

THE COLOUR EXPERTS

Resene Colour Expert Greer Clayton chose a palette of deep blues and greens that work with the coastal vibe of her home



THIS PAGE (clockwise from top left) Greer Clayton and Pepper. The master bedroom is painted in Resene 'Mine Shaft', which contrasts beautifully with the white trim and louvres. Leroy the family cat. OPPOSITE Resene 'Wishlist' complements Resene 'Quarter Delta' (right wall) in the spare bedroom: "The colours remind me of the ocean and link with the rest of the house."

The whole thing about colour, says Greer Clayton, is to be brave and her Devonport, Auckland villa epitomises her approach. "I naturally gravitate towards a certain palette, but if you're nervous or unsure about strong colours, introduce them as accents. Remember it's a painted wall and you can just change it out if you don't like it. Start with a neutral background and add a pop of colour – even one painted vase or cabinet – to create fun and interest."

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE RESENE 'MINE SHAFT' AND RESENE 'WISHLIST' FOR WALL COLOURS?

My views are of water, coastal greens, sky and light on the sea. I wanted a coastal vibe, so I chose a palette of blues and greens that drifts right through the house, sometimes in blocks of colour, sometimes as accents, but always subtly linking the spaces.

WHEN DO YOU USE DECORATIVE EFFECTS AND WHEN ARE BLOCKS OF COLOUR BETTER?

Decorative effects upstairs in the kids' zone add fun, while blocks of colour can create a more formal look. They can be practical too; stencils and frescoes are great for covering a rough wall. They distract the eye from imperfections, particularly if you go matt rather than glossy. And the geometric pattern in our son Rafferty's room disguises the angles in the ceiling.

HOW MANY DIFFERENT COLOURS SHOULD BE IN A ROOM?

There's an interesting theory that 60 per cent of the room should be in the main shade, 30 per cent in a complementary colour – for curtains and other bigger blocks – and another 10 per cent will be zingy pops of colour or accents through lamps, furniture, cushions and so on. It's a good formula.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE ON STEPPING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE?

Think about colours you like or don't like; whether you prefer warm or cool colours. Maybe begin in the kids' rooms or use small amounts. There's nothing to lose and you don't have to commit the whole house.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

My surroundings and other artists. I love the work of Abigail Ahern, the English designer; she uses deep, dark colours and is very brave with them. My colours have darkened as I have gone along and I find it interesting how dark or light backgrounds affect art differently.

