



extreme *dining room* makeover

For the past few days my dining room has been a combination of red and a light wheat colour and I decided it was time for a new look, especially as turquoise is this year's - and my favourite - colour. What better excuse to pop into my **Prominent Paints Decorating Centre** and grab a couple of tins of paint.

ABOVE: Before installation of the two glass brick window panels.

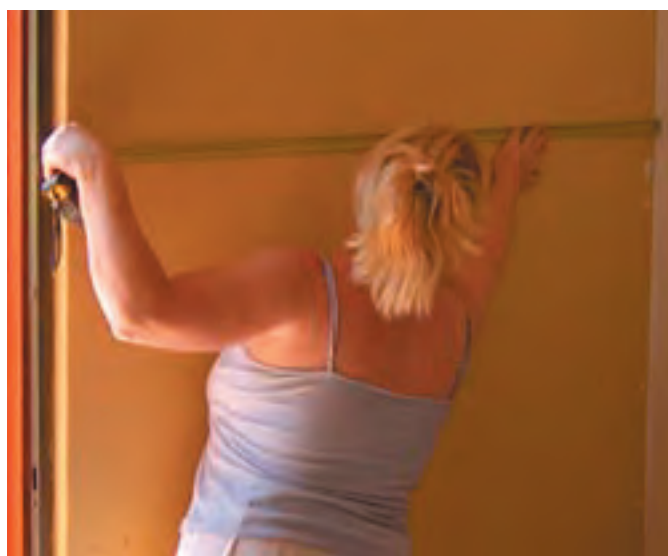
But starting the paint job there was another project that I decided was well overdue - and that was to install two glass brick windows on either side of the sliding door.

I picked glass bricks because I unfortunately have nosy neighbours and they let in a lot of light without losing privacy. Hopefully in the next issue I will also be able to show you what I'm going to do with the sliding door to block the view.

Glass bricks are very affordable - priced from around R11.00 each at your local Builders Warehouse - and available in various designs. I selected the Ripple design as I also have these bricks in my lounge and entrance.

You will need:

- Glass bricks
- Fibre cement board
- Plaster mix
- Mortar mix
- Chisel and hammer or a **Bosch Hammer Drill**
- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Straight edge
- Timber offcuts
- Trowel
- Plastering float
- Wheelbarrow
- Spade
- Hose pipe
- Sista F130 acrylic sealant
- Gloves
- Goggles
- Dust mask
- Drop cloths or tarpaulin



Preparation

Measure up and mark where you want the new window to be. Calculate to allow for the number of glass bricks (width and height). Cover everything with drop cloths or tarp - and I do mean everything!



1. I may be a DIY Diva, but that doesn't mean I HAVE to do everything myself. Equipped with the knowledge I promote myself to site supervisor. The job was started by locating the existing lintel above the sliding door. I was hoping it might be the full length of the wall, but sadly no. A lintel is required above the new window opening.



2. Using hammer and chisel the wall was chased out to the shape for the new opening. If you can put up with a ton of dust, you can always use an angle grinder to cut out and a hammer drill to take out the bricks. I did a combination of hand and power tool work to open up the wall. Start at the top and make the opening for the lintel - insert the lintel - **before removing any bricks below this level.**



3. Once the lintel is in position you can safely remove the bricks underneath to open up the space. The bricks need to be cut as cleanly as possible to prevent having to fill in afterwards. Cut 4 fibre cement boards to fit around the opening - you can easily do this with a jigsaw - and screw these into the wall. Using fibre cement board gives a perfect finish to the opening.

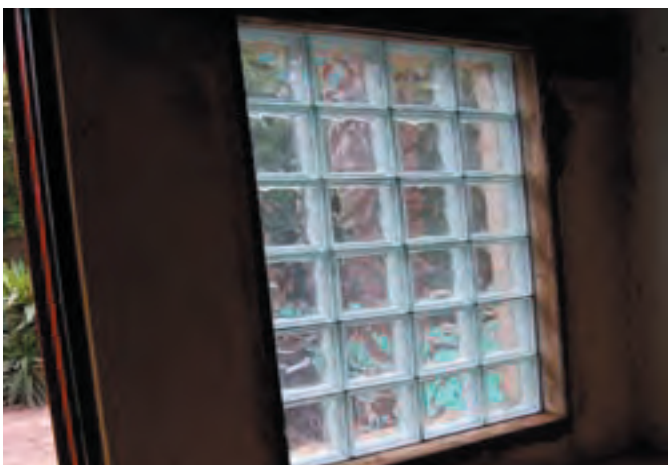


4. Use plaster mix to fill in around the lintel and boards - packing in as much as possible in any openings, and use a float dipped in water to smooth the surface. This will need 2 to 3 days to dry.



5. Now it's time to start laying the glass bricks. Make sure that the bottom, sides and top are level before you start as you won't be able to fix this later on. For the first course, spread a layer of mortar mix on the bottom of the opening.

