



## A GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW AND HOT for your home in 2008 *by Amy Tokic*

**F**or 2008, you'll be seeing a lot of Green in interior design. Not the colour – the idea of sustainable living will be key this year when it comes to your living space.

This year, it's more than infusing some fresh, new hues into your environment, says Interior Designer Josie Abate, from Ambience Interiors Inc. "Green design is about sustainability, and interior designers really need to take responsibility for what products they are using," says Josie. "From wall and floor finishes, to lighting, heating, appliances and furniture, designers have a role in educating the client on what sustainable choices are available to them." Just a few of those choices include lighting and appliances that use less electricity, flooring that is made from renewable resources and paint that does not emit toxic fumes, and are all excellent choices that allow your home to function more efficiently.

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One of the easiest energy-saving changes to make is lighting. Josie recommends installing dimmers, sensors, timers and compact fluorescent lights, which use less energy and last longer.

Don't tread lightly when it comes to what's beneath your feet. "You can make energy-efficient choices by selecting natural linoleums, biodegradable wool carpets and cork or bamboo woods," recommends Josie.

Other great ways of increasing your home's energy efficiency is by adding insulation and sealing off leaks from windows, walls and doors. Some paints even have built-in insulators, and layered window treatments can be incorporated to further conserve energy.

Furnishings can also help in energy conservation, says Josie. Select recycled and refurbished items made from

renewable wood sources and fabrics made from untreated, non-dyed and organic fibres.

"Although a relatively new trend, the concept of Green design is one that is timeless," states Josie. "Its principles are simple – conserve and preserve. In your home, Green design translates into energy savings, something that both the environment and your wallet will appreciate."

Ambience Interiors is well versed in this topic and can work with you in making your home an environmentally friendly one that is not only energy efficient, but refreshing to look at as well. A plan can be drafted according to individual needs and implemented at whatever pace you like. For more information, visit the showroom at 27 Roytec Rd., Unit 5A in Woodbridge, call 905-264-0883 or 1-866-361-8105, or visit [www.ambience.ca](http://www.ambience.ca).