

Warm to JANUARY

The team running Staffordshire's Interior Design Practice begins a series of articles for *Staffordshire County* magazine with advice on lifting your spirits – and your home – once the Christmas decorations have been taken down

The Christmas tree has been packed away and the smell of mince pies and mulled wine are a fading memory. The twinkle of the fairy lights has gone, neatly stored for another year. It's over before we know it; suddenly the house seems bare and uninviting, what next?

New Year arrives along with New Year resolutions. So why not give our homes a little 'TLC'? The effort we put in now will see us through to warmer seasons ahead. Follow some of our tips and reap the reward over the coming months.

During this season we should be surrounding ourselves with all of the things that will make us feel comfortable. Colour, Texture, Pattern and Lighting are four ingredients, which cheer us up as the cold weather continues.

Colour – setting the scene

The need to feel comforted and warm is the essence of this New Year's interiors. Grey will play an important role for 2009, as it will be the 'new neutral'. But take care to pick out the right grey; you should be looking out for warming grey/brown tones as opposed to cooling blue/greys. Along with grey, gold metallics will act as a complementary colour. They pair well with a variety of accent colours



such as dusky, romantic pinks, olive greens, daffodil yellows and plum purples and violets. These colours mixed together will create a cosy comfortable home, a place where you relax and unwind.

Texture and Pattern – taking inspiration from seasonal fashion

The kind of fabrics you choose within the home can make a real difference to the overall look, feel and comfort of a room. For example: linens, cottons, natural fabrics and leathers are better suited to spring or summer whereas, velvets, suedes, wools and tweeds are much better suited to this time of year. As a rule of thumb take inspiration from seasonal fashion or, indeed, your personal wardrobe.

Texture with a 'come up and snuggle with me' appeal are the way forward; use large

Osborne & Little's wool checks and wintery wallpaper.



Bold stripes and warm fabrics from Osborne & Little.

looped rugs to give a cosy feel. For lush cushions and throws try Designers Guild 'Brescia' or for real character, striped and patterned velvets from their 'Monteverdi' collection and Jab Anstoetz's 'Tivoli' collection. If you prefer a country look try Osborne & Little's 'Lombard' wool checks, tartans and stripes for cushions and throws. For sensational drama use animal prints, bold stripes or flocked damask curtains.

Lighting

A great lighting plan really will transform the home after the Christmas period. Make the most of any architectural features by illuminating them. To create drama use uplighters behind large plants – the effect will be stunning as the light bounces off the foliage.

Top Tips for January

- Use old knitted jumpers to make cushion covers
- Pipe cushions in bold contrasting colours to get the designer look
- Illuminate large plants, artwork and sculpture ■

The Interior Design Practice.
Tel: 01782 417177.

Email: info@theinteriordesignpractice.com
www.theinteriordesignpractice.com



ONE STOP SHOP FOR DESIGN

They have designs on your home: Emma Brindley, left, and Emma Lesniak.

Interior design duo Emma Lesniak and Emma Brindley are partners in the North Staffordshire-based The Interior Design Practice.

The Interior Design Practice specialises in both domestic and commercial projects. Both partners are qualified in design and have a wealth of experience in transforming plain interiors into something special. Their attention to detail, together with an artful use of combining materials, textures and contrasting colours, along with the impact of imaginative lighting and design, features ensures every project is unique.

The Interior Design Practice is a one-stop shop, with projects run from the original concept to the final touch. Emma and Emma manage all aspects of the project making it a stress-free experience. They are dedicated to making your interior exclusive to suit your personal style while working within clients' financial constraints and their passion and love for interior design is illustrated in their diverse portfolio.

