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Making your home work for you...

beautifully

Seasons Greetings

Designing Remotely

This year I have designed

- Concepts for a large kitchen renovation in **Invercargill**
- a kitchen, bathroom and laundry for an existing apartment in **Auckland**
- a kitchen for the renovation of an apartment in **Manly, Sydney.**

If you have friends or family living away from Nelson then I may be able to help! Please pass on my contact details.

Welcome to summer and 2015

This is an exciting time! Not because Christmas and New Year are imminent but because several of my renovations and new builds are having the finishing touches added as I write. To see the real form, colours and textures of the design I had in my mind gives me a real buzz. And to see how my client and family enjoy working in it is great.

I am very fortunate to have such a diverse range of styles to work with. Recent kitchens include modern timber, classic timber, minimalist and a new contemporary home with reference to retro. They also cover a full range of materials and colours. You could never say I am stuck in a design rut!

When the clients are happy for me to photograph their new spaces I will put the images up on my website. So check it out in late February.

Someone asked me the other day how long I have been designing kitchens. Hard to believe its just over 18 years with well over 16 as an independent designer. I began designing bathrooms about 3 years later.

So I have seen many style and colour trends come and go! What fascinates me is how manufacturers keep coming up with new products and materials. Not necessarily just because they can or to create a new trend but to provide a solution to a challenges raised by designers and customers. I have featured some in this edition.

It's all about providing the best for customers.

Best wishes for good health and happy times in 2015.

Connie



Across my desk

On January 1st 2015 the Building Amendment Act 2013 takes effect. The changes are designed to improve the performance of the building industry and enhance consumer rights.

For residential work over \$30,000 (incl gst) there must be a written contract and builders must provide clients with a prescribed checklist and disclose certain information before entering into a contract. Certain post completion information must also be provided.

There are specific requirements for minimum content in a contract relating to

- who is responsible for obtaining any consent(s)
- how variations to the contract will be agreed
- the payment process, including dates, or stages for payment and how payments

- will be invoiced, made and receipted
- who will carry out or supervise the work
- the dispute resolution process to be followed
- how notices will be communicated.

In the event of no contract or one with inadequate detail, default clauses (strongly favouring the client) automatically apply. Convictions and fines are possible for non-compliance.

The checklist and disclosure statements are available from www.dbh.govt.nz/building-amendment-act-2013.

To aid with the post-completion paperwork BRANZ have a detailed new web based maintenance schedule for the builder.

Visit www.maintenanceschedule.co.nz.

Professional builders will be well prepared.

News

For those of you wishing to attend one of my design classes, Nayland College has just announced they will no longer be offering Adult Education courses next year.

Please, let there be light!

As we age lighting becomes more critical. When I was a teenager I remember my mother saying she couldn't sew dark items at night any more. But I just couldn't comprehend the situation. Now I do!! Apparently the average 50 year old needs twice as much light to see after dark as a 30 year old. People in their 60s need three times more ambient light for comfortable reading than those in their 20s.

It happens because the tiny muscles operating the iris lose strength as we age. The pupil isn't opened as widely or as quickly and less light reaches the retina. So things look a bit dim!

Here are some ways to increase lighting. You may already have a mix of incandescent, fluorescent and halogen lights in



your home. To help decipher which bulbs to keep and which to replace visit <http://www.energywise.govt.nz/tools/lighting>. Consumer NZ also have also compared various light bulbs. Or talk with an expert at a lighting showroom. Before you go, check the wattage of your

existing bulbs as well as the type and size of connector (bayonet or screw).

LEDs are generally the best option. Apart from the considerable energy savings, they have a long lifetime, require no maintenance, start instantly, operate with low running temperatures and emit no UV rays or infra-red rays. There are environmental benefits as well as LEDs contain no mercury.



Nelson's SWITCH LIGHTING produce LED replacements for halogen and compact fluorescent downlights. They estimate their LEDs will last up to 50,000 hours. ie An LED that is on for 5 hours per day lasts 27.4 years! Many are dimmable and some are able to be covered with insulation so even more energy saving. Visit www.switch-lighting.co.nz.

Another way to optimise lighting in a room is by utilising the three main functions of any lighting scheme.

General lighting allows you move about in the house on a dull day or at night. It provides adequate light to carry out general activities.



Consider the style of light fitting as one with several bulbs could give out more light than a single.

Task lighting is required to safely light an area to perform a specific task. Eg over a kitchen bench where vegetables are peeled and chopped or in the bathroom for shaving or when makeup is applied.

Emphasis lighting is used to draw attention to a feature such as a shape special material or an object.

Additional lights may be retro-fitted.



Lighting in one of my kitchens

General - wall lights, (also in pantry), plus central pendant

Task lighting - under ledge (also on the rangehood)

Emphasis - back lighting above ledge.

Need a new

Oven?

Samsung have developed the dual oven for those households that require a truly flexible cooking space. There are several models to choose from and they will fit in a tower situation or under the bench.



A special ceramic tray can be used to divide the cooking spaces into two. That means you can use either the top or the bottom smaller spaces or use them both at once with separate

temperature and time controls. Functions vary depending on models and may include conventional and fan cooking and grilling, half grill and a BBQ spit. Cleaning methods vary also and may be catalytic or pyrolytic.

Fridge?

Samsung have designed a refrigerator with a door in a door to give easy access to frequently used items. Search 'side by side RH57H90507F' on Samsung's NZ website.

It's a very smart looking unit with concealed handles and is designed to fit seamlessly into a kitchen within the benchtop depth. Adjustable shelves and deep veggie bins give generous easy accessible storage. The cool air is circulated around each shelf so everything keeps fresher longer. Both appliances at Kitchen Things in Nelson.

A glimpse

So what will appliance and materials be capable of in the future? Renee Hytry Derrington, Group Design Director for Laminates and Panels division of Fletcher Building, presents some ideas in this video clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTXfiwG8uMo>.

Other future capabilities include mobile phone chargers that are imbedded into surfaces. Imagine no more searching for the charger; just place it on the bench and its charged!

Very soon we will have fridges available that keep account of not only what is in your fridge but txts you when you are getting low or when items extend past their use by date. Appliances will also be able to show your favourite TV programme on an integrated concealed screen.

Coming soon to a store near you!



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