

LIFESTYLE Property

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PROPERTY

LIVE, LOVE,
HYDE PARK
SA

BOLD & Beautiful
COLOURS

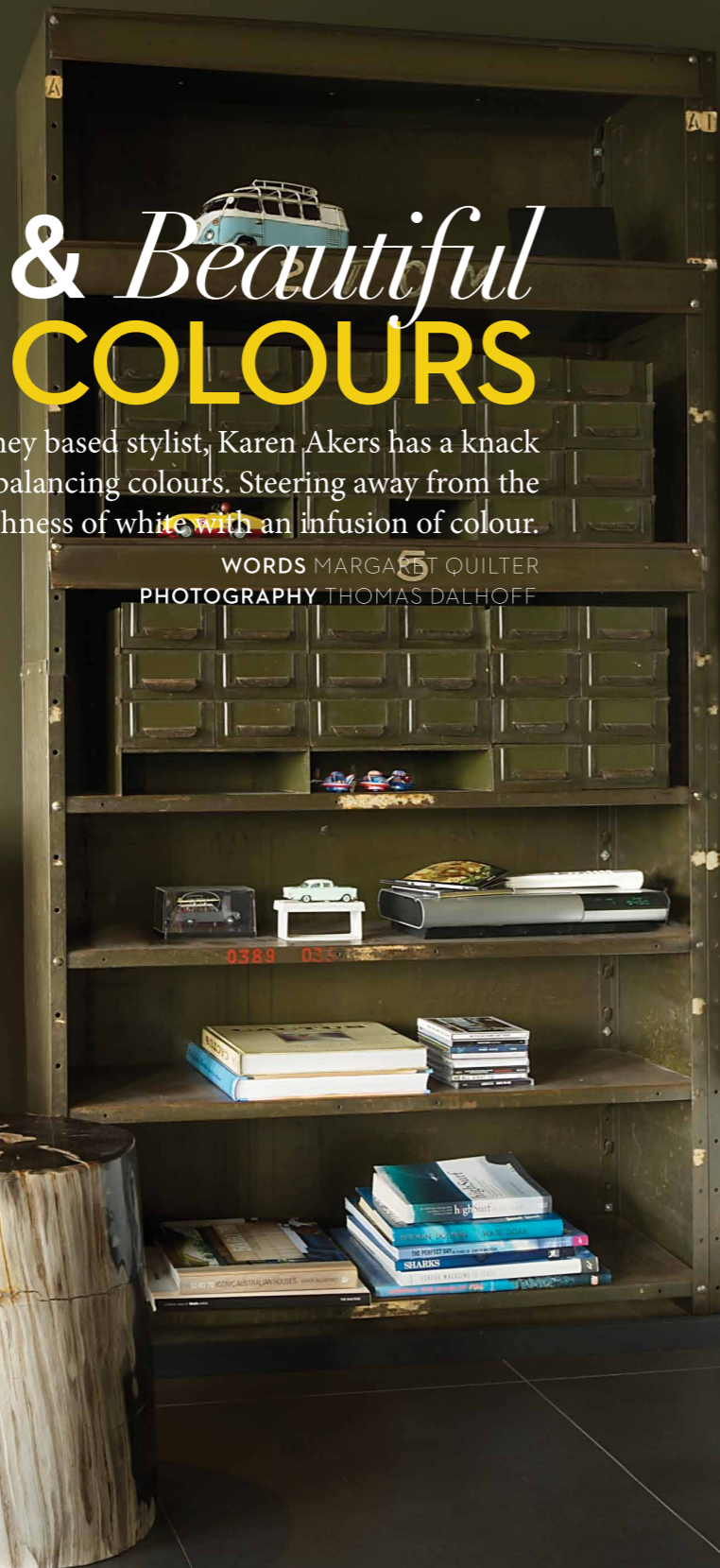
Chic Sydney
TERRACE

STYLISH & SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

BOLD & Beautiful COLOURS

Sydney based stylist, Karen Akers has a knack for balancing colours. Steering away from the harshness of white with an infusion of colour.

WORDS MARGARET QUILTER
PHOTOGRAPHY THOMAS DALHOFF



"DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE COLOUR. ONCE YOU START LIVING WITH COLOUR YOU REALISE HOW MUCH BETTER IT FEELS." KAREN AKERS

Designers evoke a sense of warmth and character through colour. Beyond the calmness of blue and green hues are vibrant colours that have their own endearing traits.

Red and orange hues are commonly used in areas such as the dining room to promote interest and discussion points. But how can vibrant colours be incorporated into the rest of the home without being too garish?

Karen Akers of Designed by Karen Akers, explains that it is all about balancing the intensity of the colour with the context in which it's used. The orientation of the room, how much light there is and how open the space is, all have an impact on the overall effect.

"If you have a light-filled open plan room with white walls and you put a bright red rug on the floor, the contrast between the red and white will be too harsh and not very inviting," says Karen. "Instead, you might choose a rug in a slightly toned-down colour – red with a greyish tinge perhaps. Alternatively, you could paint the walls a slight grey to reduce the contrast."

On the other hand, dark spaces allows for more vibrancy in the actual colour itself. In one of her designs, "Man Cave", Karen balanced two intense colours, yellow and dark grey, to create a contrast that worked.

"The more colour you use, the less intense it actually is because the colours balance each other out, as opposed to using pops of colour," says Karen.

The ornate architecture and decorative elements of the iconic heritage home "The Abbey" in Annandale, an inner-west suburb of Sydney, allow the use of intense colours. The owner's extensive collection of artwork looks fabulous on a background of strong colours – a technique many art galleries use to make the artwork stand out.

Think about decorating your home from a holistic point of view. Painting the walls the slightest of pale green, blue or even grey will take the edge off and gives you a base to work from. You can follow through with colour in subtle decorative elements such as rugs, ottomans, bar stools, vases and art.

"It's about balance," says Karen. "Colour, architectural style and light, you have to take it all into consideration."

