



ROOM UPDATE

A dated, unappealing dining room is transformed into an elegant space with just the right contemporary touches.

THE BRIEF The owners of this 1880s Italianate home in Melbourne felt their formal dining room needed updating. "They wanted to make it more inviting and enhance its connection with the rest of the house," says Lucy Marczyk, senior interior designer at Nexus Designs.

THE MAKEOVER The challenge, says Nexus Designs' creative director Sonia Simpfendorfer, was to make the room contemporary while working with existing furniture, including two tall cabinets and a dining setting. "The cabinets were flanking the windows, which cluttered the room and blocked out the light," says Sonia. Sonia and Lucy moved the cabinets

to flank the doorway, which opened up the room and enhanced its connection to the garden. They painted the room white and replaced the heavy drapes with lustrous velvet in a simple, elegant drop. A deep-purple carpet was laid and dining chairs reupholstered in black and white fabrics as a link to the entrance floor.

WHY IT WORKS

"The mix of chair covers is pivotal to the success of this scheme. They add real personality to the room," says Sonia. "The focus on architectural details: the arched windows, ornate ceiling and fireplace means your eye moves through the room and to the garden." #

THE LOWDOWN

- ❖ **Chair covers** The slipcovers were custom-made in four fabrics: Stampati Fornasetti Bacio in Bianco/Nero, \$250/m, Boyac; (03) 9429 5455 or www.boyac.com.au, Arjumand black-and-white check fabric, POA, Tigger Hall Design; (03) 9509 6456 or www.tiggerhall.com. Quattrà in Black, POA, Elliott Clarke; 1300 355 468 or www.elliottclarke.com.au. The single chair upholstered in plain white cotton "is the unexpected understatement," says Lucy.
- ❖ **Curtains** de Le Cuona Liquid fabric in Pansy, \$450/m, Boyac. "The curtain style is simple but the fabric is pure indulgence," says Lucy.
- ❖ **Carpet** Paris wool-viscose hand-tufted carpet in custom colour YL218, \$200/m², RC&D; (03) 9428 6223 or www.rc-d.com.au. "The deep purple is the perfect complement to the black and white scheme," says Lucy.
- ❖ **Walls** Wash & Wear 101 in Chalk USA, \$74/4L, Dulux; 132 525 or www.dulux.com.au.
Nexus Designs; (03) 9690 2277 or nexusdesigns.com.au.

