

NEW ZEALAND

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# TRENDS

THE TRENDS GUIDE TO RENOVATING YOUR HOME



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# Precision palette

This roof-raising renovation balances heritage issues with the addition of two colourful modern apartments

**B**efore renovating a protected building, issues such as structural profile, exterior detailing and safety are all looked at in stringent detail. This attention may even extend to the use of an approved turn-of-the-century colour palette on a home's exterior.

The project featured here, a renovation of a late Victorian structure with a grade-A Historic Places Trust rating, was just such a detailed undertaking. Architects Michael Melville and John Mills spent a number of years in consultation with architect and conservator Ian Bowman and the Historic Places Trust before go-ahead for the project was obtained.

"The plan was to create two contemporary apartments on the upper floor by taking advantage of a large attic space and raising the roof 1.5m over parts of the space," says Melville. "Existing gables were retained and the exterior filigree brickwork on the addition was either re-created from original materials or rebuilt in empathy."

While the extension had to sit well with the existing exterior, right down to the use of colours approved by the Heritage Trust, the interiors of the new apartments have a bold, modern character.

"They are used as executive stays and as such are designed to be appreciated at night," says Mills. "The interiors reflect this with an extensive use of bold colour and shiny jarrah wood floors."

Strong tones, such as the living room's deep green, accentuate the high stud, while a generous use of lighting serves to augment the rich décor.

"Vibrant colours and layering of pattern were also popular in late Victorian times, so while the décor has an exuberantly modern feel it is also in a sense faithful to the home's past," says Melville. "Given the living area's high stud, we used grey mid-tones for the base colour, which makes the darker tones appear even richer."

The use of grey as a base also toned down the definition between the gables and the walls, effectively blending the walls and the ceiling.



*Top and above:* This building's grade-A historic buildings rating meant treading carefully in terms of preservation and safety for architects Michael Melville and John Mills.

*Right and following pages:* Details such as the yellow doorframe lead the eye along the corridor. The architects used colour to alter spacial perceptions and provide a link to the past.











**Architect:** Michael Melville,  
John Mills Architects (Wellington)

**Interior designer:** John Mills  
Architects

**Consultants:** NZ Historic Places  
Trust; Ian Bowman, architect and  
conservator

**Main contractor:** Seismic  
Construction

**Kitchen manufacturer:**  
Treesun Joiners

**Cladding:** Weatherboards from  
Placemakers

**Roof:** Colorsteel

**Painter:** Hinton Decorators

**Window treatments:**  
Curtains Plus

**Window/door joinery:**

James Cook Joinery

**Tiling:** Tile and Style

**Paints:** Resene

**Lighting:** Riel Lighting

**Furniture:** Maple-coloured  
Denver three-seater sofa in  
Carolina Falls leather, Boxter  
coffee table, Blue Sky loom  
rug by Grant Chilcott, Vincent  
Shepherd Lloyd Loom Dallas  
chair, Quad lamp, marble-topped  
side table and assorted cushions,  
all from Limited Edition

**Photography by**  
Todd Crawford

**Facing page:** This bedroom  
takes its form from the home's  
gables. The monotone walls  
are punctuated by skylights.

**Left:** Blue was used on the  
bathroom walls as it tends  
to shrink from notice. When  
viewed from the living area,  
this creates the illusion of  
increased space. The deep-blue  
and charcoal tones also serve  
to make the white utilities look  
even whiter.