

welcome

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I know it's been said before, but one of the cheapest and easiest ways of changing the look of your home, is with paint. And now that we seem to be over the fixation with white-on-white interiors, introducing a bit of colour to your walls is not only a boost for your house, but for your jaded spirits in a time when the economy has stalled and gloom spreads its way across the front page of the newspapers.

Renovating is also a wise alternative to selling your home in this depressed property market – whether it's simply a change of wall colour and a new rug for winter, or grander schemes for additions or alterations to make sure your home continues to suit the needs of you and your family.

So take another look at the potential of your home, and gain some inspiration from the pages of this latest *Habitat* magazine. The ideas aren't just limited to superb use of colour and paint, nor just the walls. There's a funky coloured kitchen, repainted French-style furniture and also advice on how to create a cohesive interior.

Sharon Newey **editor**

Sharon

When times get tougher, it's a great time to think a little more laterally for cost-effective ways to improve our living spaces. Chances are, we are spending more time in them as we forego a meal out for entertaining in.

There's nothing quite like a good tidy up to instantly feel rejuvenated and you might just find those items that no longer have a home at your place can either earn you some money when you sell them (and perhaps fund some renovations or painting) or you can donate them to someone less fortunate, lift your spirits and improve both your living space and theirs at the same time.

One handy idea to help yourself feel warmer or cooler without having to turn on a heater or fan, is simply to put the right paint colour in the right place. You can make a room's temperature feel more comfortable with careful paint selections – warm colours like red or gold will warm up cool rooms, while cool colours like blue or green will make hot rooms feel cooler. It's often said that change is as good as a holiday, so if you're walking around your place this winter and find a room makes you feel chilly, grab yourself a paint chart and start selecting that warm colour. Enjoy!

The Resene Team

