



www.ConnieCharltonDesign.co.nz

Making your home work for you...

beautifully

Welcome...

As part of my
**20 year
celebrations**

I am supporting the
**Nelson Tasman Cycle
Trails Trust.**



I love getting out on my bike and riding round the district, sampling great coffee and food along the way.

And I meet quite a few of my clients doing the same!

So I thought this was a fitting way to give something back to the community.



See you on The Trail!

... to 2016

my **20th year of
designing kitchens!!**

Well they do say time flies when you are having fun! And I have certainly seen awesome transformations and new homes, worked with delightful people and travelled to places I wouldn't have otherwise. I still get a kick out of being able to come up with a solution for my clients.

Looking back I realise a large proportion of my designs have been for very challenging kitchens and to a lesser extent, bathrooms. Those rooms and spaces that the clients have been struggling over for years and haven't found a way forward or made any decisions. It's these spaces that I really enjoy as they require something different.

Fortunately there are usually the products or technology to help transform ideas into reality. Sometimes there aren't but you can bet they're in the pipeline somewhere!

My plan for this year is the same as others: to keep up to date with all that is new so I can give the best to my clients. I'm updating part of my showroom to incorporate some new drawer runners and materials.

I'll be using social media as an advertising tool as I have so many lovely kitchens and bathrooms and design stories to share. www.facebook.com/ConnieCharltonDesign/ will take you there so please like, comment and/or share to your hearts content.

I hope your plans for 2016 are shaping up well and you enjoy a year of good health and many happy times with friends and family.

Best wishes,

Connie



Across my desk

With the increased demand for handle-less drawers that are easy to open and well as soft close, several manufacturers now offer non-electric solutions. The new runners are much thinner than previous models and therefore offer more storage space.

My preferred brand is **blum** and their **Legrabox** runners come in a choice of three matt colours (silk white, Orion grey and terra black), several heights and lengths offering great flexibility for design.

They also have a new system of dividers that use magnets to hold them in place. You can arrange one or two to suit similar or very different shaped items. Ideal!



You may have remembered a few newsletters ago when I wrote about Vitroglaze: a product applied to glass and tiles to keep them easy to clean and looking like new. However, this can only be used on new or relatively unstained glass.

Well now there is a product to clean stained glass - be it on a shower, boat or balustrade.



The Water Stain Doctor can also restore stainless steel, and metal fittings and taps without scratching or damage. It is non-toxic, non corrosive, has no phosphates, no acids or solvents, is non-flammable and septic tank safe!

For more information and a quote phone John 0276885353 or info@wsdnelson.co.nz

USING COLOUR TO ADVANTAGE

There comes a time when the current colour scheme just has to go! That completely white/timber/black kitchen or other room just doesn't do it for you any more! But making the change can be a challenge. Here are the common issues my clients often raise and how I deal with them.

I don't want it like every other kitchen at the moment. I prefer it to be different, unique to me. But how do I start?

I begin by eliminating the colours you just cannot bear to live with. Then I highlight the colours you really like and prefer. The last selection is colours you are willing to consider.

Then I follow the 60:30:10 "rule". 60% of the main colour or hue will provide unity to the whole colour scheme; 30% of a second colour will add the interest and 10% of a third colour will add the sparkle.



Getting to know the colour wheel and understanding how to use it can help.



Try out colour combinations and see what the effect they have. You might notice, for example, that putting two colours together that are opposite each other on the colour wheel (eg red and green) appear very vibrant.



They are complementary colours.

Two colours closer together on the colour wheel (eg red and orange) are more harmonious and called analogous.



Choose colours according to the mood you want to achieve. Lighting also plays an important role.

Note that the main colour can use tints (white added), shades (black added), tones (grey added), or all three, of the same hue.

I really do want an all white kitchen though, so how do I make it interesting?

The key to any monochromatic colour scheme is to add texture. Mix reflective gloss surfaces with textured patterned ones. These will create interest by reflecting the light differently. You could add splashes of one colour, bright or more muted.



The same applies to an all timber kitchen.

Sometimes you want the kitchen or bathroom to blend in so the view or architecture becomes the feature. Monochromatic kitchens are ideal for this, in which case you can keep additional colours to a minimum.

Visit my website or like my facebook page for other colour solutions.

Not For Re-Sale

Doing up a kitchen for re-sale?

Many people worry more about the colour scheme of their new kitchen if they are planning to sell the house soon after.

Will a unique colour scheme put buyers off? Should I choose the latest trend to make a quick sale?

My advice is to be guided by the style of the house. Will the latest colours and patterns suit the architecture of the house? Or would more classic colours and design suit better? Perhaps it could take the latest retro look?

Don't worry about the uniqueness of the colour scheme. If it is well done and fits comfortably within the house

then there will be buyers out there who love it just as much as you do.

If you're not planning to sell immediately, can you live with the colours in the meantime?

Resene have a series of *habitat plus* booklets packed with inspiration; from knowing your style to interior and exterior colour schemes and colour connection - an exploration of the use, influence and trends of individual hues.

It may be worth considering just freshening a space (cleaning walls and ceilings, vacuuming the curtains, cleaning carpet), de-cluttering and leaving the new owners to make their own stamp on it.

Advice?

When friends and family hear that you are renovating your kitchen /bathroom/house they can be very quick and keen to offer their opinion, solicited or not!

This information can be quite strongly stated and may sound like expert advice thus creating doubt about the decisions you have carefully thought through.

I suggest listening to the ideas but consider, at a later date, if they fit with your overall brief and vision for the project. Then act accordingly. Avoid last minute snap decisions as the impact can be far reaching and not immediately apparent.

If still in doubt give me a call!



p 03 547 5331
c 027 297 6147
e connie@conniecharltondesign.co.nz
www.ConnieCharltonDesign.co.nz



You are receiving this newsletter because you are a client of Connie Charlton Design or we have exchanged business cards and we want to keep you up to date with some really cool things. If you no longer wish to receive a newsletter or change to email version, simply call or email Connie. If you no longer wish receiving