

Ask an expert MARNANIE STYLE

Interior designer Charlotte Coote certainly knows a thing or two about creating your dream home. *House & Garden* was lucky enough to be invited to her annual masterclass at her property, Marnanie, in Mount Macedon.

STORY *Tanya Buchanan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Marcel Aucar*



Formerly a large gravel area out the front of the house, it was levelled and landscaped by garden maestro, and Charlotte's friend, Paul Bangay. **OPPOSITE** Charlotte and the family labrador, Bobby, at the entrance to beautiful Marnanie.

"I can clearly remember the feeling I had as I entered Marnanie's gates glimpsing that magic white house floating above the trees. I knew at that moment I wanted this house to become my family home."

CHARLOTTE COOTE, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Pretty in pink

- Charlotte's brave colour palette was inspired by the rhododendrons in the garden.
- Her father John made the original pink and white John Stefanidis curtains for Kevin O'Neill and John Graham, his friends and the previous owners of Marnanie. Charlotte restored them by removing the tattered edges and adding a new pink linen base band.
- Charlotte painted the entire dining room in high gloss Resene Glamour Puss.
- She designed a custom copper and crystal chandelier, which was manufactured in London.



ASK AN EXPERT H&G

Charlotte and her husband, Geordie, turned an unused garage into a dream kitchen-dining space that opens onto a newly landscaped garden – an ideal design for the Mount Macedon setting. There's an open fireplace, dining area, expansive bench for cooking with tapware from The English Tapware Company, and a view to the garden to keep a close eye on young children. *Below, left* Charlotte with her masterclass presenters, Mark D. Sikes, Serena Crawford and Paul Bangay.



"I like the word 'generous' when used to describe the scale of a space. It suggests a sense of comfort and abundance, which is something I always set out to achieve." CHARLOTTE COOTE, INTERIOR DESIGNER

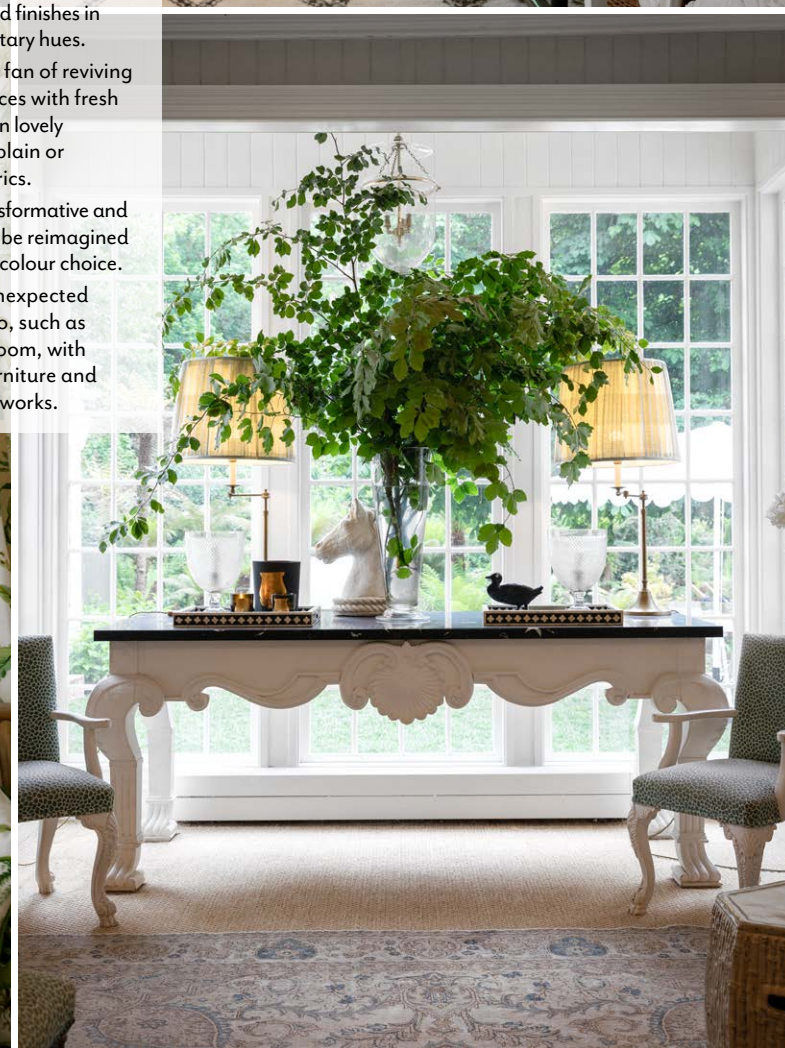


Colour cues

- Layers of tonal blue infuse this serenely comfortable library with a soothing ambience. Here, Charlotte has worked with bold textures, tones and fabrics to create a supremely relaxing ambience and welcoming room.
- “You don’t need to use a lot of colour in a room to make it interesting,” explains Charlotte. “Using various shades of one colour can be very beautiful. Just try to ensure there is a good balance of lighter and darker elements.”

Fresh ideas & easy updates

- Bring the outside in with vessels that elevate beautiful floral arrangements. Charlotte’s woven lobster baskets from Coote&Co. balance blossoming hydrangeas outside Marnanie.
- Charlotte injects colour with confidence. Choose a room colour first, then layer fabric, textures, furniture and finishes in complementary hues.
- She is a big fan of reviving vintage pieces with fresh upholstery in lovely patterned, plain or striped fabrics.
- Paint is transformative and a room can be reimagined with a bold colour choice.
- Make an unexpected room a hero, such as a powder room, with bespoke furniture and original artworks.



Coote&Co. ‘Gough’ footstool upholstered in Schumacher ‘Fishnet’ in Marine. Sofas in Schumacher ‘Samarkand Ikat II’ in Porcelain and Pukka Print ‘Inca Ikat’ in Indigo. Cushions in Soane ‘Dianthus Chintz’ in Lapis; Colefax and Fowler ‘Tanya’ by Manuel Canovas in Ciel and ‘Lanark Plaid’ in Blue; and Carleton V ‘Safari’ in Sky. Coote&Co. pineapple lamp and rug. **OPPOSITE** All of the rooms at Marnanie are styled with Charlotte’s signature layering and abundance.

*Alfresco
inspiration*

- Classic blue and white stripes are a fabulous base for the lunch table. Here 80 metres of Ian Mankin 'Lytham Stripe' in Cobalt adorns the long table for the masterclass lunch with napkins in Sanderson 'Truffle' in Indigo, Domestic Textile Corporation.
- Low terracotta pots filled with masses of green and white plants are the perfect floral accompaniment to languid lunches alfresco.
- Bamboo cutlery and placemats, and crisp white plates with pretty blue piping keep the table looking elegant yet relaxed, all from Hopewood Interiors. *Coote & Co.*; cooteandco.com.au.



The stylish table all set for lunch with pieces from Hopewood Interiors and fabric from Ian Mankin. Terracotta pots and plants, all Riddells Creek Nursery. **OPPOSITE** Lush gardens surround Marnanie and have been gently reimagined by Paul Bangay. *Top, right* Guests arrive courtesy of Range Rover. *Bottom, right* The streamhouse, which was reinvented as a petite gin house with local Mountain Distilling gin for the masterclass. *Bottom, left* Georgie and Charlotte have created an idyllic and well-functioning home for their modern family at historic Marnanie.

