

Beautiful DESIGN

Mudroom MARVELS



FROM GYM LOCKERS TO DEDICATED DOG-WASHING TUBS, MODERN MUDROOMS OFFER MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO HANG YOUR HAT, BAGS AND SHOES

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PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIGID ARNOTT (OPPOSITE) SIMON BROWN ARTWORK BY UNKNOWN ARTIST
ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Mudrooms are having a moment. And you don't need to be a farmer to have one. In this hardworking entry point to your sanctuary, you can offload both your bags and baggage from the outside world. "When we design a home, we almost always include a mudroom because it's just requested so often," says interior designer Janette Stritt of Sydney firm, Stritt Design & Construction. "Mudrooms are an ideal drop-off zone for shoes, bags and sporting gear, ideally making the rest of the house – and your mind – clutter-free." If you're planning a mudroom, consider some of the clever ideas seen in the following multitasking spaces.

Above: Tranquility is key in this cottage mudroom nestled in the Southern Highlands of NSW. Designed by Sarah Parry-Okeden of Wild Orchid Spaces, VJ panelling in Dulux Rosy Dawn adds a cheery pop of colour. **Opposite:** This spacious cottage-style mudroom, designed by Salvesen Graham, features joinery painted in Farrow & Ball Lichen. Hiding dog leads, secateurs and more is easy with so much storage. >



1 *Go for bold*

It may be a utilitarian space, but mudrooms are a great place to have fun with finishes, says Kristin Peake, who designed this lavish example featuring swathes of rich blue Benjamin Moore Stonecutter paint. “The owners have three young, very active children and needed a well-organised and functional space,” she explains. There’s a place for everything, as well as a gift-wrapping station and mail slots. “They weren’t afraid of colour, which encouraged me to design a classic and timeless space while embracing colour,” says Kristin. Mission definitely accomplished.



2 *All shapes and sizes*

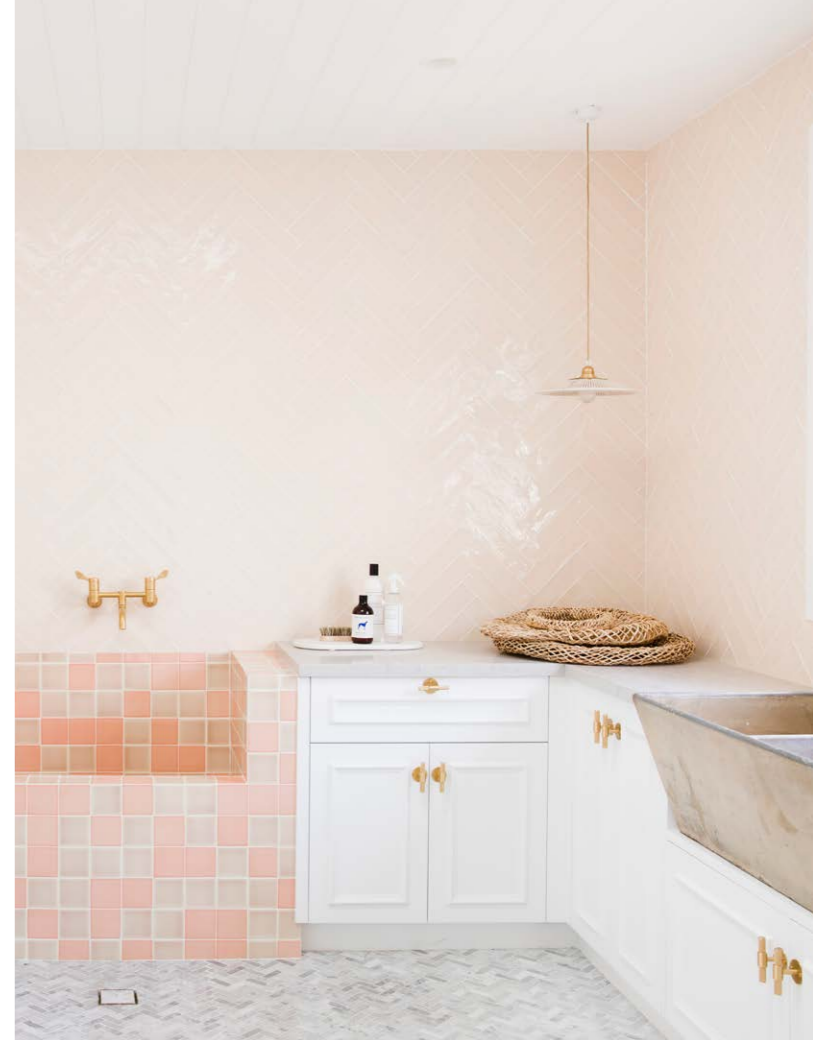
Mudrooms are transitional areas by nature, so they needn’t be palatial if you don’t have much room to play with. All you really need is a bench to sit on when de-booting, and storage for bags and hooks for coats/umbrellas/keys, which shouldn’t take up too much real estate. “It’s about spatial planning and having the right type of storage for your needs,” says Janette. The mudroom above, by Three Birds Renovations, doubles as a cosy reading nook with a custom daybed in Grace Garrett ‘Between The Lines’ fabric, the ‘Rio’ wall light from Gypset Cargo, and an artwork by Whitney Spicer.

