



Resene Paints Limited

# Architects Memo

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## COLOURED UNDERCOATS

THEY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Enamel work in New Zealand is well established, both interior and exterior, as a three coat system comprising primer, undercoat and top-coat. Each of these coats has a specific function which probably bears restating.

The primer's job is to be able to get into an intimate contact with the substrate, adhere tenaciously to it, and prevent degradation to that substrate. The job of the undercoat is to stick to the primer, fill minor surface defects, provide film build and hiding, and leave a smooth, non-porous surface for the top-coat. The top-coat provides the gloss, the colour, and the durability.

If the top-coat is based on high-hiding pigments such as iron oxides, or shaded whites they will generally have sufficient hiding power to completely obliterate the undercoat if evenly applied. Even with high-hiding top-coats however imperfect application can allow undercoats to 'grin through' in brush marks, and sharp edges. This problem is greatly enhanced if the top-coat pigmentation is not of the high-hiding type. Many of the bright, accent colours in vogue today have in fact got relatively poor hiding power and total obliteration of the undercoat may require two or more coats.

The obvious answer to this problem is to supply undercoats to the same colour as the top-coat so that it plays its full part in the hiding of the system. Resene Paints Ltd, have in fact provided such a service for the past ten years. These years of experience have shown that the use of coloured undercoats gives a depth of colour to the surface unable to be equalled by the painter's traditional method of tinting standard white undercoats. Depth of colour can simply not be achieved in that way.

Although the coloured undercoat system was primarily designed for the lower-hiding top-coats it has also proved valuable across the board due to the fact that thin areas of top-coat, as described earlier will not show undercoat 'grinning through'.

Resene Supergloss Enamel Undercoat can be specified in all the BSS 5252 and 101 colours as well as Resene 'House' colours and can be obtained at all Resene Colour shops and stockists.

If you would like any further information about this or any previous architects memos, please call our Technical Services Officer, Mr Orton Moon at Wellington 684-319 Ex. 86.

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