


testpots



^ green at heart


Cleverly packaged, with names like I Triumph Over Grime & Evil and I'll Do Your Dirty Work, B_E_E household products are made from gorgeous blends of essential oils, plant-based ingredients and minerals. B_E_E products have an environmental conscience and aim to help create a safer, cleaner planet. Every ingredient in the B_E_E range has been rigorously tested and the range carries New Zealand Environmental Choice accreditation. For more information, visit www.bee.co.nz or email info@bee.net.nz.

Resene
Sublime 

v house-hunting helper


Can't decide which house to buy? Log on to www.housepoints.co.nz, complete the quick registration and start compiling your wish list. Free for homebuyers, Housepoints lets you rank and compare features of each house you visit. Just print off the convenient open-home evaluation sheet and use it to rate relevant features as you walk around an open home. When you get home, copy the scores into Housepoints and get a summary and overall rating for the house, based on your personal wish list.



Resene
Lime White 

beautiful bamboo >

If you're looking for a timber flooring option that's not only eco friendly, but also extremely durable and great looking, bamboo fits the bill perfectly. This hardwood timber comes from self-regenerating plantations that are ready for harvest in just five years. Unlike other timbers that are becoming seriously depleted, bamboo will re-grow to full maturity from the same root system once harvested. Affordability and ease of installation are other key benefits of bamboo flooring, and its low moisture content means there's less movement than other hardwood timbers. To find out more visit www.linellimports.com.

Resene
Starbell 



jungle hour >

One of the most celebrated 'naïve' painters, Henri Rousseau is best known for his jungle scenes inspired by illustrated books and trips to the Paris botanical gardens. His work reveals a refreshing vision and attention to detail, with the inventive use of colour a hallmark of his unique style.

This use of colour was the inspiration behind Cavalier Bremworth's new carpet. Called Rousseau, it features diverse colourways, including an earthy range, as well as red, blue and green tones. A 100% pure wool, hard-twist cut pile, it's ideal for stairs and heavy-traffic areas in the busiest homes. View the range at www.cavbrem.co.nz.



< must-have sofa

The 'Must' sofa from Longhi's Loveluxe collection isn't just comfortable; it makes an eye-catching living room centerpiece. Handcrafted in Italy and skillfully hand upholstered in leather or fabric, the Must sofa comes in a range of sizes and as a modular design for ultimate flexibility. Longhi furniture is imported from Italy exclusively by Ashton Grove. Visit www.ashtongrove.co.nz.



< earth first

A specialist in sustainable, designed flooring systems, InterfaceNZ has announced an environmental first in New Zealand. Its InterfaceFLOR carpet tiles are now climate-neutral, which means they have a net zero impact on the earth, taking into account greenhouse gas emissions over the carpet's entire lifecycle, raw material acquisition, manufacturing, transportation, use, maintenance and disposal. Produced in tiles, the carpets are 100% recyclable and worn sections can easily be replaced. They also have a 15-year guarantee and the lowest volatile organic compound emissions of any carpet in New Zealand.

v child's play

They say necessity is the mother of invention, and when Auckland interior designer Rachel McDermott couldn't find suitable bedroom furniture for her children's rooms, she created her own. Her Darcy and Rosa ranges are sturdy, colourful and full of character – just right for transforming an average kid's room into a special place. And now Rachel has added two new timber bed ranges: The Tyler stained shutter bed (pictured) and the classic Peyton bed with unique stain-and-paint finish. Phone The Junior Room Studio on 09 336 1157 for more details.



good grooming >

Of course, we all want to get the best price possible when we sell our house, and a little basic attention to a few key areas will give excellent financial returns. Here's a book that will help you do just that. Home Staging in New Zealand by Catherine Smith shows you how to groom your house for sale. It contains step-by-step checklists, practical tips and shortcuts if you're on a tight timeframe. Plus there are extensive notes on everything from de-cluttering spaces and cosmetic makeovers to staging the garden and making beds properly. Home Staging also offers a peek into the behind-the-scenes workings of real estate agents, marketers and home-grooming experts.

Published by Renaissance Publishing and available from all good book shops.