3 *Pet’s paradise*

Your white bouclé sofa might be a no-go zone for the furry members of your household, but mudrooms can be transformed into the Shangri-la for your favourite quadrupeds. Consider a cubby for your pampered pet in the mudroom, as seen in the design by Greg Natale (above right), or a dedicated dog bath, as seen in Three Birds Renovations’ Bonnie Hindmarsh’s own home (right). With four boys and two British bulldogs, Bonnie needed her mudroom to accommodate a dog-washing station, two washing machines, two dryers and a laundry tub salvaged from a previous project. >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT) ANSON SMART (OPPOSITE) STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG
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Room of one's own

Everyone gets their own 'gym locker' in this mudroom on Sydney's Northern Beaches, created by interior designer Janette Stritt and architect Andrew Barnyak. Because the residents generally access the house directly from the garage or garden, often straight from the beach, sandy wet towels and flip-flops don't make it past the mudroom. The chequerboard tiles from Amber were selected by the homeowner, who saw them in a magazine. "They're porcelain and a bit more robust than marble," says Janette. Just what you need in a mudroom.

5

Double feature

Since it's likely to be a dumping ground for smelly socks and mud-soaked football jerseys anyway, the mudroom is the optimal spot for laundry appliances too. If you can, extend plumbing into your mudroom when planning a renovation or new build. To save on floor space, stack your washer and dryer, and consider a pull-out clothes hamper. A hanging rail is a must and if you live in a cold, rainy or even snowy climate, a drying cupboard can be a godsend. And make it nice! After all, someone will be spending a lot of time in there.

6

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY

Do you require lockers or cubbyholes for schoolbags? What about a drying cupboard? Drawers, hooks or hanging space? Dedicating spots for all the things you schlep to and from the car will keep your mudroom tidy and save your sanity. The owners of this contemporary-but-classic rural home (opposite) in the NSW Southern Highlands thought of everything. "All the winter jackets, boots, hats and firewood are stored on open shelves, rather than behind cupboard doors, because they're in constant use," says Darren Mills, director of Cadence & Co.

7

CREATE FARMHOUSE VIBES

Since the mudroom was conceived on farms, back when humans and animals lived in close quarters, it makes sense to channel your inner pastoralist when designing your 'boot room', as they say in the UK. "Mudrooms are a link between the home and the land. Simple materials with a 'natural language' - think timber, recycled bricks and wrought iron - will inject classic country charm into a mudroom," says Darren. "You can then layer up with detail to create more character."

8

CIRCULATE, DARLING

Because mudrooms house wet brollies, muddy boots and all the damp things you don't want passing the threshold, it's important to ensure yours is well ventilated. A louvre window or Dutch door will invite fresh air to flow while keeping kids and pets in (or out). An exhaust fan or dehumidifier will also help. "Drawers with mesh panels will allow shoes and sports gear to breathe," adds interior designer Anna Spiro.

Above left: The hardwood timber bench in this Stritt Design & Construction-built mudroom is the perfect place to peel off wetsuits or wipe down golf clubs.



The brief for the mudroom of this contemporary homestead, designed by Cadence & Co, was to make it less rural and more modern. "As such, the palette is more finished," explains Cadence & Co director Darren Mills. "The floor, for example, is solid hardwood boards in a polished finish rather than a more rustic or raw option." The owners can add or subtract charming accoutrements to this blank canvas as they wish. >

9 Supercharge your storage

With three teenagers and two dogs, a generous mudroom was a must for the owners of this Federation home, reimagined by interior designer Anna Spiro. Double-height cabinetry with mesh-fronted drawers at the base provide ample storage for everyone's needs. "We always strive to use a combination of cupboards and drawers, as the latter allows for easier access and better organisation," says Anna. Wall-mounted hooks add even more storage plus double as display space for the owner's hat collection.



Pickles the dog keeps cool on Winckelmans tiles. The bench seat, upholstered in hardy Peter Dunham Textiles outdoor fabric, adds colour and personality to the space. **Opposite:** In this monochrome utility room by Light and Dwell, earthy limestone flooring and a dark benchtop surface have been selected to withstand the rough and tumble of mudroom life.

10

Create a warm, welcoming space

Ultimately, your mudroom should embrace you when you enter. It's a utility room, sure, but adding texture and detail will give you warm fuzzies when you get home. Embodying a 'modern European lakehouse' aesthetic, the cabinetry, VJ panels and even the knobs in this mudroom were painted the same colour, with a pendant and artwork adding charm. The result? One harmonious, hardworking space. 🍷



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) DAVE WHEELER (OPPOSITE) AMY BARTLAM ARTWORK BY UNKNOWN ARTIST