

Style guide

- Incorporating elements of industrial construction can give a house a groovy, contemporary feel. Light industrial materials such as aluminium, glass, concrete and stainless steel will work.
- Browse the commercial and factory stock sections of stores as well as residential and you may find some great lightfittings, kitchen appliances or door handles – often at a better price.
- Keep spaces open plan and minimal. Make every element in the room functional and let the raw materials speak for themselves.
- Don't be afraid of exposed wires or nuts and bolts – it's part of the look.



LIGHTNESS OF BEING

An Auckland designer made the most of the positives in creating a modern, light-filled home on the smallest of sections

THIS PHOTO: Five-metre-wide sliding doors open up the Scully's living room to the outdoor entertaining area.



THIS PHOTO: Hilary Scully with children Zachary and Charlotte and her husband Darryl Vanderveide.

BELOW: The semi-industrial style is in keeping with the neighbourhood.


Designer Hilary Scully is the ultimate Pollyanna – she always sees the positive side of a situation. So, when confronted with creating a home for her family within the limitations of a tiny, cramped site in the middle of a semi-industrial zone on the city fringe, Hilary saw nothing but opportunities.

Creating a spacious three-bedroom home within the boundaries of just 340 square metres would seem like a lot to ask of most designers, but Hilary and her builder husband Darryl Vanderveide created a family home that manages to play it smart and be stylish at the same time.

The key to Hilary's success is a make-every-centimetre-count attitude and a clever approach. After all, this is



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WOLF home in the know & garden

Hilary Scully of Collective Architecture, Auckland says light is always changing. Good design should take account of the fluctuations in strength and source of light throughout the day and from season to season. She says wide, high eaves allow the sun to penetrate the interior in winter when the sun is low, while blocking out harsh summer sun when it is overhead.

THIS PHOTO: Light streams into the open-plan dining and living area from all angles.



LEFT: White cabinetry and stainless-steel benches in the kitchen continue the industrial theme.

BELOW: Light-oak flooring throughout the living area creates an uncluttered sense of space.

Bright lighting ideas

- Use dramatic lighting to change the appearance and mood of your home. Consider incorporating several lighting options into each room.
- Have dimmers fitted to your existing lighting system to give your living spaces a sultry mood when required.
- Add a sense of free, open space by using uplighting, which can appear to 'lift' the roof of a house. Use them indoors or out.
- Good lighting can extend the use of outdoor areas. Whether it's cheap-and-cheerful lanterns hanging from the tree on the lawn or serious spotlights on the deck, you'll find yourself spending more long summer evenings outdoors.
- Use lighting in clusters, rather than relying on a lone light bulb. Stick to odd numbers – a grouping of three pendant lights over the kitchen bench or five tiny tealight candles on the window sill.

"Good design doesn't have to be expensive and should be accessible to everyone"

a woman who is capable of turning a one-metre-wide room that most of us would consider barely big enough to serve as closet space into a light and spacious second bathroom.

Pooling their skills as builder and designer, the pair set about collaborating on their own family home. And while their design ideas were fresh and fanciful, the budget was very down-to-earth. Hilary is a partner and the design director at the firm Collective Architecture. "Our work is driven by the fact that good design doesn't have to be expensive, that it should be accessible for everyone," she says.

On this occasion, Hilary's design

was also driven by a subconscious reaction against the gloominess of their former home.

After several years of villa life, she and Darryl decided to build a new home for themselves and their children on a cross-leased section at the rear of their existing property. Compared with their former villa home, the new house literally overwhelms the family with natural light and open space.

Enter through the opaque front door and you are instantly at the heart of the home – a vast open-plan area that includes the kitchen, dining and living rooms in one. Five-metre-wide sliding glass doors make the most of the deck





FACT FILE

LIVING ROOM

Walls in Dulux white (60YR 73/030); silver anodised aluminium joinery from Nu-Look Windows and Doors; fireplace, Warrington 1100; floors in three-strip oak from Jacobsen Creative Surfaces; dark-coloured chair from Katalog.

KITCHEN/DINING

Cabinetry, Thermo-tek 'Designer White,' by Wood-Tech; stainless-steel benchtop from Mercer Stainless; Hardware 2000 handles; blue egg pendant lights from Desal Lighting; Bombo bar stools from ECC Living; dining table from Katalog.

