



GET ORGANISED
special

by the book

Statement-making shelving elevated this space from cluttered storage room to relaxed reading haven

WORDS ANNA KOOREY STYLING VICTORIA WATERS
PHOTOGRAPHY SUE STUBBS

before





under fire

The new Jetmaster 'Heat & Glo 550' balanced flue fireplace is one of the room's focal points. "The old room had a hideous gas fireplace – a relic from 1953," says Catherine. The new model is surrounded by a chic limestone mantel that adds another layer of texture.

WHEN CATHERINE AND BRIAN moved into their new home with their toddler daughter, Eliza, and a baby on the way, the lounge room and adjoining dining room at the front of the house became a dumping ground for books and boxes they were yet to unpack. "Both rooms were dark and not particularly inviting," recalls Catherine. Desperate to makeover the space and get organised, she turned to *Home Beautiful* for inspiration, where she spotted a room she loved. She swiftly booked an appointment with the interior designer, Victoria Waters. "When Victoria suggested built-in bookshelves, we had a vision of an adults-only reading room," says Catherine. The result is a sitting room with a cosy fire and plenty of shelving to display Brian's extensive collection of books in style.

booked out

Custom-made 2-pac bookshelves finished in Dulux Wash & Wear low sheen in Vivid White (above), designed by Victoria and built by Gumtree Joinery, replaced shaky shelves, achieving the rare feat of making storage the star. Victoria decided to install mirrors in the back of each shelf to bounce light around the room. Catherine hasn't looked back since their installation; "The mirrors are a very subtle addition but the difference they've made is amazing," she says.

eye for detail

In line with Catherine's preference for cool blues, cushions in Warwick Fabrics 'Elegance' velvet (top) were custom-made to dress up the existing neutral furniture. Victoria sourced the Hip Home 'Gala Ikat' wool rug (left), which unites the scheme and provides a splash of colour. A glittering replica Angelo Mangiarotti 'Giogali' chandelier picks up light from the mirror-backed shelves.

fresh start

A splash of Dulux Wash & Wear low sheen paint, matched with skirtings in Dulux Aquanamel paint – both in Whisper White – instantly revived the room and gave it the brightness Catherine craved. Soft decorative accents include an orchid from Lavande Designs and ceramic bird from Orson & Blake (below).



“White makes everything *light* and bright” ~ Catherine, homeowner



budget breakdown

Chandelier	\$395
Cushions	\$480
Fireplace (with installation)	\$12,900
Joinery	\$8000
Paint (including labour)	\$880
Rug	\$1568

Total cost: \$24,223*

Source book
 Interior design: Victoria Waters Design, 0421 900 049, victoriawatersdesign.com.au.
 Joinery: Gumtree Joinery, 0429 435 773, gumtreejoinery.com.au.
 Painter: Christopher C Winton, 0415 085 265.

* SOME COSTS ARE BASED ON OWNERS' ESTIMATES AND WILL VARY. SILVER BOTTLE (TOP LEFT), ELEMENTS I LOVE, ELEMENTSILOVE.COM