

A photograph of a pond with several water lilies and lily pads. The water is dark blue, and the lily pads are green. The lilies are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and some as buds. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the plants in the foreground.

VICTORIA VELOZO

7 STEPS TO
BRIGHTEN
YOUR HOME
WITHOUT A
RENOVATION

Personalise your home and give it a lift. You don't have to spend a lot of money doing expensive renovations when often a lick of paint and update of pictures on the walls can change the entire 'look' and 'vibe' of your home.

STEP 1 – Select Your Room

Select your room, for the greatest impact choose a common area where people congregate in your home often the lounge room is a good place to start, but if you would like to start small why not update a bedroom.

STEP 2 – Choose a Theme

Choose a theme make this a personalised theme. Something you love or what your family likes to do or simply to reflect you personality. Try to think of it in terms of what colours you would like to live with.

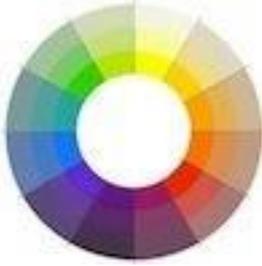
Check out some magazines. Create scraps and cutting of things you like for colours that you like together, ideas and themes.

Resources:

Paint shop: colour swatches www.BunningsWarehouse.com.au

- **Jungle** – shades of greens and browns maybe with a slash of pink as in flowers
- **Earthy** – creams and browns
- **Seascape** – sandy beiges and shades of deep blue and white
- **Beach Holiday** – white, turquoise and sand colours
- **Modern** – choose 3 stark white with black and a bright colour; choose yellow, red or orange for a modern look

STEP 3 – Choose Your Colours



Choose your colours for the best effect select only three colours. A neutral colour, on the wall has the ability to make the hints of the other colours 'POP'. Choosing a neutral colour for you walls or back drop may sound a little boring but you will need a fresh palette to start with. an added bonus is that neutrals tend to make you focus on the parts you want to feature, which enables you to hide a host of sins by blending them with the background. The lovely colours you will add in will be in artworks, cushions, curtains and the odd decorative item on coffee table etc. or wherever you would like to draw people's attention too. The reason I suggest 3 colours is that the idea of using more colours may have the effect of being busy and the eye is drawn to too many places at once.

As with a good art work your eyes needs to rest. But of course you can mix as many as you like if that is the look you want. Or have a feature wall at one end of the room.

Below is a colour wheel artist tend to choose colours that neighbour each other or colour opposites to make colours pop

STEP 4 – The Effect of Colours

Something else to think about is what colours say about you, don't get too carried away with colour therapy as that's a whole eBook on its own! Just to keep it simple and think how a colour makes you feel. I've given you something to start with below:

- Greens make a home very peaceful reminiscent of sitting in a garden.
- Deep blues are lovely and cool in summer which adds to the relaxing feel; however they can be a little cold in winter; but, remember if you paint the walls with the neutral beige you can easily transform the room by adding autumn colours when the weather changes; then you can simply change the paintings to wintery warm colours
- A white room with a splashes of bright colour always looks lovely and fresh, try lime greens, orange, or purple

STEP 5 – How Do I Select Art Works for the Walls?

Once you have a basic colour theme think about how an art work can draw all the colours together to centralise your theme.

For example; if you have decided on a seascape colours search for an artwork that comes close to using one or all of you colours. If you like landscapes look for paintings of dunes, boats, beaches. If you are not keen on classical type paintings and would like an abstract. Try to find art that incorporates something close to one of you colours perhaps something with a hint of the same deep blue or sand beige to match in with your seascape theme.



If you are using a bright colour; say Yellow find something with a bit of yellow in it to tie your theme together.





If art is for the bedroom, nudes can be a good choice as can themes from nature such as ponds and lilies.

Try to avoid mass produced art sold in department stores, as you want to make the new space yours with your individual personalised space. Having the confidence to choose something only you will have says quantum's about you.

STEP 6 – Where to Get Your Individual Original Art Works?

You can always try to paint your own painting; However, if you are not much of an artist you can check out your local artists you'll be amazed at how cheap and affordable your local artist are! Often for comparable prices of mass produced art work in department stores or gift shops. The difference is you get the original painting which is always a one off. Mass produced art is usually just poster prints so you are not getting any value for money. Who knows if you buy original art you may find it goes up in value if you would like to sell it later. Posters prints will never go up in value!

Resource:

Artist websites: www.velozoart.com

STEP 7 – How Much Should I Pay for Art Work?

A good idea is to purchase directly from the artists. Without the fees of well-known galleries who have to cover rent and charge high commissions to the artist. This sends prices up as the artist has to incorporate the fees into the price. If you purchase directly from the artist you will avoid these fees. Original art work Prices often start at around \$45 for smaller works but the average local artist should have something you can choose from for about \$200 with about \$300+ for large works. Of course, some well know artist will charge more. However that doesn't directly mean that the works are better, even Vincent van Gogh never sold a piece of art work! Get to know your local artist run gallery or co-op, they will be more than pleased to have you sign upon a mailing list to be invited to exhibitions. Usually there is a changeover of exhibitions every two weeks and these exhibitions are always free for you to come in and browse. For the best bargains search for original artist in your area. Often you can purchase art work with your colour theme by giving them a photo or your scrap book favourites for them to colour match into an art work.

Resource:

Artist websites: www.velozoart.com
www.facebook.com/VelozoART

Oldest artist run gallery in Australia, www.artarenawollongong.com



**Art supplied by:
Victoria Velozo**

Visit:
www.velozoart.com

