



'I love eating brekkie out here in summer. My partner Martyn has a very green thumb. He remembers to water the plants – if it wasn't for him, half of them would be dead!'



Tara loves collecting accessories for her kitchen. 'I go mad in junk shops and spend a lot of time in my local op shop looking for treasures.'



This set of table and chairs is a 1930s design by French brand Thonet. 'It's so classic that it's modern again,' she says. While Tara got it second-hand, you can get a similar set at Thonet in Sydney's Darlinghurst or in Melbourne's Fitzroy (www.thonet.com.au).

◀ The bright and airy kitchen is a central gathering place for Tara and her family. 'The kitchen's my favourite room because we all love to cook and, when we can, the three of us spend time cooking together – yes, really!'

The White House

Ever wondered what an interior designer's house looks like? Tara Dennis invites us into her home

When you're an interior designer on top TV shows *Renovation Rescue* and *Burke's Backyard*, there's no excuse for peeling paint in your own home! So when Tara asked us to drop by her place on the Hawkesbury River in NSW, we were very curious. While we expected an array of colours, years of splashing vivid hues across other people's walls has left Tara, 36, with a total aversion to anything other than white at home – and the evidence is clear! Tara, who lives with partner Martyn, 36, and



Interior designer and TV presenter Tara Dennis

daughter Avalon, 13, says there's a trick to creating amazing interiors. 'Collect pieces you love so your place reflects who you are.'

Tara bought the cane chairs from a store stocked with Balinese goodies in Sydney's Moore Park, then painted them white. 'I use a spray gun when I paint my furniture – it certainly makes life a lot easier!'



'I work with colours so I like to come home to a white, airy house. I'm still deciding what colour to paint my nautical wheel... probably white!'

Live it!

Tara experiments and gets crafty with cheap finds. She bought this lampshade from Kmart and made it unique by adding feathers to the rim.

'When I came home with these white lounges my family was worried they'd never be allowed to sit down! But these days white is so easy to wash - I just throw the covers straight into the washing machine!'

'Try adding a twist or your own touches to something you've bought to make it unique'

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Live it!

1
Cushions
(clockwise from
white cushion)
\$36.95 Made On Earth
\$19.95 Freedom
\$29.95 Made On Earth

3
Glass candle
holder \$36.95
Candle \$16.95
Made On Earth

2
Lamp
\$139.95
Made On Earth

4
Mortar and
pestle
\$8.95
Bayswiss

5
Picture frame
\$29.95
Made On Earth

6
Mirror
\$179
Pacific East
Indian Company

Get Tara's look

7
Sofa
\$1,299
Ikea

9
Picture frame
\$24.95
Pacific East
Indian Company

10
Candle holders
\$12.95 each
Candles \$1.50 each
Pacific East
Indian Company

8
Table \$720.50
Chair \$258.50
Thonet