

Home Designers' big challenge

Our Home Designers have been out in the community sharing their pearls of wisdom. This time it was for the new Wellspring Church on Lower High Street and was Section Manager Kate Leach and Home Design Advisor Susie Pope's biggest challenge to date...

When John Lewis Watford's Chaplain Tim Roberts approached the Home Design Advisors Kate Leach and Susie Pope to help him choose colour schemes for the new Wellspring Church on Lower High Street, they were delighted to accept. Kate and Susie were asked to come up with a complimentary wallpaper, paint and flooring scheme for the church, which now stands on the old Watford Springs site.

"For the past few years, Watford Community Church met in the assembly hall of Watford Girls Grammar School," Susie said. "It was their vision four years ago to build a brand new church, combined with internet cafe and community facilities."

After much fund raising, the project got off the ground and Kate and Susie sprang into action. The name Wellspring conjures a notion of organic natural flowing water and was a great source of inspiration for the designers, so we decided on a beautifully textured Zoffany wallpaper in teal.

"We decided upon a strong deep purple for the Cafe feature wall and complimentary colours for the public toilet interior doors. I have to say that this was a whole new area for us to explore. Usually we're dealing with textiles, but this was the whole package." Susie added.

Community Liaison Co-ordinator Pearl Robson and Furniture Partner Zakia Shah were also on hand to help provide some of the interior decoration including a number of chocolate leather sofas and chairs to make the cafe cosy and relaxing.

In the last few weeks, Kate and Susie have returned to the almost completed building and marvelled at the transformation from a two-dimensional drawing to the state of the art facility seen today.

"We had to make final decisions about the central worship areas, sound panelling layout and colours," Susie explained. "Again, this was a new concept for us due to the scale of the project, but the timing couldn't have been better."

An order had been placed by the church staff shortly before for an off-white colour for the walls but this was able to be changed after our recommendation of adding the deep purple on one wall at the back of the hall.

"I think all in all, Kate and I feel very privileged to have been involved in making the feel of this church the way it is. We don't very often get to be involved with big projects like this, but when we do, we love every minute of it."

Tim hopes the church will be ready for use at the beginning of November and encourages all Partners to go down and have a look at the church to see the fruits of their labour.



Top: Section Manager Home Design Kate Leach finally decides on deep purple for the rear wall of the worship area with Town Chaplain Tim Roberts, (above left both with Susie Pope outside the front of the new church and the main entrance stands up high

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Susie Pope