

Exterior Home Visual Renovation

Using Pinterest for Inspiration

Build the master. Explore the possibilities. Keep the home recognisable.

THE WORKFLOW

REAL REFERENCE > APPROVED MASTER
PINTEREST INSPIRATION > CONTROLLED VARIATION

A practical companion for building prompts, reviewing images and keeping a consistent series. Includes reusable templates and worked practice briefs.

One master. Many possibilities.

Explore exterior finishes, colour, planting and styling on a photograph of an existing home.

01 / Gather the real reference

Start with the photograph of the actual home, room or person. This is the source of truth for what must stay recognisable.

02 / Build the master

Tell the assistant your goal, reference roles and non-negotiables. Ask it to write one complete master prompt, with clearly named variable sections.

03 / Test and approve

Generate a first image in your chosen image tool. Compare it with the real reference. Correct drift before approving the master text and a baseline image.

04 / Add Pinterest inspiration

Upload the inspiration image into the conversation. State exactly what you like about it. A pin supplies selected visual ideas; it does not replace the real reference.

05 / Build a variation

Ask for a short list of proposed changes first. Approve that list, then request a complete standalone prompt that repeats the locks and changes only the approved sections.

06 / Generate, inspect, save

Run the variation with the same reference order. Inspect the actual result, make targeted corrections and save the prompt with the image you approved.

Use this guide: references 03 / master 04 / approval 05 / inspiration 06 / visual references 07-08 / worked examples 09-10 / collections 11 / corrections 12 / checklist 13.

Give every image one job.

Attach the actual image where the tool can see it. A saved link or filename alone is not a visual reference.

Image 1 / Existing home

The sole authority for building geometry, camera position and site layout. Use a clear, unobstructed photograph.

Image 2 / Optional detail

A close view of the same home, used only to clarify an existing material or feature. It must not introduce a second viewpoint into the result.

Image 3 onward / Pinterest

Selected inspiration for palette, cladding character, landscaping or lighting. Each pin has one named job.

Choose the base view

Photograph the whole facade from a steady position. Include roof edges, ground contact, access and the parts of the garden you want to discuss.

Make the scope explicit

Write what may change: for example paint, planting and light fittings. Name what must remain: brick proportions, windows, driveway and roof.

Pick useful pins

Choose one palette pin and one planting pin before collecting ten competing homes. Prefer references where the finish or plant arrangement is actually visible.

Start with what must stay.

Fill the bracketed fields and remove any optional reference you are not using. Keep image numbering consistent.

ASK YOUR PROMPT ASSISTANT

Help me build a master prompt for this project. Use my real reference as the source of truth. Separate LOCKED DETAILS from VARIABLE SECTIONS. Ask only about missing details that would change the result. Return one complete prompt ready for my image tool, plus a short baseline review checklist.

MASTER PROMPT TEMPLATE

Create a photorealistic visual renovation concept of the existing home in Image 1. Image 1 is the authority for geometry and viewpoint. Preserve the exact existing building massing, roof shape and pitch, storeys, window and door positions and proportions, driveway, boundaries, ground levels and camera viewpoint. Keep the home recognisable. Do not invent extensions, move openings, change the roofline or alter neighbouring properties. Preserve realistic perspective, materials, shadows and the connection of the building to the ground. Scope: [list approved non-structural changes]. Set the baseline palette to [colours], wall finish to [finish], trim to [finish] and planting to [description]. Keep the lighting [baseline lighting]. Pinterest references, when added, may influence only the explicitly assigned variable sections. Never import the architecture of a Pinterest house. Do not add doors, windows, buildings, vehicles, people, text or watermarks. Output one [orientation/aspect ratio] exterior concept from the original camera position. Clearly identify this as a visual concept in the surrounding project notes.

The editable companion file includes this template for easy copying. Image tools do not guarantee exact preservation: approve the rendered baseline, not just the wording.

Make the master dependable.

Generate one simple baseline before adding a collection of inspiration images.

- ☐ Roof edges and all openings align with Image 1.
- ☐ Driveway, boundary and ground levels remain consistent.
- ☐ Proposed materials follow the existing wall planes.
- ☐ Planting and lights do not hide access or essential features.
- ☐ The approved baseline contains only the agreed scope.

KEEP A SMALL APPROVAL RECORD

Master: M01
Original reference: [filename]
Approved baseline: [filename]
Locked details: [short list]
Allowed variables: Exterior paint palette; finish texture; trim colour; planting style; non-structural lighting; approved decorative details.
Decision: approved / revise

Separate ideas from construction

These images explore appearance. Keep structural proposals in a separately approved concept; an attractive render is not evidence of dimensions or buildability.

