

welcome

Life never stands still at *habitat* and Resene. Too many walls to paint, not enough days – it's a nice problem to have when you love colour as much as we do.

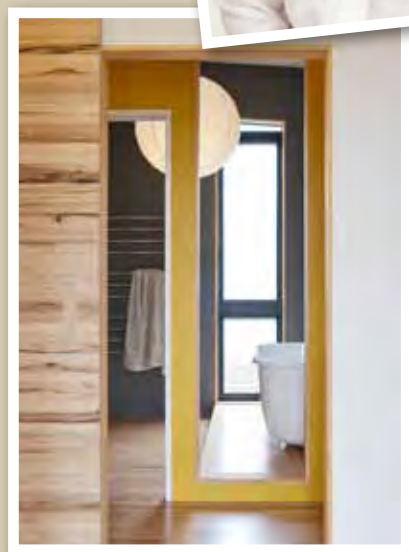
And we love sharing these pages with other people who embrace strong colour, something that appears to be happening more and more as we turn away from all-white interiors and start having some fun with colour. As one homeowner said to me recently "the perfect colour is only a paint brush away" which nicely encapsulates the ease with which you can change the look or mood of a room so easily with one tin of paint.

And it seems that it doesn't matter what your style, colour can help. Our two feature homes both use bold tones but one is a study in mid-century cool (see page 20), while the other is a feast of quirky collectibles (see page 52). We've also used paint and wallpaper to create some striking settings for our Testpots feature on page 7 – a sumptuous purple bedroom, a moody man cave and the patchwork wall from our cover.

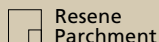
But if vibrant colour's not your thing, we can help solve that age-old decorator's dilemma – how to pick just the right white. See page 38 for our handy tips.

We've been working on many other projects to help you in your quest for the perfect colour. We recently published a *habitat plus* booklet showing how various exteriors look with different colour schemes. We'll also be launching our new-look Habitat of the Week website in autumn. Hope to see you there. In the meantime, happy colour hunting.

Sharon.
Sharon Newey editor



Check out this delicious designer's own bathroom on p62



A little goes a long way, and when it comes to colour, you often only need a splash of it to completely change your room or home.

The nice thing about painting is that unlike the endless merry-go-round of housework, you can paint a room and then sit back and enjoy it for years. So rather than treat yourself to a dinner out, treat yourself to a colour in. While you'll enjoy the dinner for a few hours, for the same cost you could transform your dining or living area with a coat of paint and enjoy the results for many meals to come. How many other household jobs can you think of that can give you that much reward for so little effort? Painting can be surprisingly therapeutic and best of all it can be easily repainted when you're ready for a new look.

Once you've finished the painting, take any unwanted paint to the Resene PaintWise paint and paint packaging recovery service. In 10 years, decorators all over New Zealand have returned more than two million paint packs to Resene PaintWise. Over 500,000 litres have been sent to solvent recovery, hundreds of thousands of kilograms of metal and plastic packaging has been recycled and over 190,000 litres has been donated to community groups. And we couldn't have done it without you. See www.resene.com/paintwise for details on how you can get recycling (NZ only). Happy decorating!

The Resene team