

# A bright future

Home owners are decorating their dwellings in ways that are more sustainable – and highly personalised – than ever before, writes **Tanya Ryan-Segger**

RECENT economic uncertainties have affected the way people decorate but it's not bad news for home owners.

In fact, celebrity interior designer Shaynna Blaze says design trends are anything but depressing.

Blaze, a co-presenter of Lifestyle's *Selling Houses Australia*, says tough times have made people look inside the home to help them feel more secure and comfortable.

As a consequence, bold colours and textures, interesting prints and bespoke furnishings and finishes are making a comeback.

"So you'll actually notice a lot of vibrancy, a lot of texture, a lot of passion rather than just sticking with the classics," Blaze says.

But anyone hoping to return to mismatched prints and wild colour palettes favoured – in varying degrees – during the 1960s, '70s and '80s may be disappointed.

Blaze says people have learnt from past design mistakes, so rather than go over-the-top on prints and colours, the fashion now is in unique pieces and strategic splashes of colour.

"You can have these beautiful individual sorts of colours in your hardware, such as bench surfaces and kitchen doors... and get away by restraining in other areas," she says.

Popular interior colour choices of

## Shaynna's expert design tips

- ▶ An eclectic look need not be applied throughout a house. Choose a few rooms and do it well.
- ▶ Don't give up if you can't source an item locally – call the supplier direct and find out if they have a distributor in Australia.
- ▶ Soft furnishings are a good way to achieve a luxe feel. Colours from prints can be paired back with curtains, rugs and cushions to complete the look.
- ▶ A sustainable interior can be expressed by buying quality pieces that will last for the long term.
- ▶ Don't be afraid to personalise your home with quirky touches and things you love.

the moment include burnt oranges and yellows, grey hues and brighter tones such as turquoise.

Confident, bespoke elements, such as hand-beaten tiles or brightly coloured vanity units, may appeal but creating a unique,

eclectic look requires commitment. "[Bespoke style] can take a long time and a lot of heartache," Blaze says.

And, along with the economy, the move towards sustainable products is also influencing the choices people make in home decor.

Various sorts of sustainable timber, from light-blonde shades to deep reds, are increasingly being used throughout the home. Greener attitudes to furniture are also more common as demand for items that will last, rather than need replacing within five years, increases.

"It's not cheap, it's not budget, but you get a quality finish you get something that's going to last," Blaze says.

"I call that sustainability because we are not creating landfill."

But, more than any other trend, what has the interior-design specialist most excited is the way more people are being true to themselves in home decor.

"We are now allowed to express who we are and it's okay to have odd quirky bits and pieces," Blaze says. "I think it's amazing, I really do."

Shaynna Blaze will be on hand at *Grand Designs Australia Live* to offer expert advice on designing a home to live in, or sell, on Friday, October 21 at 3pm.



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Positive... Shaynna Blaze is thrilled with current interior design trends.