When a master changes

If a locked detail genuinely needs to change, create M02 deliberately and test it. Do not overwrite M01 with an experimental variation.

Turn a pin into variables.

Upload one useful pin first. Tell the assistant what you like, then review its interpretation before requesting the final prompt.

COPY INTO THE CONVERSATION

I am uploading a Pinterest inspiration image as Image [number]. Treat it as inspiration only. My approved master is pasted below. First describe the visible qualities that are relevant to this project. Separate them into: KEEP FROM MASTER, PROPOSED VARIABLES, DO NOT COPY and UNCERTAIN. For each proposed variable, name the visual evidence in the pin and explain which master section would change. Do not guess hidden details. Do not change locked details. Wait for my approval of the variable list. Once approved, return one complete standalone generation prompt containing the unchanged locks, the exact reference-role map and the approved variables. Do not return only a short add-on. MASTER: [paste approved master]. WHAT I LIKE: [describe the specific details]. WHAT I DO NOT WANT: [list exclusions].

VARIABLES THAT SUIT THIS GUIDE

Exterior paint palette; finish texture; trim colour; planting style; non-structural lighting; approved decorative details.

Use several pins without mixing their roles

Number every upload and assign one job to each. For conflicting directions, choose one or make separate variations.

Keep the source with the decision

Save the pin link or original creator link with your notes. Record exactly what you borrowed. Follow the image tool's upload requirements; avoid sharing unrelated personal details in screenshots.

PINTEREST TO PROMPT / YOUR SUPPLIED INSPIRATION

Read the finishes.

Use these images to practise selecting variables. They are separate inspiration references, not before-and-after views of one property.



PALETTE & TEXTURE

Notice the warm white weatherboards, pale roof, timber decking and hydrangeas in simple pots.

Borrow the finish palette and planting character. Keep your own roof shape, windows and verandah structure.



CONTROL THE CONTRAST

Notice the charcoal roof and window frames against white cladding, with restrained low planting.

Apply charcoal only to approved existing surfaces. Do not add its upper storey, garage or new openings.

Ask: "Extract only the details I named from this image. Show the proposed variables and what must stay locked before writing my complete variation prompt."

PINTEREST TO PROMPT / YOUR SUPPLIED INSPIRATION

Read the atmosphere.

Use these images to practise selecting variables. They are separate inspiration references, not before-and-after views of one property.



OUTDOOR MOOD

Notice the blue-hour sky, warm verandah lights, pale paving and layered greenery.

Borrow the lighting mood or selected materials. The pool, neighbouring homes and sign are not instructions to add them.



LIGHT & CONNECTION

Notice the warm interior glow, soft evening light, white cladding and dark joinery.

Use the light and material contrast. Preserve the real location, glazing, landscape and camera view.

Ask: "Extract only the details I named from this image. Show the proposed variables and what must stay locked before writing my complete variation prompt."

Warm whites and olive planting

A hypothetical Pinterest description, followed by a complete prompt template. Fill the bracketed personal details before use.

WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PIN

The hypothetical pin shows warm chalky walls, soft taupe trim and layered olive-green planting. You like the palette and planting, not the pin house.

COMPLETE VARIATION PROMPT

Create a photorealistic exterior visual renovation concept of the actual home in Image 1.

Preserve the exact existing building massing, roof shape and pitch, storeys, window and door positions and proportions, driveway, boundaries, ground levels and camera viewpoint. Keep the home recognisable. Do not invent extensions, move openings, change the roofline or alter neighbouring properties.

Image 3 controls palette and planting character only. Do not borrow unrelated details from the inspiration images.

Use a warm off-white painted finish on the existing walls, soft taupe trim and restrained olive-green planting in the existing garden beds. Keep the original wall construction and all architectural details visible. Retain the baseline daylight.

Render realistic textures, natural light and physically plausible perspective. No invented people, distorted anatomy or geometry, text, interface elements or watermarks. Output one [aspect ratio] image. This is a new variation of the approved concept; inspect it against the original references before approval.

The worked Pinterest descriptions in this guide are hypothetical practice briefs. No actual pins were supplied for these examples, and no generated outcomes are presented as validated results.

Charcoal accents at dusk

A hypothetical Pinterest description, followed by a complete prompt template. Fill the bracketed personal details before use.

WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PIN

The hypothetical pin shows dark trim, warm porch lighting and soft grasses. You want a more dramatic finish without changing the home.

COMPLETE VARIATION PROMPT

Create a photorealistic exterior visual renovation concept of the actual home in Image 1.

