

two's company

Vic Bibby, one half of the powerhouse design duo behind Bibby + Brady, lets us in on where she finds inspiration and her current favourite Resene colours.

How did you two meet and what led you to start your interior design business together?

My background is actually in graphic design and Dael worked in event management in the UK before studying interior design. I had been running an interior design blog when Dael and I met through our children, who were in the same class at school. Dael had finished her studies and knew I was passionate about interior design, so she asked me out for coffee and suggested we start a business together. And that was that! Nearly eight years on, we have built a great little business and a portfolio we're proud of.

Where does your design aesthetic stem from, and do you feel like you and Dael share the same design aesthetic or do you differ on that front?

Our design aesthetic could be described as 'relaxed luxe'. We like to work with high quality furniture and homewares to produce rooms in line with our aesthetic, and to achieve a sustainable design. But we always want our rooms to be inviting, warm and liveable. Dael and I have a very similar aesthetic, but it's always great to bounce different ideas off one another.

Where do you find your inspiration?

I'm kind of obsessed with all things interior design and love to stay up to date with design mags, blogs and what other designers are doing – especially overseas. Dael and I both watch a lot of interior design and architecture based TV series. We also love to reflect the outdoors in our designs, so nature is a major source of inspiration, as are movie sets. And fashion is great for inspiring colour and pattern combinations.

What are your favourite types of projects to work on?

We love boutique commercial projects, like restaurants and cafes, and we'd love to get our hands on a boutique hotel design project. The majority of our work is in residential design and our favourite projects are those where the client really buys into the process and trusts us to do our job without second guessing our choices. We sometimes push our clients outside of their comfort zone, but it's often these decisions that they end up loving the most. Most of our projects are complete home designs, so we get to know the clients, their wants, needs and tastes really well, and they quickly learn to trust us.

What do you do if you feel stuck on a design project?

That's where it's great to have two of us. If I ever get stuck when I'm working on a design, I'll run it past Dael and she'll give me her ideas

Resene
ConchResene
XanaduResene
Blue NightResene
Eighth Blanc

and help get me back on track. I'll also visit a few of my favourite designers' websites to get a hit of inspiration.

You've recently started offering an online colour course. Who would benefit from taking it?

The addition of our online colour course this year is something we've been wanting to do for a while, and we're thrilled to be able to offer that to everyone who is interested. Colour is such an important part of our lives and all of our work, and 'which paint colour should I choose?' is the most common question. Our online course is designed to help the attendee create a colour palette that's perfect for their own home.

What do you love about Resene products?

We've been using Resene paints since we started our business, so we know them well and have created a large colour library of our favourite hues. Resene's staff are all amazing and so helpful, and they've made working with them a pleasure. We constantly order A4 drawdown paint swatches to build up our library and to provide to our clients; and Resene also have beautiful interior plaster finishes that are perfect for our commercial and high-end residential projects.

Which Resene colours are you currently crushing on?

This year we've seen a definite move towards really earthy, natural colours and shying away from cool greys. So we're loving warm whites like Resene Merino and Resene Eighth Blanc. Dusty pinks that are sophisticated and grown-up are still favourites. Resene Soothe is one we've used in recent projects. And we will always love greens and blues, the colours of New Zealand; Resene Blue Night is a gorgeous deep navy, Resene Xanadu is a beautiful mossy green, and if you're looking for a stunning grey blue with a warm influence, try Resene Conch. **H**

To see more of Vic and Dael's work and sign up for their new course, visit www.bibbyandbrady.co.nz.

image Florence Charvin