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Master stroke

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Using colour to highlight the plaster ceiling in this Sydney sitting room was interior designer Brett Mickan's stroke of genius. The ceiling was the owner's favourite feature, but at the same time, the room was to be a children's TV room. "It had to be practical," says Brett. He washed the ceiling with a blue-grey, added a bright lampshade to the pendant, then used warm neutrals for the furniture and rug. The oak floors are "a tonal link to the pastel yellow stained glass".

ROOM NOTES (42) Ceiling in Dulux Cool. Keely sofa from Fanuli in Aldeco 'Mohairmania' fabric, Domestic Textile Corporation. Noomi String armchairs, Cult Design. Fred coffee table, Jordan. Puku ottoman, Coco Flip. Hambourg lampshade, Kerrie Brown. Pop table lamp in Coral, Bragg & Co. Rug, The Rug Establishment. Curtains, Coco's Soft Furnishings. **ROOM NOTES (43)** Cabinets by Studio Trio in Dulux Irish Moor. Calacatta Oro tiles, Smartstone. Calacatta Blanco benchtop and Ming Green Fan mosaics, Teranova. Florida Quays chair in Instyle 'Zone' vinyl in Quiet, Xavier Furniture. Hovan mirror, Uttermost. Openwork sconces, Circa Lighting. Bronte handles and knobs, Hepburn Hardware. ▶

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Calm retreat

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The smallest spaces benefit from colour, too, as Lauren Mahoney of Studio Trio shows in the vanity space of this Sydney home. "My client's favourite colour is green, so I went with a calming tone called Irish Moor from Dulux," says Lauren. "Then I found scalloped mosaic tiles called Ming Green Fan and inset them to link the cabinetry." The chair was sourced from Xavier Furniture and, again, the perfect upholstery colour was selected to match the paint.

Text by Gina Flaxman (42) & Sue Ramsey (43). Styling by Kayla Gex (43). Photographs by Pablo Veiga (42) & Maree Homer (43). Builder: Rai Parthi at R & S Parthi (43).