

Decorating Laura Phillips

PICTURES: ROBERT DUNGAN

Designers show their colours

Introducing new colours into your decor can be a daunting prospect so we asked five design professionals to share the colour schemes that are guaranteed to transform your home.



BLACK & WHITE

You can't go past the classic duo of black and white and for an high-impact look, try adding a warmer tone to the mix.

A monochromatic scheme teamed with a warm tone such as grey or beige creates a striking, sophisticated effect, says **Natalie Boyd**, Sutherland.

She suggests avoiding both the solid tones of black and white with a warm chocolate brown or deep grey for an exciting, wintry take on the combination. "You can then accentuate the look with luxurious furnishings and finishes. "This scheme looks great with dramatic silver mirrors, wallpaper as art and textured cushions," Ms Sutherland says.

TIP:

Don't be scared to paint with a deep colour, says Ms Sutherland. Used in a small space, dark hues can make a room appear larger and you can also choose to paint with a half or quarter-tint of your chosen shade. "Or you can always try it as a feature wall first," she says.

Nectar table light,

\$95, from

Frederick; vintage

cups and saucer set,

\$295, and Chandel

by **Denise Bell**,

Thomas & Hudson,

\$295, both from

Empire; **Norfolk**

colorado of

cushion, \$295,

from **Domus**; **Greenwich**

cushion by

Country Road,

\$95.



BURNT ORANGE & BROWN

"This is a great winter colour scheme," says Ms Sutherland.

Perfect for adding depth to dark rooms, the splashes of orange-red tones work well with muted browns and is particularly suited to lounge rooms or bedrooms.

For a touch of spice, Ms Sutherland suggests teaming the warmth of a brown base colour with accents of bold, earthy orange in scatter cushions, throw rugs, artwork, fabric, a vase of flowers or even as a feature area. "You can easily replace your accent colour each season to keep your colour scheme fresh and current," she said.

TIP:

Create a feature wall on the wall behind your bed to paint with a warm, chocolate shade (try **Stuffy**'s Thunderbolt) and look in spicy orange accents with a few bed cushions, suggests Ms Sutherland.

Blue bowl, \$45,

\$295, both from

vase by **Country**Road; **Norfolk**

orange, \$95 by

vintage ladder

Country Road,vase in **modern****Denise**; plain Ti-

berry, from Ti-

TIPS FOR CHOOSING
A COLOUR SCHEME:

ELISE BILANCIĆ: "Work with what you already have. Do not go for a colour copy of what you see in a magazine."

DENISE JOHNSON: "You should consider other elements such as flooring, furniture, kitchen benchtops, cushions and lighting when deciding on a colour scheme."

NATALIE BOYD: "It is important to have continuity throughout your home. Each room can have a different accent colour, yet still create a theme — try a base shade such as beige with accents of various hues such as blue, red, deep blue or purple."

ANDREA LICENA-ODD: "Many people act as colour advice from friends and family. Colour choice is personal and highly emotional. This decision should only be made by people living within the home."

LUCY SUTHERLAND: "You can easily replace your accent colour each season to keep your colour scheme fresh and current."

CHOCOLATE & LIME



You can get more style tips from **Natalie Boyd** of **Homebase Exports** six week interior design courses, with the next course starting on August 3.

For more information visit www.homebaseexports.com.au or phone **Homebase Exports** in **Selwyn** on 9388 1206.

Fresh shades of lime make the perfect partner for warm chocolate tones, says interior designer **Natalie Boyd**, of **Bella Life Style**.

"I love the chocolate tones and freshness of the lime together," she says. "The chocolate is warm and cosy, the lime with a bit of punch. The look is modern comfort."

She suggests accessorising with indoor plants and tactile textures such as fur and woven materials.

"All colour schemes require patterns, so include artwork, patterned fabric or a rug in your space," she says.

Colour consultant **Denise Johnson** favours timber as a simple way to add colour. "In a neutral area, add little accessories in vibrant colours with neutral, contemporary of bowls filled with lemons, limes, oranges or apples — all of the one type for impact," she says.

TIP:

Elise Bilančić, from the **International School of Colour and Design** in **Sydney**, says a rug is the easiest way to work in a bold hue without the risk of it being "too" heavy because the carpet is the design world," she says. "Gorgeous rugs really can make a statement and can easily be rolled up and taken away to update the room with a different colour palette."

Country cushion, \$24.95, from **Target**; **Feather cushion** in chocolate, \$29.95, from **Domus**; **St Albans** modern throw rug in machine, \$125; vintage glass tumbler, \$99.95; vase of acid bottle vase, \$29.95, and **Orbita** teapot holder, \$24.95, all from **Empire**; **Red Star** wrapping paper (used as table runner), \$4.95, from **Lotus Gifts and Memorabilia**.