



Connie Charlton Design Ltd

**Easter
2014**

Happy Easter!

Events

- **Kitchen Design Course** at Nayland College.

13 May – 3 June

7.00 – 9.00pm

- **Bathroom Design Course**

at Nayland College.

4 week evening class

Now **TERM 3**

Visit <http://communityeducation.nayland.school.nz/courses.asp>

Welcome Mid Autumn!

Autumn – the time of rich colours, field mushrooms and no sea breezes! According to one friend it's also the time to do spring cleaning! On still sunny days she opens up her house to let the sun stream into the farthest corners. On endless misty days she sorts the contents. That means in spring she can spend more time in the garden and preparing for Christmas and holidays. What a great idea. If only I was that organized!



But I feel truly blessed in another way. I am fortunate to have both sides of my brain well developed. And it is especially important in my work. My logical, analytical and objective left brain helps with the problem solving and mathematical aspects of my designs. The intuitive, thoughtful and subjective right side of my brain deals with colour and creativity.

I aim to design the best possible result for my clients and sometimes the projects they present are quite challenging. I try to get as much information about the people and how they want to use the new space as I do about the physical details of the project. Some of you know how many questions I ask! If the solutions aren't immediately forthcoming I use my subconscious in the mix as well. I let all the information sit for a couple of days and sure enough, answers pop into my head. Often it's in the shower where I can quickly sketch it out!

Lately much of my work has centered on small bathrooms and believe me, they can be just as challenging as large bathrooms. But no project is too small (or too large for that matter).

I wish you very pleasant Easter. And not too much Spring Cleaning!



Connie

A Hint of Luxury

Are you renovating your kitchen or bathroom or tiling your pool? Why not add a hint of luxury with some mosaics? Bisazza has created a range of glass mosaic tiles specifically for the NZ market. There is a wide selection of colours and finishes as well as price brackets. New formulation of epoxy grout removes the unsightly mould issues of the past.

Visit Nelson Tile and Slate at the top end of Rutherford Street.

Across my desk

Sometimes there just isn't enough bench space at the sink. And it can be frustrating.

Well, **Franke** have come up with a unique and versatile removable surface to put over your sink to increase the landing space and improve the functionality at the sink.

The **Rollamat** is made of quality stainless steel rods separated and supported by a silicon band. So it is easy to clean and can be simply rolled up and stored away.



The Rollamat can be used in a variety of ways. Put it across your entire sink and use it as a surface for your chopping board. Place it over part of the sink, put your chopping board on it and scrape any peelings and waste through the gap directly into the sink or container below. Or it can simply be used as a pot rest to protect the surface of your bench or table. It also makes an ideal draining surface for items such as glasses which can be unstable on a ridged drainer.

The Rollamat is available in several sizes so remember to measure your sink before you check them out at Kitchen Things, Nelson.



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Connie Charlton
Design

Making your home work for
you... beautifully

www.conniecharltondesign.co.nz

Design

A common buzz word in the construction industry at the moment is **sustainable design**. So what does this mean and how does it relate to the designs I create?

Sustainable can mean two things—able to be maintained and maintaining ecological balance. I endeavour to consider both aspects in the design process as I think they are closely interlinked.

For me the overarching requirement of sustainable design is good design. (refer Summer 2014 newsletter on our website). If a space and it's contents (cabinets/furniture) are well laid out with thought given to traffic flow, work flow and ergonomics it will work efficiently and less damage is likely to occur. Irrespective of the materials used, a poorly laid out kitchen will wear more than one that is well laid out and easy to use. Add appropriate and sufficient lighting to the well designed space and you increase the ability to maintain it. So good design is easier to maintain, lasts longer and is sustainable

because it doesn't need replacing as often.

I frequently have clients requesting a specific look or "not the latest trend". And while I design specifically for a each client I also take a longer term view. For every project I ask myself — would this appeal to other people? A space that sits comfortably within the house is more likely to appeal to others and not date as quickly.

The second aspect of sustainable design refers to the products I recommend. Working with clients I prefer to recommend products that use less energy and resources, such as water. And if I have reliable information I prefer those that use materials and energy wisely during manufacture. It's a combination of lifecycle cost and environmental cost. There might be a cheaper product available but will it look as good, last as long and leave behind fewer environmental problems?

It's all about enjoying the space long term.

That dripping shower!

You've just got out of the shower after taking care to wipe it dry and you hear ... drip, drip, drip! Grrrr! Why does it do that?!

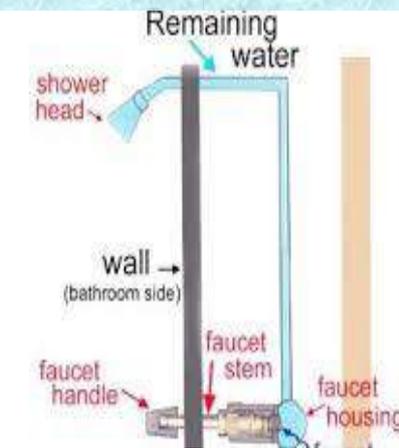


Water is amazing. It is capable of rising to great heights or into porous material unaided and has high surface tension.

These properties are useful when you water your tall trees, mop up a spill with paper towels or carry a very full cup of coffee to the table.

But they are also partly why the shower head keeps dripping a little. Continuous dripping is another issue all together!

When the shower is turned off there is no more pressure to force the water out and some is left in the pipe and shower head. The water is held there by surface tension at each nozzle. Eventually that surface tension is broken down either by vibration, by evaporating or the water contracting



as it cools. Once air is admitted at one nozzle, water is released out the others. The time it takes to release depends on the temperature of the water and air, the amount of calcium build up in the nozzles and even the atmospheric pressure.

So what can you do? Nothing to prevent it.

If you have developed a reliable way of releasing the residual water straight away please let me know so I can pass it on.

Steaming

With winter on it's way and temperatures dropping it's time to think about keeping mould out of your bathroom. If you cannot easily vent your bathroom with an extractor fan or prefer not to leave a window open then a **shower dome** might be a solution.

Shower domes work by keeping the steam within the shower enclosure. As you shower you become enveloped in a blanket of light warm steam.



The steam cools slightly at the top and then naturally circulates down.

We have one and it's lovely, especially on a cold winter morning.

They are quite unobtrusive and can be fitted to frameless and framed showers. Easy to clean too. But you still have to remove residual water from the shower afterwards.

Nelson contacts: John or Yvonne
Installation Solutions Ltd
0800 484 876

