \$2,599, Heatherly Design; Ikea 'Sanela' orange cushions (covers only), \$20 each; velvet smoke and gunmetal cushion, \$125, Y10 Store; queen ensemble, Forty Winks; Ikea 'Alina' white bedspread, \$129, 'Alvine Snurr' cream throw, \$49, and 'PS Vadmal' throw, \$69; Country Road 'Lennox' bedcover in navy, \$199; vase (on commode, left), \$169, The Works; vase (with flowers), stylist's own; crocodile storage boxes, from \$89, Coco Republic; frame, \$135, Montreux Homewares; 'Luuluo' container, \$69, Meizai; commode, \$1,750, Vixen & Velvet; 'Dijon' stool, \$850, and 'Inga button cushion' chair, \$1,200, Perfect Pieces; La Cerise Sur La Gâteaux cushion (on chair), \$70, Y10 Store; 'Polaris' linen fabric (used as curtains), Mokum Textiles; aged carbonised flooring, POA, Harper & Sandilands.