^ shine on

Drawing inspiration from ancient building materials, Rockcote Systems' new Milano range of interior finishes is designed and made in Italy, using premium Italian marble and lime. Hand-plastered interior finishes, such as this Milano MarbleStone fireplace in Resene Quarter Masala, feature a high polish and exceptional visual depth. A penetrating wax applied to the finish offers scuff and water resistance, and makes cleaning easy.

Call for 0800 50 70 40 or fill in the request form at www.rockcote.co.nz/milano to receive the latest Milano brochure and samples of the finishes.

Resene Epiphany 

v true sophisticate

Not only does it feature the latest technology, but Sharp's new Piano Finish Aquos LCD TV boasts a designer look, taking its inspiration from the shiny black keys of a grand piano. The super-fast pixel response time ensures brilliant picture quality and vibrant colours – even when viewed from extreme wide angles. The Piano Finish Aquos can easily connect to Xbox, Blu-ray and PS3 devices, and is compatible with a wide range of home theatre control systems, making it one of the most user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing LCDs on the market. Choose from three screen sizes from 32" to 42", wall- or stand-mounted. Available from Harvey Norman stores and other leading retailers nationwide.



Resene Cut Glass 



^ look up

Dress up a plain ceiling with a more modern, dramatic look. One of a range of new cornice profiles from Gib, GIB-Cove® Legato creates a streamlined ceiling effect that's perfect for contemporary homes and apartments. Its geometric lines and recessed shadows help visually enlarge a room and enhance a minimalist décor. GIB-Cove comes in 3.6m lengths, and is quick and simple to fix, and easy to paint. Learn more at www.gib.co.nz/accessories.

< water smart

If you're building or renovating your bathroom and want to combat the water price hikes, a smart-flushing, water-efficient loo might be just the thing. Designed to help reduce water use in drought-stricken Australia, Caroma's Smartflush toilet suites use just 4.5 litres of water for a full flush versus the old-style single-flush cisterns at around 11 litres, while most existing dual-flush toilets use at least 6 litres. That could save the average household around 35,000 litres of water a year. For more details, visit www.smartflush.com.au.



we hope our
passion for Nature
brings you pleasure



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skills of local craftsman, the beauty of natural
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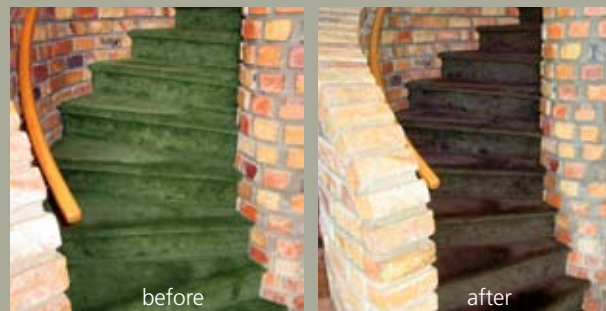
take your cue >

The decorating cues for 2008 can be seen in the new Resene The Range 2008 palette. It features a heady blend of colour options inspired by elements of fashion, nature, the economy and global events. Among them, a host of warm earth tones is joined by rich burgundies and browns, honey yellows and citrus greens, all lightly cooled with contemporised blues and greens.

See the brochure Paint colour cues for 2008 brochure for more detail or visit www.resene.co.nz or www.resene.com.au. The Range 2008 is available from Resene ColorShops and Resellers nationwide. The Range hues are also available in your favourite colour tools, including A4 drawdowns, self-adhesives and testpots, and colour pencil and RGB formulations are available online.

v dye job

Stained carpet in an outdated shade ruins your whole décor, so most of us resort to ripping it up and replacing it. However, recycling your existing carpet is a cheaper, more sustainable option. Carpet waste in landfills can take around 250,000 years to completely break down, and reusing your existing carpet can save you up to 80% of full replacement costs. Carpet Colourists clean, sanitise and recolour faded, discoloured or marked carpet, using non-toxic natural vegetable-based dyes – and you can choose your shade from any Resene colour chart. For a free quote call 0800 732 6568 or visit www.carpetcolourists.co.nz.





