



Greenhithe Manor Refurbishment

Set in leafy Greenhithe, this large family manor called for a total refurbishment to update their look. With the two-storeyed brick exterior housing a space for a new open plan kitchen, a dining and living area, five bedrooms, media/library space, and a pool room, there was a large scope to play on proportion and scale. The clients wanted an uncluttered luxury to show through the design, yet they didn't want a grand pretentious space, but a down to earth home where their two young children could grow up in warmth and comfort.

The interior refurbishment took its design direction from a paint colour, Resene Finn, that was existing when the clients moved into the property. This colour was strong, yet warm and with a lot of depth. It was partnered with a neutral Resene Tea and this combination of complementary colour was the starting point for the layering of the colour palette for the flooring, new kitchen, window treatments, furniture and décor.

The client also had existing furniture in a similar colour to Resene Finn, and while these were eventually replaced the design had to incorporate the transition to a new lounge quite gradually. The look was kept simple and uncluttered. Cushions were added into the new furniture that incorporated the fabric of the window treatments with the natural texture of country linen and the plush

sheen of velvets to add a sense of luxury. The colours pull the scheme together. A fireplace was built into the corner with a cantilevered granite hearth. The rug was custom designed and again, used a combination of the colours to pull the scheme together.

The footprint of the kitchen was governed to a degree by the central wall dividing the kitchen and living area. To create more storage and space, part of the hallway behind the kitchen was blocked off and a scullery area was created in the new space. The key focal point of the kitchen was the natural granite waterfall with its large embedded river stone look. It was designed to flow over the side of the bench in a Dali-esque manner, with an organic feel to it. It is highly visible as you enter from the main door, and the play on scale and height adds interest into what would otherwise be a very neutral kitchen.

Another key feature of the kitchen was the lighting, designed into negative detailing; it adds an ambience and warmth to the area. The hanging pot rail, designed specifically for the island, maintains a link to the country past, as does the chandelier over the dining area. Much of the new hard furniture is dark wood with aged waxed finishes to give it a time honoured look. Its solidness and size add weight to the design. Attention was given to detail and the clients

wanted ample storage and a place for everything.

Upstairs, the master bedroom required new bed linen and window treatments to tie in with the existing wall colour. It was freshened up and lightened. A new sense of proportion was gained by taking the window treatments higher and outside the architraves.

The room that was set aside for a media room/library space, required a whole new look. Carpet, window treatments, and wall colour were changed to flow from the rest of the house. The fireplace was taken out and reclining furniture added to relax into. Black out drapes enabled the clients to watch a movie day or night. The floor rug added texture and sheen to the space.

The other half of the media room was behind a half wall and housed two very comfortable traditional chairs. A new book cabinet was built which created a quiet reading space.

The remainder of the property, pool room, bedrooms and bathrooms were tweaked to follow through the new updated scheme. Walls were painted, new cabinets and blinds added.

The clients were very happy with the redesigned spaces and felt that the brief had been achieved and a long-term family home created.

Building Contractor: Knowles Homes
Colour Selection: Amanda Neill www.designworxnz.co.nz
Interior Designer: Amanda Neill
Painting Contractor: North & South
Stylist: Debbie Neill
Photographer: Nathan Koppens, First Light Photography

Colours Used: Resene Finn, Resene Parchment, Resene Quarter Tea, Resene Tea
Products Used: Resene decorative paints

Quarter Tea

Finn

Tea

Parchment