

A grey area

Chris writes: I'm moving into a small house and I have to paint it in a single colour; do you think I should use Plascon's Designer Pearl White (code DRP3) for its shimmering reflection or opt for a light grey?



Clair Bond, Plascon Brand Ambassador and Stylist, replies:

I'd opt for a matt grey; I prefer the warmer greys to the cooler blue-greys, but it's important to take into consideration your flooring as well as the type of interior you're decorating.

A contemporary home can work with

the blue-grey palette but if you prefer a classical French look, the warmer grey palette suits this aesthetic better.

For a cool grey, I'd suggest Plascon's Off Shore and for warm greys, go for Plaster E16-2 or Light Stone Nue06.

The DRP3 Pearl is a spectacular translucent paint applied over a water-based colour. As the light in your room shifts and changes over the course of the day, this product shimmers and reflects different colours. I'd recommend that you apply the Pearl over a base coat of grey on the feature wall in your bedroom to create a little romance.

In the guest bathroom, you could apply Pearl over the grey on the walls using a paint technique called 'dragging off' for a textured effect. This produces a striped or washboard pattern on an already-painted wall by spreading a finish and dragging a long-bristle paintbrush over it while it's still wet. A decorative artist can be commissioned to apply the Pearl as this magical product needs an experienced hand to do it justice.



Help me decorate!

Ruth Adams writes: I've just renovated my home and I don't have any furniture in my living/dining area or my TV room! The rooms are 'challenging' spaces and I lack the confidence to just go out and buy furnishings; can you advise me on the process of using an interior designer as I feel a bit intimidated?



Martin Harris, of Martin Harris Interiors in Gauteng, replies:

The first step is to draw up a budget and then decorate accordingly – you'll be amazed how much you can achieve without breaking the bank! It's all about selecting items that complement the room and working with what you already have. Mixing and matching is an important design element, as is incorporating

customised items for a personalised look. An interior designer will combine different elements, textures and designs in items such as couches, ottomans and headboards to create a cohesive aesthetic that reflects your personality, and take care of the finer details such as custom-made curtains. And fabric doesn't have to cost a fortune as we have a variety of suppliers to suit every pocket. Most importantly, don't be intimidated! Together, the homeowner and interior decorator can create a dream space. No interior project is too big or too small for us – from a bathroom blind to an entire makeover, we can do it. Visit martinharrisinteriors.co.za. >>