

welcome



After the doom and gloom of recent economic times and, frankly, a shockingly cold start to winter this year, it's a tonic for the soul to feel the warmer weather. There's something about the sun and its warmth that buoys our spirits. It's no doubt a mix of irrational emotive reaction and that of our body's need for vitamin A. Certainly, a lack of sunlight is considered a primary cause of seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a serious form of the 'winter blues'.

So let's shrug off any lingering gloominess and celebrate summer. What better way than by splashing about a bit of bright colour – there are the fresh greens on page 10, the cooling elegance of the house interior colours on page 22, the snazzy Art Deco buildings on page 62, and the quirky colours on our retro caravan birdhouse project on page 78.

Obviously at *Habitat*, we love colour and would love to see more of it used. As one person in these pages suggests, maybe recent events will have a colourful spin-off as people stay put in their houses and feel they can make them more individual with bolder paint shades. Go on, be bold and enjoy summer.

Sharon Newey editor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sharon'.

There's nothing like warm weather to bring out the spring cleaning and redecorating bug in most of us. For many it's the signal to turn off the heater and crank up the air conditioning instead.

Traditionally we might have picked a red, blue or perhaps a dark green just because they looked good, but with advances in modern technology you can now pick a colour that not only looks great but that will keep your place cooler. Resene Cool Colours reflect much more of the sun's heat than standard paint colours, so you can get a stunning exterior paint finish that's also very practical.

Of course, if you're planning some exterior painting this spring and summer make sure you protect yourself as well as your place, and slip, slop, slap and wrap before you start. Sounds simple, but often it's the one thing that decorators forget to do.

Talking about hot tips, there's nothing worse than paint drying too fast in summer, so if you find that's a problem give Resene Hot Weather Additive a go. It'll slow down the drying, giving you more time to get the finish you are after without feeling like you are in a race against time. Happy painting!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'The Resene Team'.

