

# INSIDER TRADING



- 1 Jessica butterfly tablepiece (\$39.95) from Bed Bath 'N Table
- 2 White base lamp with frilled shade (\$99.50) from Tanjent
- 3 Limoges tea cup (\$195) from Outdoors on Parade
- 4 Silver tealight candles (large \$44.95, small \$34.95) from Concept
- 5 1920 glass lustre perfume bottle (\$150) from H.J. Quigley Antiques

**T**he Parade, at Norwood, is best known for its coffee and Italian cafes but it is fast becoming a centre for homewares.

The strip has recently gained several homewares retailers including Laura Ashley, Wheel&Barrow, Bed Bath 'N Table, and independents Jack Horner Interiors (relocated from Prospect) and Eclat Bazaar and Interiors (French provincial wares).

There are now more than a dozen home-related shops to be found within easy walking distance of one another. Interior designer Virginia Stallard of Stallard Tonkin Interiors (pictured) sees the situation as a positive.

"I think it will bring people into the area," she says. "We all have our own niches - we're not competing against each other."

In vogue are reflective metallic finishes, citrus yellow hues, classic crisp whites and more decadent mauve and purples.

Virginia recommends bringing a touch of the trends into your home with subtle pieces, such as coloured cushions or a feature lamp.

She says there is a move away from the stark minimalism of about 10 years ago to warmer, more inviting rooms.

"A lot of people bought new apartments with a



very clean look a few years back," she says. "What's changing is they're wanting to soften the harsh lines that were popular at the time with softer fittings and textures."

Feature walls, which have also been popular in recent years, are still being used, but Virginia recommends using textured wallpapers as opposed to stark colour to achieve a soft, modern look.

For those on a decorating budget, she recommends mixing and matching expensive feature pieces with more affordable items.

"People are demanding a more refined finish in their homewares, for example nickel instead of aluminium," she says. "You can invest in one stand-out nickel item and complement it with some smaller, less expensive aluminium pieces."

