

colour decoded

There's not a bauble in sight – so why does this teal scheme still feel so festive? *Livingetc* colour expert Amy Moorea Wong explains



Rich jewel colours and flashes of gold add a festive feel to this living space by Australian interiors studio Duet

It may have wow-factor, but this room doesn't shout. It doesn't need to. Designed by Shannon Shlom and Dominique Brammah, directors of Australian interiors studio Duet, the living room has an incredible amount going on – but it's rather casual and nonchalant about it.

Contemporary, traditional, opulent, mellow, dramatic, easy-going: welcome to a world of opposites. Texture leaps out, the expansive thick Moroccan rug contrasting the armchair's sleek silk, the flatness of the painted surfaces and the marble tabletop, which in turn juxtapose the intricate tactile accents scattered about. Jewel-like colours meet hits of freshness. Everything comes together in a cacophony of excitement – and calm.

It's all about the greens here. Rich teal dominates in multiple forms – woven and ready to walk on, folded around the armchair and coated on the walls. From there the tone dilutes into muted turquoises and aquas, spreading through the space in a merry dance. They're shimmying across the ceiling, dotting all over the fireplace, hiding on the coffee table books and on the just-in-shot butterfly upholstery and cushion. Even the powder blue wardrobe is batting for team teal. Having one hue permeate a space creates continuity and calmness, no matter how much is going on within. A colour thread – let's not call it a theme – communicates intent and care, and allows us to relax into the room.

Calm colours make for laid-back living, even in somewhere filled with such interest and objects of desire. Is it 'colourful'? Absolutely. Is it 'bright'? Nope. It's a lesson in how to show personality with pigment in a grown-up yet creative and expressive way. The tones overall are subdued, tinged with a little darkness so the space says 'ease on in' and 'time for tranquillity'.



This room feels like a hug. 'It's a deeply immersive experience anchored in its richly-toned backdrop,' say Shannon and Dominique. 'The room is whimsical and nostalgic, designed purely for enjoyment with the intent to delight.' Warm, inviting and cosy, it wraps itself around us like a thick winter's blanket. Why? Look up. The ceiling has joined in the teal-fest, painted in a brighter tone that hangs around the pistachio/seafoam/pale turquoise area. Winking at the lighter shades dotted through the scheme, the ceiling – aka 'the fifth wall' – completes the room, turning it into a covered space that protects us from the outdoor chill and swathes us, cocoon-like, into its encompassing, cosy opulence.

If there was ever a Father Christmas-worthy fireplace, it's this one. Decorated with a textured patterned relief in shades and forms that at once coordinate with and boldly stand apart from the rest of the room, it's a party of matte hues and surprising shapes that draw the eye while also being modest and unimposing.

The gold accessories are the final flourish, lifting the mood and adding that little bit more just when

you thought we were done, like they're decorations brought down from the loft to make the space special for the season. The brightness and intricate shapes of the candlesticks and light – plus the fact that they glow – conjure a chic Christmas spirit. The sunburst mirror plays into the gold-ness but is more burnished and less yellow, so it's also easy to turn down the luxe dial by removing the smaller pieces.

There is simply no need for a tree, or any Christmassy accoutrements. The cheer, the opulence, the celebratory feel are here already, making up the very soul of the room, and bringing joy to the world.

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CARLY'S LOAFERS,
CLAYBROOK

PINK GROUND,
FARROW & BALL

HUMPTY DUMPTY,
EARTHBOURN

AIR FORCE BLUE,
LITTLE GREENE

STEPPING STONE,
CROWN

TEAL, PAINT &
PAPER LIBRARY

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AT SANDERSON
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