



# Q&A

with Juliet Newell  
from **DÉCOR MADE SIMPLE**

## HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN DOING THE SHOW "DÉCOR MADE SIMPLE"?

As an interior designer & decorator with ten year's experience, I wanted to share my knowledge and passion for décor with our viewers, by exposing them to the latest trends.

I conceptualized the show and worked within the parameters set out by the channel MD Vernon Matzopoulos – a studio-based show that inspires viewers and shows them how to do it themselves.

## WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 WAYS TO INCORPORATE DÉCOR IN A SIMPLE AND EASY WAY?

**Put together the colour palette** – I usually advise a neutral base for larger pieces of furniture and then adding fun or dramatic colours as accessories – scatters, objet d' art, trimmings, rugs and lamps.



**A fresh coat of paint** is an inexpensive way to give an interior a fresh new look. Don't be scared to paint your feature wall in a strong bold colour or in a technique like multi-coloured "barcode" stripes.

**Update art or pictures** by re-framing them using contemporary frames and borders – alternatively, move your art around a bit to create a new mood in a room.

## WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE NEW DÉCOR CONCEPTS AND WHAT MAKES "DÉCOR MADE SIMPLE" DIFFERENT TO CURRENT DÉCOR SHOWS?

Every décor project is different. What works in one home, will not necessarily work in another one. I find the architectural style of a home, the people who live there and the surroundings a massive source of inspiration. Obviously staying on top of the latest décor trends is key. I love working with existing pieces and working them into a new interior.

**Décor Made Simple** is different because we expose the viewers to the very latest in décor & design by interviewing leading interior designers and decorators and other industry suppliers. The show also provides practical décor tips and advice. I like to keep the interviews very casual and relaxed because I feel the viewers can relate to us more easily – as if they were sitting with us in their own homes.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A READER WHO WOULD LIKE TO START DECORATING THERE HOME?

It's often difficult to decide what look you want to create, so start by paging through décor magazines and find pics of interiors that grab your attention and resonate with you. Cut them out and start fine-tuning the look & feel by pasting your favourites onto a mood board. You should also include paint and fabric swatches.



SEE DÉCOR MADE SIMPLE  
ON THE HOME CHANNEL  
DStv CHANNEL 182

**Put together a plan** of how you will achieve the look in your home. Start with the shell – walls, floors & lighting and then move on to the window treatments & furniture, and finally all the accessories. You can work out a budget and then plan the implementation.

Then the fun part begins, putting the plan into practice! Never rush the process – if it means doing it properly over a few months, then so be it. Just make sure you stick to the plan.

## WHAT ARE THE 3 MUST HAVES WHEN STARTING A NEW DÉCOR PROJECT?

**Comfortable seating** is crucial in an interior – select your sofas and chairs with care – unless you want your guests to leave shortly after they arrive!

**Good lighting** is very important in an interior – it creates the mood, so make sure you pay special attention to this.

**Flooring.**

## WHAT DIRECTION DO YOU THINK SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE TAKING TOWARDS THE "DO IT YOURSELF APPROACH" FOR 2012?

South Africans are becoming more confident when it comes to interior décor & design thanks largely to wonderful and inspirational local décor magazines, shows and expos. Finding good pieces for our homes is easier owing to heaps and heaps of fabulous décor & design stores – with prices ranging from super-pricey to really affordable. So I think we're all becoming a little more daring and a little more creative. I have noticed over the last ten years or so that South Africans are becoming increasingly house-proud – so gone are the days of simply furnishing a home for functionality – we're now making our homes beautiful and reflective of who we are.