



VINTAGE INSPIRATION

At the crossroads of seasons and in an uncertain economic climate there is an air of nostalgia where old things are reinvented. Be inspired by the by-gone eras and bring new life to your interior.

Words **Alaine Ingles** Photography **Lisa Gane**

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT A HOME IS NEVER COMPLETE OR FEELS HARMONIOUS unless all the details are right? We want our homes to reflect our personal taste and lifestyle.

Today we are at a crossroads between consumerism and sustainability. We live in a society based on consumerism yet we know that if we continue to consume at the current rate we will be unsustainable. We are moving into a world where things need to have value and what we produce must have meaning, value and be sustainable. However, having these ingredients does not equal austerity – we can also produce things of beauty.

Incorporating value, meaning and sustainability into your interior need not result in a bland look. Whether you choose to take the route of refined classical elegance or energetic youthful playfulness, the key consideration is about simplicity.

ABOVE '60s leather upholstered oak lounge suite by Danish designer Paar Armsessel for Hans Grunbeck Mobiler. '50s Danish nest of tables with teak tops and oak bases, '50s German standard lamp with glass and aluminium shade, '60s American metal leaf wall sculpture, '70s Flokai rug from Greece, cushions made with vintage fabrics found in Oamaru and Elegant Coffee set Impact British Anchor Staffordshire England from Amberley Recycling.

“Make a simple statement and it will be a strong one”

OPPOSITE PAGE '60s Scandinavian Tray, '60s Danish Rosewood Sidetable by Haslev Mobiler, '60s Royal Dux White Ceramic Cat, '50s American ceramic lamp with original shade, '60s Pewter & Teak Coffee Set by Royal Holland, '60s Danish Rosewood Credenza by Westergaard Mobiler, '50s Pernilla Lounge Chair by Swedish Designer Bruno Mathsson, OK card by Sarah Maxey.



TO CREATE THIS LOOK

- Scour vintage and antique stores for unique large and small scale items. Ethnic and trade-aid stores are another great place to start.
- Borrow from nature. Use interesting moss clad dead branches, pine cones or berries in simple combinations for a rustic seasonal arrangement.
- Nothing brightens up an autumn evening like a bit of sparkle. Cluster metal objects in brass, silver and gold for a sideboard display. Glass, mirrors and cut crystal can create transparencies and reflections.
- Add romance around a cosy fire with candles and low light lamps.
- Have fun with texture and sheen level – using velvet, suede and leather. Or mix and match patterns with vintage florals, animal prints or stylised geometrics.
- Create the unexpected by borrowing influences from around the world.
- Raid your parents or grandparents closets and create soft furnishings from pre-loved garments.
- Combining mid-century classics with locally designed pieces is our favourite current trend for eclectic modern interiors.



LEFT Woodland pattern 710601 from Mainland Paint, lampshades, table, chairs, Vintage French Flour Sack from Annex, Katherine Smyth Earthenware Bowls, Paul Maseyk Milk Bottle and Wooden Bowl, all other vases stylists own.

BELOW Vase with hydrangeas from Weka Traders Waikari and 3 small plates –Grindley England Ivory, Honeyglaze A J Wilkinson Royal Staffordshire, Aynsley England from Christchurch City Mission store.



RIGHT '60s Danish Palisander Rosewood Sideboard and '60s Black Lacquered Rocking Chair by Danish Designer Illum Wikkelso from mr mod, WW2 Keep Calm and Carry On poster from Trade Me, Vintage Letter Press letters and Retro Feltex rug from Chaos Collectables.
OPPOSITE LEFT Cyclinder glass vase with Rowan Berries from Impres florist supplies, Iittala Aalto Vase from Annex, Bob Steiner Pipi dish from The General Store.

There is a certain air of nostalgic yearning where old things will be re-innovated as opposed to new design. Just because the budget has to spread a little further doesn't mean you can't create a new autumn/winter look for your living areas – you just have to get creative and have a little imagination. To borrow a phrase from a certain well-known media personality – vintage and rustic looks are 'hot' right now. It's amazing what you can find for little or no cost and you can have some fun along the way.

Incorporate vintage pieces into your current interior décor through the use of recycled or vintage fabrics. Local antique or second hand stores are a great place to start looking for fabrics - keep your eye out for offcuts of vintage carpet as they make great retro inspired rugs. Making your own cushions, reupholstering an old chair or simply making a throw from the fabric you find is a great way to bring this look into your own home. Alternatively try buying cushions, throws and/or rugs made from vintage fabrics. ■

Photographed on location at mr mod Saint Martins, Christchurch, Phone 03 337 1388, www.mrmod.co.nz



MODERN LIVING

Christchurch store mr mod sells vintage furniture from eras of design excellence and is a retail haven for those who want something quirky and unique for the home.

Owner operators Ross Morrison and Monica Beaumont state that “there is a global shift towards eclectic interiors, even though people have been inspired by this look for decades.” Their customers recognise that buying vintage design is a more sustainable option than buying new imported furniture. “We believe that buying quality era design is a sustainable investment for the future and a real

style statement. Because mr mod is a proud supporter of local industry, all in house design is New Zealand made, and our furniture is constructed from quality materials that are skillfully crafted from eras of design excellence.”

Bringing vintage or antique items into your interior allows your own personality and style to be brought to your living space; Monica says “many of our customers want to move away from generic styles created with mass produced items. Often people are after a 'talking piece' or something with a bit of character.”