

The Saturday
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RIGHT MOVES

Expert tips for
personalising
your new place

INTO THE FIX

Meet the couple who
can't stop renovating

Green light

Courtyard key to an
eco-friendly dream house

homesite.com.au **EVERYTHING FOR YOUR HOME AT ONE ADDRESS**

LUCY SUTHERLAND Marketing manager for Porter's Paints

Not surprisingly, Lucy advocates the use of paint as an inexpensive way to personalise a new home. If the budget doesn't stretch to painting the whole exterior, she suggests just painting the front door – the brighter the better.

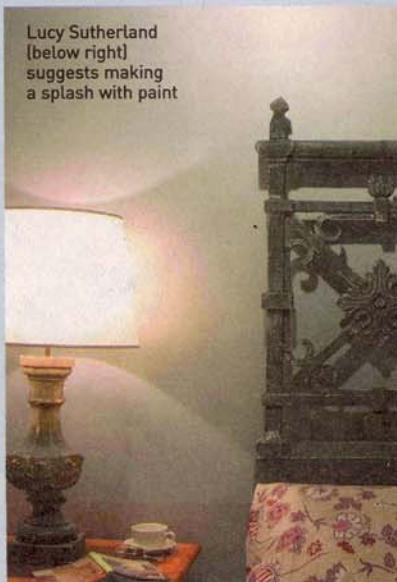
Hallways too, can benefit from a strong colour or treatment. "It's the first impression, so it's a great place to make a splash," she says.

Most people are opting for warm neutrals, such as chocolate, and are going with whole room treatments rather than feature walls as they become more confident with colour.

Texture is becoming important too, with stone and pearlescent finishes available for individualising spaces.

If you're really stuck about which colour scheme to choose, Lucy suggests using a rug or wall hanging you love to provide a co-ordinated palette.

Lucy Sutherland (below right) suggests making a splash with paint



Greg Natale put his stamp on his own home

GREG NATALE

Greg Natale Interior Design

For a house to feel like home, Greg says it's about letting your personality shine through, even if you hire a professional such as him to do the job for you.

"It has to be personal," he says. "We're not into the showroom look. It's about using pieces that have influenced your life, so you could look at what you already have."

It's a philosophy he subscribes to in his own apartment.

"In my place, I focused on my background and where I came from and things I love," he says.

Have you built a new home? Tell us about it at home@dailytelegraph.com.au



MERIEL SHAW Interior design consultant for Stockland

The most common problem Meriel sees is furniture that doesn't fit into the new space properly. It may be the shape or size is wrong or that the style simply doesn't work anymore.

She suggests getting a plan of your new home when you sign the contract and then drawing in your furniture to scale. If this sounds too tricky, you can pay an interior designer to do it for you for about \$300.

"When you go shopping, take specific measurements for furniture you need, otherwise you'll mess it up," Meriel says.

Getting the lighting right is also essential for creating those warm pools of light that give a home ambience. However, there's more to it than having a standard central pendant light. Meriel says fittings, as with furniture, need to work with their surroundings.

"You need to get rid of those horrible oyster lights," she says. ■■



Meriel designed this interior for one of the display homes at The Outlook Estate, Beaumont Hills