^ sleep tight

When you consider that we spend a third of our lives asleep, what we're actually sleeping on becomes pretty important. The new Twilight Collection from DreamMaker™ includes a selection of pillows, duvets and underblankets made from TENCEL®. This 100% biodegradable material, comprised of entirely natural raw fibres, has a luxurious silky feel and lets you enjoy a comfortable, uninterrupted night's sleep by drawing away water vapour and helping regulate body temperature. Visit www.autex.co.nz/dreammaker/ for a list of stockists.

Resene
Wot Eva 



^ design your future

If you enjoy *Habitat*, you're probably passionate about interior design. Here's the chance to acquire specialised knowledge and career-oriented skills. The Interior Design Institute is offering New Zealand's first and only online course in interior design. Based on a successful international programme, it's been specifically tailored to the New Zealand design industry, featuring 12 modules and interactive online assignments. Enjoy the flexibility of being able to study in your own time, with assessment and feedback from your personal professional tutor. For details, email info@idinz.co.nz or visit www.idinz.co.nz.

testpots



^ on the edge

Gardens sprawling into lawn areas look untidy and badly maintained. But here's an attractive and easy way to solve the problem. The Snap-it landscape edge and border system is an edging mould that guides concrete and mortar to create an attractive solid border around gardens and plantings. The four-step place-and-pour system allows for bends, curves, straights and corners to be built into the edging design. And the finished edging can even be roller stamped to replicate bricks prior to staining with Snap-it Exterior Concrete Stain, which is produced by Resene in a choice of four shades.

Available from Bunnings or see www.snap-it.co.nz for stockists.

Resene Triple White Pointer 

highly recommended >

The new Resene Recommended Paint Systems brochure includes easy-to-follow surface preparation information combined with useful tables explaining what paint systems to use where and the appropriate accessories to get a professional finish. From hallways and bedrooms to decks and roofs, this brochure has residential painting covered.

Available from Resene ColorShops or the Resene website, it's a great place to start when you're looking for the right paint for your decorating project.



Resene Whizz Bang 

v soft metals

Complement your stainless or metallic appliances with these Graphite Cortica Cork Tiles from Cork Concepts. They are manufactured with an infusion of Resene Blast Grey 2 from the Resene Metallics and special effects range. While giving your floor a metallic look, the cork provides a warm, comfortable surface. And, if you drop a plate on this floor, there's a good chance it will survive the fall. See www.corkconcepts.com for details.



v to the last drop

A new water-saving concept is taking off with environmentally conscious New Zealanders. New Water's Rain Reviva bladder tanks are flexible enough to fit under a house or deck, and can capture water from the entire surface area of the roof, collecting up to 300 per cent more water than a standard tank system. This innovative Australian product lets you harness rainwater to use for activities such as washing the car, watering the garden, flushing the toilet or operating the washing machine. The Rain Reviva system diverts the rainwater from each downpipe into the bladders, where a pump system allows it to be reticulated to a range of devices such as the garden hose, sprinkler systems, and the dishwasher. For more information, call 0800 4 NEWWATER or visit www.newwater.co.nz.





^ bathroom beautiful

Athena's latest bathroomware brochure is out and it highlights a selection of exciting new and updated products. Among these (pictured) are the new Soul freestanding bath, with its classic lines and centrally located waste; the contemporary Wave N Shape vanity in dark oak, from the ever-popular Wave Range of vanities; and the Allora round shower, which features a moulded one-piece curved wall lining with an in-built storage recess and chrome flannel rail. Visit www.athena.co.nz for details.



^ breath of fresh air

Paint fumes can cause dizziness, headaches, nausea, respiratory complaints and allergic reactions, and are particularly bad for children. Today just 8% of the decorative paint sold by Resene is solventborne, compared to 20% for other major paint companies. Environmental Choice-approved Resene waterborne products, such as Resene Enamacryl, Resene Lustacryl and Resene SpaceCote waterborne enamels, have replaced solventborne paints.

To celebrate 10 years of Resene Zylone Sheen being an Environmental Choice-approved finish, Resene has developed Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free. It combines the popular low sheen of Resene Zylone Sheen without the unwanted organic compounds (VOCs).

See Make a Sustainable Choice brochure for information about Resene's fresh-thinking focus and its commitment to minimise the environmental effects of decorating.