

Putting the home into house

Choosing the décor for your new home can be tough. But with the right help and planning you can turn it into a stress-free, exciting adventure

WORDS ANITA CATALANO

The walls of your new dream home are slowly rising from the ground. The countdown has begun. It's time to start thinking about how it's going to look inside. For some homeowners it's a mad panic trying to decide how the heart and soul of the home will look. After all, you'll be living with the decisions made for a very long time.

Home approached three experts for their tips on how to get it right.

The interior decorator

Hiring an interior decorator may sound daunting but can save you a lot of money, headache and time, says Jodie Dawson from Room Interiors. Jodie (pictured) says she often meets clients who've spent large amounts of money and time choosing wall colours, curtains, flooring and lights but didn't get it right.

"I sometimes find that when people have done it themselves they're disappointed by what they've selected," she says. "A lot of people make the mistake of choosing things as they go along and have trouble seeing the result - that's where the expertise of an interior decorator or designer comes in."

Before she meets a client, Jodie asks them to collect pictures of their favourite rooms, colour schemes or pieces of furniture from magazine clippings. From there, she gets a feel for what the client wants.

And if you don't have any firm ideas on style, that's OK too, says Jodie, who believes it's an interior decorator's job to come up with some concepts.

She says the popularity of DIY television shows mean more and more people are hiring interior decorators and designers for tasks ranging from small colour consulting jobs worth a few hundred dollars to fitting out entire homes.

"I think a lot of people have been scared off interior designers and decorators fearing they'll come in and take over - my job is to interpret what the client wants," she says. >6

MORE INFORMATION Room Interiors, ph (0404) 162 316

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