

no-fear *decorating*



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BY KIMBERLEY SELDON

As host of HGTV's *Design for Living* with Kimberley Seldon, I've had the unique opportunity to travel the world in search of good design and bring it home to Canadians everywhere. As an expert in my field, I'm frequently asked: "What makes a good interior designer?" While there's no easy answer, I can tell you there are a few things to look for.

A good designer, without being a slave

to rules, always prescribes appropriate solutions to questions of design. Avoiding

Above: The Design Vision software package – which includes the Para DesignLine III fan deck of paint chips – retails for \$119, and is available at independent paint stores where Para paints are sold, or through www.para.com.

trends and side-stepping rigid, themed adaptations or tired clichés, the professional designer brings passion, good taste, a sufficient knowledge base and historical reference to every project.

But, perhaps the real ace up the designer's sleeve is the enhanced capacity for visualization. The ability to clearly envision a projected change before its commencement is an invaluable advantage. After all, it's fear (of making wrong decisions or of spending money unwisely) that ultimately makes decorating such a difficult challenge for most people. Wouldn't it be heaven if you could actually see the work before it happened?

Well, Para Paints' Design Vision software allows you to do just that – at least when it comes to choosing a paint colour. With Design Vision, users simply take a digital picture or scan a photo of the room or setting that requires painting and, with a few clicks of the mouse, try out any combination of Para's extensive colour line. You can also manipulate the program's sample photos of rooms or exteriors.

There are more than 2,000 colours right at your fingertips. No more running back and forth to the paint store with quarts of colour possibilities. With the software, walls, trim, ceilings, even furniture, can take on a new hue. This unique colour selection process works just as effectively outside for doors, garages, roofs, shingles, decks, railings, or outdoor furniture, as it



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does for indoor projects.

There's more. Not crazy about the 1950s stone fireplace in the family room? Wondering if a half wall just might be the perfect room divider for your open-concept living-dining room? No problem, as the software also allows you to manipulate room features such as removing the texture of brickwork, changing mouldings or adding walls.

According to Para marketing services manager Kevin Skelly, the software – which delivers a high-resolution, high-quality image on screen – allows the consumer to obtain a true-to-life colour scheme (including shadows and textures picked up in the photos). Once a satisfactory colour scheme is chosen, home decorators print their final selections on a colour printer for reference. The printout includes the selected colour names and codes, a key indicating which paint goes where, and if desired, a before-and-after shot.

Don't think Design Vision software is for amateur home decorators only. A huge benefit to designers, decorators, architects and painters, the practical software can enhance the user's comfort level and save time by eliminating the need for traditional colour boards. "Trade professionals can now go into people's homes, offices or commercial venues with a laptop computer and digital camera, and work colour magic before their clients' eyes," says Skelly.

Now everyone can choose colours with confidence. 🌿



DID YOU HEAR...?

- Smoking affects every part of the body, including the gastro-intestinal (GI) tract. In every puff, cigarette smokers inhale over 400 toxins and 43 known carcinogens. From the lungs, these toxins have easy access to the bloodstream, which allows them to circulate throughout the body. While everyone is familiar with the links between smoking and lung cancer, emphysema and coronary artery disease, few people think about the effects of smoking on the digestive system.