

# colour trends

by Monika Fecht from Renolit



**2011/12 colour trends see a move away from sharp contrasts and a move towards more natural shades,** says Monika Fecht. Although the staples of black, white and grey will not leave the palate they become less significant with a move to more relaxed combinations like blue and beige. The palate inspiration is very natural with shades being inspired by our growing awareness of environmental issues.

The tones of black, white and grey are cool and reflect urban city living. They are inspired by chrome, steel, concrete, glass, crystal, tulle and organza.



The blue tones in the palate are almost other worldly and have a lunar influence. In many cases dark blue will become a substitute to black. The colours are inspired by glass, sheet steel, washed-out denim and moonstone.



Contrasting well with the blues are the new beige tones. These tones have a hint of rose and light yellow. They echo aged and weathered materials like leather, wood, hessian and coconut fibres. These colours convey balance and soften hard design features.



Environmental issues have spurred on the importance of the green palate. The predominant influence is the green tea plant. When used on felt and double faced fabrics the full impact of these tones can be appreciated.

The orange and brown tones offer the traditional comfort of rural life.

The brown and rust orange hues embrace this idea and interplay well with beige and green tones.

All this balance and harmony does not mean that we will be without intense tones. Bright colours are an important way of tying together the more muted tones. They communicate your personal style and help create focal eye catching features. Dark berry tones and magenta will be important and when balanced with the lighter shades of pink and rose they convey a fragility and softness.

The use of blue/green tones will bring freshness to your kitchen and work well when combined with white or light woods such as maple, birch or light oak. The dark berry colours work well as a highlight to white or cherry wood.

If using the darker shades it is important to be aware of light and colour proportions. If you have a large space with good light dark colour can work well but if used in a smaller space with poor light the dark colour will make the room look smaller and will absorb the light.

Monika Fecht is the chief designer for Renolit an international company known in the South African kitchen industry for their PVC-based foils. Monika works closely with the Colour Marketing Group in Europe which is one of the most important trend institutes worldwide and forecasts colour trends in the USA, Latin America, Asia and Europe.