

Colour harmony



DAVID MUIRHEAD & ASSOCIATES



ADELE VAN DER MERWE

ADD life to a dull room with a lick of paint and accessories, writes DEBORAH GRAHAM

ONE of the easiest ways to reinvent a space in your house is to repaint in a new colour – it's easy and fairly inexpensive.

Once you have repainted the room, a few new accessories such as scatter cushions, vases and new lighting can make a huge difference to a room that was once a boring space.

However, choosing the right colour for the space is very important as colour can make a room light and airy, or dark and cramped, and colour can have a huge impact on the mood of the room.

If you are looking to repaint your bedroom neutral colours such as camel, cashmere, taupe, cashew, sand and ivory tones will never really date, and any colour linen and accessories can be matched with these colours.

According to interior designer David Muirhead, classic greys that are dark and moody ranging through to light greys that are crisp and cool are very cool, calming colours for the bedroom as well as pale blue and white, which is often a great colour to use if you are near the ocean.

Muirhead says colour should express the client's and the environment's moods and should be the canvas for the overall scheme.

He says bedrooms can be very sexy with the use of dramatic dark colours such as black and white as long as the lighting is good.

"Sassy suggestions would be to experiment with black and white broad stripes and narrow pin stripes for a classic chic look, and for more of a retro feel, one could use a kaleidoscope of colour in varying widths," he says.

"The trend varies enormously from cutting-edge charcoal to rich chocolate. Warmer tones are obviously a great influence as we prepare our homes for winter and, in contrast, grey is very popular."



JACKET

BEIGES, greys and ivory colours add warmth to a room.

DOS AND DON'TS

- IN a room with low ceilings, do not paint the ceiling the same colour as the wall, unless you want to achieve the feeling of a smaller space.
- Don't use cool colours in restaurants or dining rooms. Rather use warm tones that enhance the mood for dining.

- Forget terracotta and mustard yellow colours.
- Bathrooms, bedrooms – don't try to be too dramatic – the home should be peaceful, not draining.
- Use different tones of a colour together.
- Repeat a specific colour scheme throughout a total space, rather than jumping from one colour to another.

ALL the latest colours and interior designs will be showcased at this year's Rooms on View 2007 from May 24 to May 27 at the Sandton Convention Centre.

At the Dulux Designers Pavilion, you will be able to see five of South Africa's top designers showcasing their individuality and their signature style by interpreting a city anywhere in the world.

The five designers are: Antoni and Associates, Adele van der Merwe Interior Design, David Muirhead and Associates, Jacket and White on White.

● For more information about Rooms on View visit www.rooms-on-view.co.za

In the dining room, dramatic warm colours such as warm chocolate brown with cashew ceilings, cornices and skirting, seem to introduce a feeling of warmth and are conducive to wonderful moody dining says Muirhead.

"Colour can seduce, it has the potential to calm or create mood. I believe that colour lays the foundation for the overall scheme and effects the way we feel. It is certainly the easiest way to lift a tired room and the most inexpensive renovation."

Jacci Samios and Ockert Snyman from Jacket Interior say a couple of well integrated colours work together whereas bolts of unrelated colours just don't, and one has to consider a house as a whole and allow each room to breathe into the next.

"Not to say that you have to use the same colours throughout, but just integrate, allow hues to linger from one room to the next through smaller pieces."

There seems to be a strong move toward all-white interiors, but as beautiful as pristine snow white linens and walls are, the maintenance involved creates far more