



ABOVE Bridget Foley loves the depth of Resene 'Bianca', her favourite white; she painted the bookcases in Resene 'Double Tuna'.

LEFT Bridget in her Wellington kitchen; the floors throughout were repainted white with Resene Lumbersider in Resene 'Bianca' - it gave the home an instant update, she says.

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The colour expert

Wellington interior designer Bridget Foley chooses timeless, classic colours

Wellington interior designer Bridget Foley trained at London's Inchbald School of Design and worked around the world designing five-star hotels and high-end homes. Now she runs her own business from her renovated Wellington villa, bridgetfoleydesign.com.

How do you pick the right white? It all depends on the light in the room and any surrounding colours. Resene 'Bianca' in all its strengths is my go-to. It's particularly good in a cooler room as it has a nice depth and warmth to it that does not look cold in the winter. Use Resene 'Bianca'

in half or quarter strength if you like less cream undertones. Resene 'Sea Fog' is another lovely white if you like a touch of grey. I love Resene 'Alabaster' for ceilings.

Do you use the same shade throughout a house? Yes, I like to use the same white throughout the house including the trim, architraves and cornices as it gives a more cohesive, modern look. Timber doors can look very busy and obtrusive, so I always paint them out.

In your own home you've painted the floor white. Has it been a success? I knew as soon as I moved into my villa, which had varnished timber floors, that I would paint the floors white. The house looked instantly updated and I didn't have to go through the cost and mess of sanding floors

to change the colour. I used Resene Lumbersider. They are a bit harder to keep clean but well worth it. I used to have dark stained floors in another house and they were just as hard, if not harder, to keep clean with children and pets.

What about darker hues? Greys and charcoals are favourites. For my children's bathroom I used Resene 'Tuna' and I used the same colour in my kitchen bookcases. I love dark bookcases - they make the spines of the books stand out. Another place that's fun to add colour is inside cupboards. I once used pink inside a teenager's wardrobe.

Top tip? Keep a note of all paint colours on your phone or computer. There is nothing worse than wanting to touch-up or repaint and not being able to remember the colours.