



Connie Charlton Design Ltd



Welcome Back !



If you or someone you know would like a talented, experienced designer to work wonders with their new kitchen, bathroom or laundry please call me for a chat on 0272976147 or 5475331.

Or email to Connie @conniecharltondesign.co.nz

If you or someone you know would like to design their own kitchen tell them about the course I am running at Nayland College next term.

Tuesdays 7 - 9pm for 8 weeks starting 6th August. To enroll visit www.comed.nayland.school.nz



Hello again. I hope life has been treating you kindly and you are keeping well and warm this winter.

It's been a while since my last newsletter and much has happened in that time.

My first sidestep was into education on a national level for NKBA (National Kitchen and Bathroom Association) and JITO (Joinery Industry Training Organisation).

For 18 months I was the education co-coordinator coordinating the development of kitchen and bathroom design qualifications for the NZQA framework, marketing and teaching courses as well as writing manuals and assessments and then assessing the students work.

As you can imagine it involved learning a whole new language! But I enjoyed it, especially working with students from many walks of life and mentoring them through to success.

As with any profession it is important to keep up to date.

For a designer to advise clients they must have a sound grasp of the latest trends, understand the products they recommend and their suitability for a specific project.

So last month I enjoyed a couple of days in Auckland at **BuildNZ/DesignEx** catching

My next sidestep was into the role of caregiver for my elderly father. I now have greater appreciation for the work care givers do!

After living with us for a year he moved into a rest home in his old stamping ground of Golden Bay. He has settled in well and on a recent visit we celebrated his 93rd birthday with him.

And just for something completely different I took up painting. I am learning so much and thoroughly enjoying it. I am currently attending a life drawing class at NMIT, (which is rather challenging for someone who has been avoiding drawing people!).

My last sidesteps have taken me full circle! As I love design challenges and had been missing working with more clients I decided to build up my business again. But I felt it was time for a change. So I now have a new logo and a new website.

You can see some of my design work as well as my art at www.conniecharltondesign.co.nz

I am also back tutoring kitchen and bathroom design! This time with a completely new approach and new format as night classes at Nayland College.



I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know new clients, overcoming the challenges and creating the best kitchen or bathroom design just for them. I don't know why I waited so long!

Best wishes,

Keeping up to date

up with familiar faces, making new contacts and learning, learning, learning!

Some of the **highlights** include

- new colours, finishes and styles of **Dezignatek doors**. These hard wearing PVC thermo wrapped doors are now available in gloss on doors with 3mm radius corners.

- **F & P's new roomier 60cm oven**. Same exterior size but with more usable height inside

- **Hansgrohe's wallbar** - a slide shower but without the protruding rail. Also their new **mixer with integrated shelf**

- Just landed - stunning patterned **floor and wall tiles** in pastel shades and coordinating sizes - more in the next issue.



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Connie Charlton
Design

Making your home work for
you... beautifully

www.conniecharltondesign.co.nz

Showroom visits

I had the pleasure of travelling to Auckland with Karen Grover, salesperson at Plumbing World. Karen organized a tour of the Clearlite/Athena factory and showroom (54-58 Hillside Rd Glenfield) so we could see their large selection of vanities, baths and showers and watch some being made. It was fascinating to see large sheets of 4mm acrylic being heated until soft, then blown up like a balloon and pressed into shape.

I also enjoyed hearing about the attention to quality control and the company's willingness to listen to customer feedback.

Clearlite bought Athena in 2006 and since then they have been refining and differentiating their product ranges. Both brands have the ability to mix and match tops and cabinets with a choice of different finishes and handles. Their websites (www.athena.co.nz, www.clearlite.co.nz) will guide you through the options.



Karen and I were also given a guided tour around the Metrix showroom in 155 The Strand, Parnell. My immediate impression was one of variety especially in basins. All manner of materials, shapes and colours were there from vitreous china (white and black), glass, timber, stone and composite material. I was pleasantly surprised by the array of round shapes given the square angular trends at the moment.



Visit www.metrix.co.nz for inspiration. Prices are correspondingly distinctive!

More baths are free standing and have definitely reduced in price. The selection of tapware is impressive but being mostly of European origin it requires equal high water pressure.



Like it or not facebook is playing an increasingly important role in how businesses keep in touch with their clients.

I recently attended a business meeting that explained how Google have altered their search criteria. To rank near the top of any search the savvy business has links to at least one social media network.

So I now have a business facebook page which I invite you to visit and like!

To do this you first must have a facebook account. They are relatively easy to set up and can be kept very simple.



Once you are on your facebook page simply enter Connie Charlton Design in the quick search box at the top.

Our page shows more images of my design work, you can leave comments about your dealings with us, give feedback about one of my courses you have been on or ask us a question.

You also have the opportunity to like the facebook page or any of the individual images. Just click on the like icon(s). Your click will be added to our tally of likes and you will see a note appear on your facebook page to say you like us.



Every so often I will add some information to the page and an email will automatically appear in your inbox telling you I have done so.

I hope it will provide a useful tool for feedback and discussions around kitchen and bathroom design, products and installation for clients and suppliers alike.

Don't worry I won't bombard you with constant posts. Any easy way to deal with facebook emails is to direct them automatically to a separate email folder so you can deal with them when it suits.

Lets keep in touch.

Cleaning

I don't like cleaning but it has to be done! So I'm always on the look out for things to make it easier and/or more efficient.

Over the years I have tried many different sprays and cloths.

Well, I have found the solution!

Enjo cloths have special fibres that use water as their cleaning agent. This means no cleaning chemicals, odour or residue build up. Just clean, hygienic surfaces all round your home.



For best results

- rinse your cloth frequently in clean water especially for windows or glassware
- dry off using an enjo drying cloth especially if you have hard water.

For more information and a demonstration contact

Dianne Tillier 03 544 8146.

Enjoy cleaning with ENJO!

