

Narrative direction

Colour-kissed walls do much of the talking in a reimagined heritage building that invites guests to find sanctuary in this vibrant port city.



The owners of Casa Cedo, a boutique hotel in historic Porto, call it a place “for new stories to be written”. Set on Rua de Cedofeita, one of the Portuguese city’s most iconic streets, and near the arts and restaurant precinct, the hotel was developed from a 19th-century family home that was steeped in personal histories and still boasted charming architectural details.

A gentle intervention retained the spirit of the original: the historic façade, stonework, stucco and antique tiles (including beautiful azulejos featuring pineapples in the entrance hallway). Once a new upper floor was added and an outbuilding transformed into a living and dining room with a roof terrace above, the owners, together with Quiet Studios, set to work on the interiors, which were layered up intentionally, keeping the ethos of ‘design meets nature’ ever at heart.

With just eight rooms, Casa Cedo is exclusive but not exclusionary. Each room has a botanical name and tells its own tale. Saturated tones work alongside sculptural furniture, many pieces designed by the studio. Art and objects from across the decades and with global provenance lend the common areas a richness that makes for a relaxing ambience.

In the bedrooms all is calm, but by no means visually dull. Shades of dirty pink, soft blues and reds define each as individual; customised accessories, including lamps and floral emblems made by local artisans, speak a unique language. At times, the architectural detailing (such as decorative cornices) is picked out; at times, colour is blocked right across wall, moulded skirtings and architraves.

Bringing the earthy, vibrant shades of Portugal’s second-largest city indoors, these colours are the backdrop to neutral, crafted furniture and an assembly of international art. Casa Cedo translates as ‘early home’ or ‘home early’ — a fitting name for an establishment with a century of history that guests no doubt hurry back to at the end of a day of discovery. ▲

Photography: Matilde Viegas



THIS PAGE 1. Vintage rattan **mirror**, \$130, the-untrained-eye.co.nz. 2. Chalice **candle holder**, \$50, ginafabish.com. 3. Hand-turned kauri **bowl** by John Crichton, \$350, mrbigglesworthy.co.nz. 4. Indergarden Chair II **chair** by Yellow Nose Studio, \$1560, publicrecord.nz. 5. SanSoak **floor lamp** by Cam Barrett, \$2995, goodform.co.nz. 6. Volnay **sideboard** by John Herbert for Younger, \$3950, mrbigglesworthy.co.nz. 7. Hawksworth **table lamp**, \$2100, oberystudio.com. 8. Sandringham **rug** in Aquamarine, from \$1550, bayaliving.com. 9. Catskills **armchair**, from \$3659, boconcept.com.



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