BATHROOMS

Main bathroom walls in Dulux 'Golden Spa'; Caroma Leda semi-recessed basin, with Leda tapware and bath spout; Hansa shower hardware and bath from Franklins. Toughened glass in children's bathroom from Metropolitan Glass; opaque film from Nu-View Solar & Security Films; basin by Vincenta, from Franklins; handles from Rondel.

CHARLOTTE'S ROOM

Walls in Dulux pink (70RR 25/338) and orange (50YR 25/556); duvet from Briscoes; carpet from Lovich Floors, Febex Shades of Sisal 'Beach'.

MASTER BEDROOM

Purple wall in Dulux 'Pigeon ble'; carpet as before; duvet as before.

Stockists' details, page 126



THIS PHOTO: Charlotte chose pink and orange paint to match her duvet. LEFT: The master bedroom and children's rooms all open out on to the hall.

"I know people like to go with aqua in bathrooms, but I like yellow – it brightens things up"

space and the northerly aspect, and louvre windows stretch all the way to the roof, letting in more light and a cool breeze in summer. Off-white walls, light-oak floorboards and satin-finished aluminium joinery throughout, add to the lightness of touch.

Rather than looking to the surrounding villas for inspiration, Hilary honed in on the semi-industrial coes available instead. The street is an eclectic mix of residential homes and factories and, faced with a row of commercial buildings directly across the road from the front door, Hilary decided to use the view as an inspiration and set about incorporating light-industrial construction elements into her own contemporary home.

The effect is considerably softened, however, by Hilary's choice of paint

colours throughout the house. Soft, pastel tones of aubergine and chartreuse add a zing to the living areas, while the main bathroom is soaked in a buttery yellow.

"I know lots of people like to go with aqua for bathrooms," Hilary says, "but I like yellow. It brightens things up. And with the skylight above we still have the blue for it to bounce off."

There was one room, however, where Hilary felt it wise to step aside. She let her daughter Charlotte, aged six, choose her own hues for her bedroom walls. Charlotte selected pink and orange to match her butterfly duvet. "I even made her sign off on it on the paint cards just like a client," Hilary smiles. Four-year-old Zachary was an easier client – he let his mum decide for him and ended up with a yellow bedroom.



Both the children's bedrooms are moderately sized, but they open on to a small, secure deck at the rear of the site which gives a greater sense of spaciousness and a private outdoor view. A built-in seat in the deck was created especially for the kids, turning the space into a kind of mini-theatre. "They stand up there and perform their shows and we watch and clap," Hilary says.

All bedroom spaces join onto a central hallway, the core of which works as a cleverly disguised storage area, with recessed cupboard space. A larger recessed area at the corner of the hall houses the laundry. And, at the end of the hallway, there's the home office to the left-hand side and the children's bathroom to the right.

"I wanted it to look like a lantern with

the light shining through it," Hilary says of the bathroom, which has glass walls with an opaque film for privacy.

Lighting throughout the home is thoughtful and thorough. In the main living room, uplighting is used to create a sense that the ceiling floats on air. Warm lights glow under the floating hearth of the fireplace too, adding to the elevated sense of space.

Hilary's favourite lighting effect, however, can only be truly appreciated at night. Standing outside under the street lights, you can look through the windows and see three blue egg lights in a dainty row above the kitchen bench. They seem to hover in thin air, sparkling like sapphires – a row of precious gems in this simple setting.

Turn the page to recreate the look ▶

LEFT The main bathroom is bathed in yellow for a warm look. BELOW: The tiny children's bathroom makes use of innovative lighting and glows like a lantern from the inside.



Space savers

- Good design at the outset is your best space-saving device when building on a small section.
- Think laterally when it comes to space usage. In Hilary Scully's home a room just one metre wide became a second bathroom for the kids.
- Make the most of a limited outdoor area by keeping everything on the level – an interior floor flowing seamlessly to an outdoor deck gives the illusion of added living space.
- If you lack the room for a garden, try borrowing one from next door. Trees that are on your neighbour's sections can enhance your property by adding to the greenery that surrounds your home.
- Keep things clean and simple. Too much clutter in a home can make spaces seem smaller. Make sure you incorporate storage into your plans.