Preserve the exact existing building massing, roof shape and pitch, storeys, window and door positions and proportions, driveway, boundaries, ground levels and camera viewpoint. Keep the home recognisable. Do not invent extensions, move openings, change the roofline or alter neighbouring properties.

Image 3 controls trim colour; Image 4 controls lighting mood only. Do not borrow unrelated details from the inspiration images.

Use charcoal on existing approved trim surfaces only. Add warm light from the existing approved porch light positions and soft ornamental planting in the existing beds. Use gentle dusk illumination while keeping facade detail legible. Do not add a porch or new openings.

Render realistic textures, natural light and physically plausible perspective. No invented people, distorted anatomy or geometry, text, interface elements or watermarks. Output one [aspect ratio] image. This is a new variation of the approved concept; inspect it against the original references before approval.

The worked Pinterest descriptions in this guide are hypothetical practice briefs. No actual pins were supplied for these examples, and no generated outcomes are presented as validated results.

Explore without losing the thread.

A scene variation is a child of the approved master. It does not become the next master by default.

ASK FOR A SMALL, CONTROLLED SET

Keep MASTER [version] unchanged. Create three proposed variations from the uploaded inspiration images, with one clear visual idea per variation. For each, list its reference image, changes, locks and potential conflicts. Do not merge contradictory pins. Wait for my selections. Then write each selected variation as a complete standalone prompt with all locks and reference roles repeated. Label them A, B and C. Do not let a later variation silently become the new master.

A / Start with one change

Take the first approved variable and test it on its own. Keep the same reference order and baseline locks.

B / Change a different section

Return to the same approved master and try another variable. Compare the results against the original, not just against each other.

C / Combine only approved ideas

Combine two successful variables when they are compatible. If the combined result drifts, return to the simpler version.

SAVE A MATCHED SET

M01_master.txt + original reference files
M01_A_prompt.txt + M01_A_result.png
M01_B_prompt.txt + M01_B_result.png
M01_C_prompt.txt + M01_C_result.png
Keep pin links, rejected details and approval notes beside the files.

Change only what failed.

Name a visible defect and the approved details that must stay. A broad rewrite can introduce new problems.

A pin has a different roof

Take its colour or material feeling only. Reject its roof, porch shape and window layout.

A pin adds a verandah

Treat it as a new design request. Ask which dimensions and structures are approved before adding it to a separate master.

The facade changes each time

Return to Image 1 as geometry authority and the same camera position. Do not use successive drifting outputs as the only reference.

TARGETED CORRECTION TEMPLATE

Use the approved image [filename] as the edit base. Correct only [specific defect and location]. Preserve all other approved details, the composition and the existing reference-role map. The required correction is [observable result]. Do not redesign unrelated areas. If a local edit is supported, confine the change to [region]. Return one precise correction prompt, then tell me what to inspect in the resulting image.

If repeated attempts change locked details, stop promoting those results. Return to the original references, simplify the scene or use a controlled local editing workflow.

PINTEREST TO PROMPT / YOUR NEXT IMAGE

Prepare. Generate. Inspect.

Complete this small brief before starting the next variation, then check the actual image before saving it as approved.

BASE HOME PHOTOGRAPH AND VIEWPOINT

APPROVED SURFACES AND AREAS TO CHANGE

ARCHITECTURE AND SITE DETAILS TO LOCK

PINTEREST IMAGE NUMBER AND ITS SINGLE ROLE

COLOURS, FINISHES AND PLANTING TO TEST

MASTER VERSION AND APPROVED RESULT FILENAME

FINAL IMAGE CHECK

- ☐ Count and align every window and door.
- ☐ Compare the roof silhouette with the original.
- ☐ Check steps, paths, driveway and ground contact.
- ☐ Look for warped gutters, railings and roof tiles.
- ☐ Check plant size and access around the entrance.
- ☐ Confirm that only approved finishes and styling changed.

Build the master once.

Use inspiration to direct a variation, then inspect what the image tool actually made.

YOUR REPEATABLE ROUTINE

Choose the real reference.
Write and test the master.
Approve what must stay.
Upload a focused inspiration image.
Approve the variable list.
Paste a complete standalone prompt.
Inspect, correct and save the result.

The pin sets the direction.
Your approved reference keeps the project yours.

Maria Hanshaw Design
Portraits | Memories | Celebrations
www.mariahanshaw.com

Practical creative guide series / Edition 1
Worked examples are prompt templates, not demonstrated results. These guides are independently produced and are not affiliated with Pinterest.