



PURECOLOUR

RIKKI STUBBS

COLOUR
CONSULTANCY
INTERIOR
DESIGN

For an average four bedroom federation house, an interior and exterior colour is about \$\$\$\$. It costs another \$\$\$\$ to include the architectural finishes. Ideally, I'm brought in early in the planning stages so that the colours and textures can be integrated from the start," Stubbs says. "Colour is very personal and I don't give people a 'look'". She creates an overall palette, visualizes the project, and then selects the materials starting with the floor.

In the end, "by the time they have the wall painted and the floor down and the finishes working together, it's easy for them to begin to layer the environment with fabrics and furniture."

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Layering is a Stubbs theme and she herself has built up layers of experience over the past 20 years she has worked with colour. She branched into interior design for a time with her company called Crump and Stubbs, which specialized in painted finishes, and set up her latest venture Pure Colour six years ago.

Decorating, she adds, is more than paint on the walls. Orange walls might look good in an empty room "if you didn't have any furniture or rugs or artworks" but layering colour is a better approach.

And what if the client wants layers of white? "Then they really need me", she says. "Choosing the right white is crucial and texture becomes very important. You need accents of colour – even it's charcoal."

Hue Am I

by Mari Gibson

Oh, to have an expert eye for colour. And no, having a vague idea that an aubergine wash wall might set off your alpaca wool rug doesn't count. As colour specialist Rikki Stubbs right says, "It's one thing to be able to choose colours that match, it's another thing to be able to design with colour".

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Stubbs says her job is about much more than colour choice. Working with an architect and client during a

renovation, she can decide the interior and exterior finishes from bathroom tiles and kitchen benches to flooring and outdoor paving and, of course paint. She also does "straight" colour consultancy work for those who want to redecorate.

"In terms of interior design, colour is the starting point, she says "Most people don't realize that when they are home decorating. They'll go out and they will see this and they like that and they get lost".

After initial calls from clients, a first meeting is arranged and, if applicable with their architects, to get an understanding of what's involved – clients needs and preferences, architectural style, design elements – and to work out a colour direction.