

# REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

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When putting pen to paper for this article, my thoughts kept reflecting on the year. As we approach the end of 2020, I'm sure many of us will reflect on what a year it has been. We have all witnessed how our homes have had to work extra hard for us during this time, having multiple functions from home offices, home schooling and a place to recoup and relax in. Amongst many things it has shown us how important our family, friends and the environment we live in are to us.

Interestingly, when the Dulux Colour of the Year 2021 (Brave Ground, a warm, natural neutral), was announced earlier this year it highlighted the global trend of how we're all reassessing what really matters in our lives.

*"...It takes courage to embrace change and our homes can help provide a solid and supportive foundation, as well as giving us the scope to be creative..."*

There has been a surge of people looking to redecorate their homes, re-think layouts and ultimately bring joy back into their lives. Achieving the best look and layout for your lifestyle and home can be a daunting task, but it really doesn't need to be.

A good place to start is working out what styles, colours, shapes etc you don't like. This is often easier than understanding what you do like and will help narrow the choices down and define your tastes. Armed with this knowledge you can then consider what feeling and function you want your room to have. Perhaps a relaxing, or cosy room, modern or formal. All of this will help determine your style and result in pieces that are unique to you and bring you lasting joy. I would then advise you to look at space planning. Firstly, work through how your room needs to function. Consider its purpose and what will it be used for daily. In order, for a room to function well, balance, proportion and scale are key. For example, how your furniture works in conjunction with each other along with layers of colours, texture and lighting. Once you have worked through these points you will have a clear idea of what you're looking for amongst the many design choices on offer. This will then result in a scheme that is personal to you, your lifestyle and ultimately have longevity.

So, as the year draws to a close let's reflect on Dulux Brave Ground and embrace bringing joy into our homes.