

sheer magic

A soothing lick of white lifted this bedroom out of the dark ages

STYLING MIA ASKER PHOTOGRAPHY DIEU TAN STORY TANYA SIMPSON

Oodles of light, lots of white. This bedroom, belonging to *homebeautiful*'s style editor Mia Asker, was in a totally crumbling state just a few months ago. But Mia and husband Simon soon got it into shape...

"We peeled off wallpaper, ripped up carpets and stripped timberwork," says Mia. "A renderer put in a few extra bricks and patched over the wall. We spent a lot of time preparing the wall, filling and sanding and filling and sanding until we had a good finish."

Once the building work was finished, the pair went to work on enhancing the room's best feature: great natural light.

Mia chose Dulux Natural White for the walls, Dulux oil base white for the woodwork and Dulux untinted ceiling paint overhead. For the floors she wanted a lighter option than the sanded 'n' stained timber look, so she got down on her hands and knees and painted

on Porter's Paints Woodwash (tinted white), then rubbed it off with a rag. To protect all her hard work, she topped it with a coat of Porter's Paints All-Purpose Clear Sealer. "I'm really happy with it," she says. "We have a dog, so it had to be pretty hardy as well."

Bright backdrop in place, Mia opted for a romantic, flowing mosquito net over their antique bed, and her favourite damask bed linen.

"I like the idea of being able to add different pieces to the white base to create a totally different look," she adds. "Quite often I'll buy a new blanket and throw that on the bed and suddenly you've got a new bedroom."

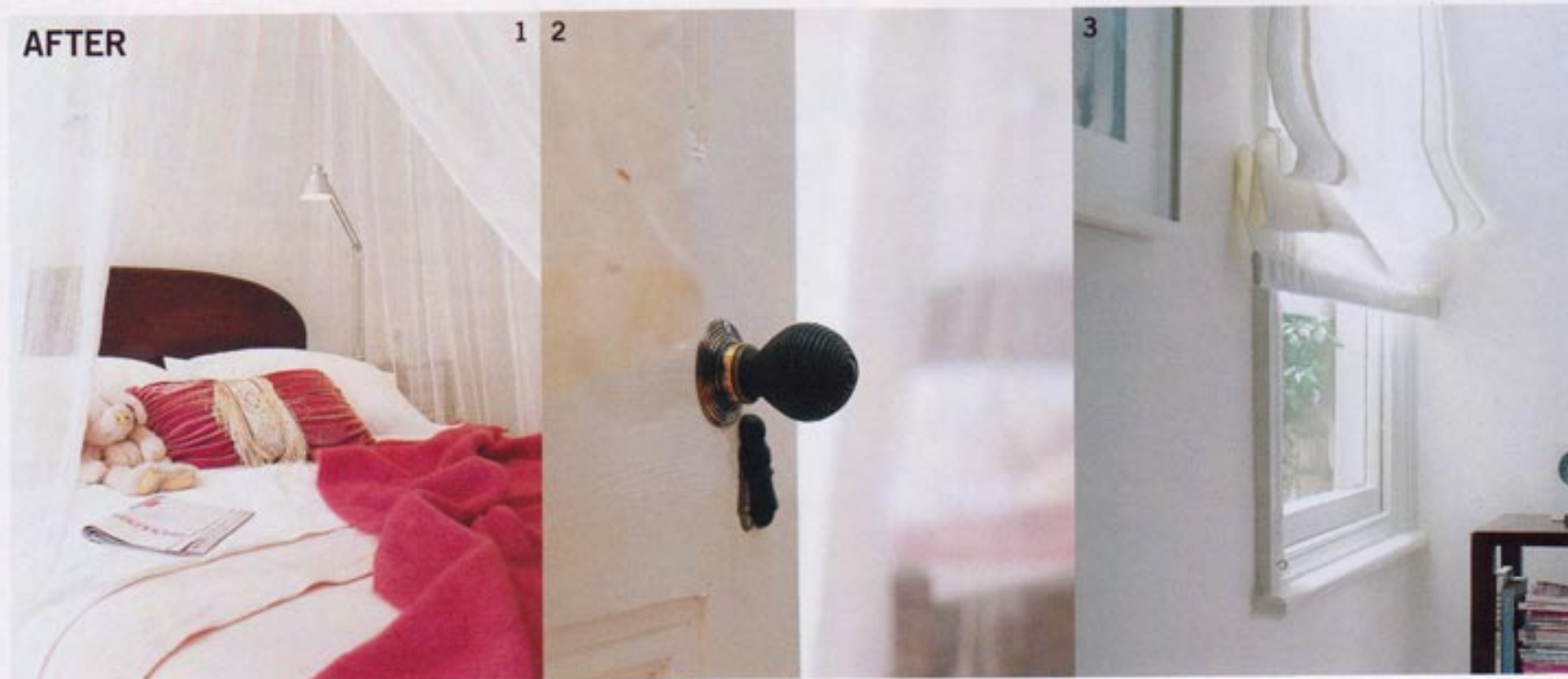
The finishing touches are flexible floorlamps, a set of blackwood bedside tables, a beautiful mahogany door handle and a simple roman blind. With a bedroom like that, frankly, we're amazed Mia makes it to work at all. **hb**



1 To give an all-white room a new look, add a splash of colour with a blanket.

2 Mia picked up the antique mahogany door handle and lock for \$200 from Balmain Stripping Antique

Warehouse. **3** The roman blind, whipped up by Mia, is made from soft, supple high-quality linen. **4** Fairy lights give a gentle sparkle. Cube lights, \$98, Boxx. **For stockists see page 150**



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

renderer/bricklayer	\$200
floor stain	\$95
floor sealer	\$85
walls	\$65
ceiling	\$40
woodwork	\$60
door handle & lock	\$200
TOTAL	\$745

