



gleaming fashion is mirrored furniture, such as coffee tables, dressing tables and even entirely mirrored wardrobes!

Mirrors have gone from squares and straight lines, to ornate Grecian ornaments that make a big statement. And light fittings are positively stunning with flamboyant chandeliers in every room.

Rippon Homes has two developments within Mansfield town with a number of others currently in the planning stages. At the company's flagship development, Meadow Bank on Baums Lane, Pauline has been fortunate enough to decorate and accessorise two showhomes.

She says, "The first showhome at Meadow Bank showcased an eclectic mix of fuchsia pink and lime green which really got visitors talking. We've now opened a new showhome closer to the second phase of homes where I have used a similar, yet freshened-up, theme.

"Showcasing the award-winning Melbourne housetype, the pink scheme is continued throughout the home, but this time the design is dominated by black, and uses the pink, and creams, to brighten up the rooms.

"Black is the latest 'black', oddly enough, and is best glossy and teemed with pink, white, turquoise or chocolate brown to create a glamorous, modern interior. Metallics are also big, silvers, bronzes and even the long-banished gold. Just as you thought it couldn't get any more extravagant, silk is the must-have fabric of the season - great, when interlined, for curtains."

Although showhomes are designed for the wow factor, they are also full of practical ideas which can be replicated with ease and at a minimal cost. The housebuilder often welcomes visitors into its elegant showhomes for nothing more than to pick up some fresh ideas. Showhomes can prove a great source of inspiration for homeowners wanting to create a stylish interior themselves.

One of the easiest ways to add panache to your home and make it truly unique is to replicate another of the latest fashions - customising your own wall art or furniture. There is a certain backlash at present against the massproduced items that became so popular in the late Nineties. But these needn't be banished entirely from the home, merely rejuvenated into an exclusive piece.

"Arts and crafts are experiencing somewhat of a revival," says Pauline, "with more and more people taking up sewing



or woodwork to make their own individual furniture, soft furnishings and artwork.

"Art is taking on many forms, from wall hangings and installation art to digital photographs printed on canvas or murals painted directly on to the wall. Strings of beads can be used as tiebacks for curtains and jewels added to cushions.

"My handy tip for the season would be simply this: If you are planning to paint your own canvas for the wall, don't use emulsion but rather acrylic paints. They dry overnight but give a similar effect to oil paints - a much more professional finish." ■



- The showhome at **Meadow Bank on Baums Lane** is open Thursday - Monday from 10.30am until 5.30pm
- Prices for properties at the development start from **£142,990**
- Call the sales office on **01623 636 540** or find out further information online at **www.ripponhomes.co.uk**
- Rippon Homes also has an unfurnished viewhome available to see at its Heathside Gardens development on Jubilee Way. Properties at Heathside Gardens start from **£129,950** and the sales office can be contacted on **01623 424 487**