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INTERIOR DESIGN

By ELIZABETH CLARKE



Erskine House, left and right by Kennedy Nolan; Bona Vista by Studio Prineas, below right.

“Given the number of projects held up due to COVID-19, it’s a remarkable number of entrants,” Lucena-Orr says. “We witnessed new levels of innovation, too. We’re delighted to see designers finding more joy, fun, and bravery in colour.”

Erskine House, a heritage home in Melbourne, was awarded top Residential Interiors honours for its “cool quiet” transformation by leading firm Kennedy Nolan.

Undergoing countless revisions over the decades, the home’s latest incarnation sees its gracious Victorian elements recast in Dulux Duck Egg Blue alongside plush textures and contrasting colour.

Paint colour trends reflect a joyful mood

If one design element can dramatically alter a space without changing an inch of wall, it’s paint. Whether bold or nuanced, a wash of dark pigment can imbue a feeling of intimacy, while a lighter shade can provide an uplifting sense of spaciousness and freedom.

Amid the pandemic, paint’s transformative qualities are on designers’ minds, as evidenced in the winning entries of the 2021 Dulux

Colour Awards, announced in spring via a virtual, live-streamed event.

“Designers and architects have always understood the power of colour,” says Dulux colour and communication manager Andrea Lucena-Orr.

“Thanks to the increasing amount of inspiring content we see on social media, consumers are becoming more aware of the important role colour plays.”

In its 35th year, the Dulux Colour Awards celebrates the future of colour and its impact on residential and commercial design. A judging panel of industry leaders, including Sarah-Jane Pyke (Arent&Pyke) and Melissa Bright (Studio Bright), were given the unenviable job of choosing the very best from 437 entries across six categories.

“It’s a specific shade of blue with innate brightness, inherent appeal and beautiful depth,” Lucena-Orr says. “Used on windows, cabinetry and walls, it provides a rich and luxurious feel. It’s a cleverly designed colour scheme that beautifully highlights the heritage features.”

Contrasting colours to soothe range from deep green and mustard velvets to a bookcase bathed in Dulux Red Capital.

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2021 DULUX COLOUR AWARD WINNERS

GRAND PRIX WINNERS

AUSTRALIA: 22 William by SJB
NEW ZEALAND: Central Hotel of Naumi
 Hotels by Undercurrent

COMMERCIAL INTERIOR: WORKPLACE & RETAIL

Winner: 66 Wentworth Avenue by
 Welsh + Major
Commendation: Das Studio by Das Studio
Commendation: Beauty Block by
 Bergman & Co

COMMERCIAL INTERIOR: PUBLIC & HOSPITALITY

Winner: Surfside Primary School by
 Sibling Architecture
Commendation: Poodle Bar & Bistro by
 Bergman & Co

SINGLE RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR

Winner: Erskine House by Kennedy Nolan
Commendation: Divided House by Jackson
 Clements Burrows
Commendation: South Yarra Apartment
 by Rosanna Ceravolo Design

SINGLE RESIDENTIAL EXTERIOR

Winner: Bona Vista by Studio Prineas
Commendation: Engawa House by Arcke

COMMERCIAL & MULTI RESIDENTIAL EXTERIOR

Winner: 22 William by SJB
Commendation: RMIT Rodda Lane by
 Sibling Architecture

STUDENT CATEGORY (YEARS 1-6)

Winner: Installation Art by Joanne Odisho
Commendation: Cremorne Mesh House by
 Ying Ho Shiu (Hiro)



CHRIS WAINES

“Red is a brave shade that pulls focus and allows the books to jump out – it’s a bookcase on steroids,” Lucena-Orr says. “Cleverly, colour is only applied to parts of it, and white is used to temper its boldness.

“It’s a wonderful balance of light and shade.”

A host of natural textural materials, such as stone, marble and brick, provide a natural base note to the colour scheme, allowing statement-making accents, such as gold trim sealing and cheery Pierre Frey wallpaper, to shine.

“Kennedy Nolan has used colours beautifully and organically here,” she

says. “It’s a great combination of mid-tone colours with zing.”

The subtle monochromatic scheme of South Yarra Apartment earned its designer, Rosanna Ceravolo, a Residential Interiors commendation.

Her modification of the art deco apartment includes a seamless cream colour scheme that imbues a soothing effect and enhances its architectural curves. Black detailing provides graphic punctuation notes and colour is applied sparingly to specific zones.

For Jackson Clements Burrows, Divided House invited the opportunity to use colour in a different fashion, garnering them a Residential Interiors commendation.

The home, divided into two brick buildings linked by a single-storey “lean-to”, features colour applied with gusto for an effect that is as unexpected as it is brilliant.

Disrupting the home’s grey and timber scheme are syncopated rhythms of colour. Shades range from pops of magenta and cobalt to vibrant bathrooms enveloped in shades of bright pink, acidic yellow and forest green.

A fourth bathroom is dipped in blue – from its walls and floor to its free-standing bathtub.

Lucena-Orr says it’s an exceptional example of creative bravery.

“Bold and innovative use of colour brings an emotional aspect into the home,” she says.

“Anyone can live in a white house, but colour, however used, connects us emotionally, delineates spaces, and makes it a place we want to spend time in. Right now, we need that more than ever.”

NOSTALGIA

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The residences come complete with two car parks, while expansive windows allow natural light to flood many of the rooms.

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