



plum perfect

Find out how this veranda went from ramshackle to ravishing – for a measly \$1250

Peeling paint, dodgy floor and a roof with more holes than a tea strainer – not the ideal spot for perusing the Sunday papers or sipping a G&T. So what did the owners of this cottage in Sydney's eastern suburbs do? Conjured a romantic look with a lick of paint, timber boards and some sweet furniture.

Top of the to-do list? A Laserlite (a type of heat-deflecting corrugated plastic) roof, along with a ceiling of tongue and groove timber panelling. To keep the area cool in summer, insulation bats were inserted into the roof.

Next, they used a stiff brush to get the old paint off the back wall, ready for two coats of Porter's limewash in Library Red (\$71/4 litres). A rich berry shade, it works beautifully with the deep green of the lawn and the dazzling white door and window trims, painted Dulux high gloss White (\$76/4 litres).

Next on the hit list? The uneven concrete floor. The couple nailed down new pine floorboards over a pine timber frame, leaving a lift-up hatch in the floor for easy access to the pipes and drains under the decking. The new boards were aged with Watty's Forestwood Stain in Weathered Cedar

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Tongue and groove timber wall, fully installed	\$200
Tongue and groove ceiling with insulation, fully installed	\$500
Pine timber decking and underfloor frame	\$500
Paint	\$40
Timber stain for floorboards	\$10
TOTAL	\$1250

Afternoon nap: get to see the outback with a clever veranda revival.