6. Butter the bottom (holding bottom up) and sides of each brick with a liberal amount of mortar mix and lay into position. Repeat until the bottom row is finished. Apply a liberal amount of mortar mix to the top of the first row and repeat this for every following row.



6. The finished window. Now it's time to start on the other side of the door, using exactly the same method.

7. **Sista F130 acrylic sealer** was applied as a sealer between all the bricks, and around the outside of the bricks as well.



8. To match the existing plaster finish I used **Prominent Paints Ripple** in white to create the rough effect. Apply a liberal amount with a paintbrush.



9. While still wet use a paint roller with a long nap to go over the painted section. Repeat if a more textured finish is required.



Bennett.Read Hydro

Make cleanup a breeze with a hydro vacuum cleaner.

The unit uses water instead of bags and all the dust and sand is left in the water and not released back into the air.

Great investment if you are planning home improvements.



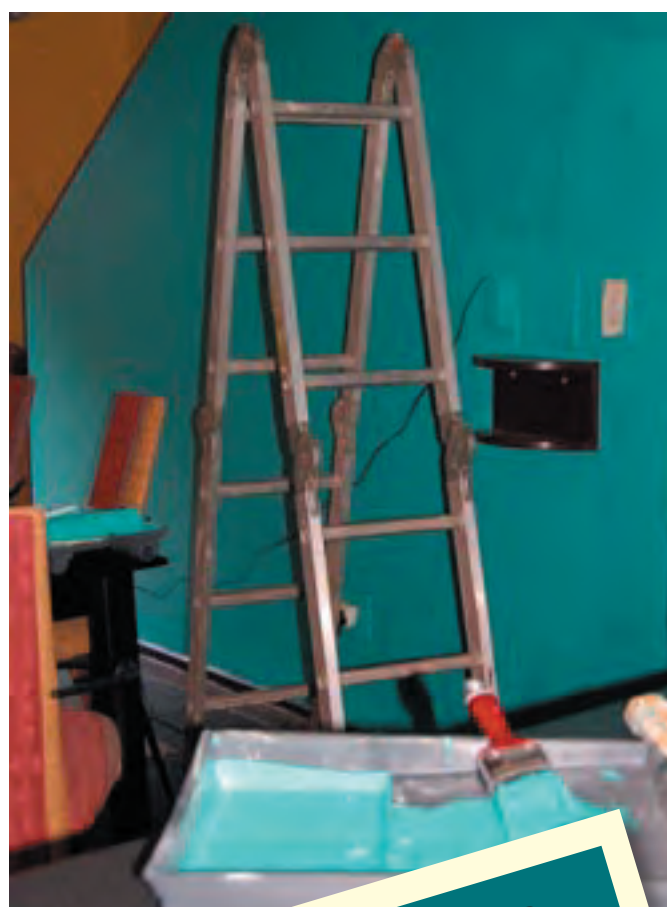
Finishing the dining room makeover

All the walls were given a light sanding with 240-grit sandpaper. I prefer to do this rather than wash with sugar soap, as it gives me a chance to work on blemishes on the original plaster. A quick wipe clean, lay down all the cloths, mask off what needs to be covered (light switches, plug points, etc) and I'm ready.

I selected a turquoise colour for the feature wall in the dining room, and the other walls would be painted white - in contrast to the black and dark wood furniture for the room.

Using **Prominent Paints Satin** in Turquoise (S2050-B50G) I applied two coats of paint over the existing red. This paint offers very good coverage and no more coats were needed once the paint was dry.

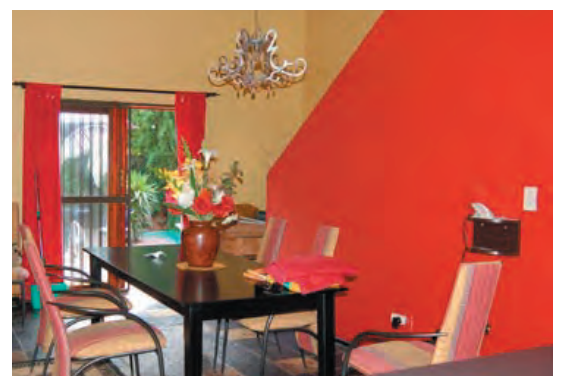
The skirtings had previously been painted black, which worked very well with the turquoise colour, although I will be replacing these in the next month or so as a project on Home-Dzine, so only a bit of touch up is required with **Prominent Paints Gloss Enamel** - black.





AFTER: The dining room now receives much more light via the newly added glass block windows. I love the colour and - so that I didn't need to recover my dining rooms chairs - I added small designs on the fabric using the same colour paint! I will be covering them as soon as I get the opportunity.

I haven't quite finished my 'extreme' dining room makeover, and will still be featuring projects on adding **new skirtings** and **architraves** around the new windows and the sliding door. I will also be replacing the glass in the sliding door and adding a product to give a bit more privacy from my nosey neighbours, as I have decided to leave the curtains down.



All-in-all the project took a week from the start, and that was only because we had so much rain during that period when we couldn't paint.