



Schneider Electric and Houzz: Lisse Screwless Deco Competition Winners

Customer: Tracy Graylish
Electrician: Phill Ratcliffe, Omnia Electrical

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In May 2018, we ran a competition in conjunction with Houzz, the world's leading home design and renovation platform, to offer one lucky winner £1,500 of Lisse Screwless Deco wiring devices installed in their home by a Schneider Electric Electrician Partner. Houzz members simply had to let us know which finish in the Lisse Screwless Deco range was their favourite.

The winner was Tracy Graylish from Derby, who chose mocha bronze for its 60s style. With the help of Phill Ratcliffe from Omnia Electrical, Tracy and her husband Pete were able to have all of the switches and sockets in their house replaced. Here we chat to Tracy and Phill about their experience with the project.



So, Tracy, how did it feel to win the competition?

When I was told I'd won, I was surprised and chuffed to bits! I don't enter competitions generally as I've never won anything in the past, so I didn't expect it at all. There was a bit of minor shrieking involved!

Why were you using Houzz?

We bought our house with the aim of redecorating throughout. Houzz is great for inspiration and bouncing ideas off other likeminded people.

When we found out we'd won the competition, we were in the middle of redecorating the third reception room. We'd decided to make it into a library but with a Victorian or Edwardian feel, as we wanted something fun – but we hadn't given any thought at all to the light switches or sockets.

So the competition came at just the right time then...

Definitely. A lot of work had been done to the house such as plastering and rewiring, but unfortunately some was done more carelessly than I would have liked and we had some switches which needed more than a bit of improvement!

What did you think of the Lisse Screwless Deco range?

We found it very useful to look at samples of the range with a Schneider Electric representative and to be taken through the features and benefits, as we knew very little about switches and sockets and didn't realise what was available. It was helpful to have the products in the room with us, as we could see the colours and quality and make an informed decision on which ones we wanted.

We decided to go for the stainless steel finish throughout because it really sets off the colours surrounding it and as a result, seems to go with just about everything! We love the USB sockets with shelf frames to rest your phone on – they're a revelation!

We now need to think about what to do with the rest of the house, as the switches and sockets look posher than the rest of the décor!

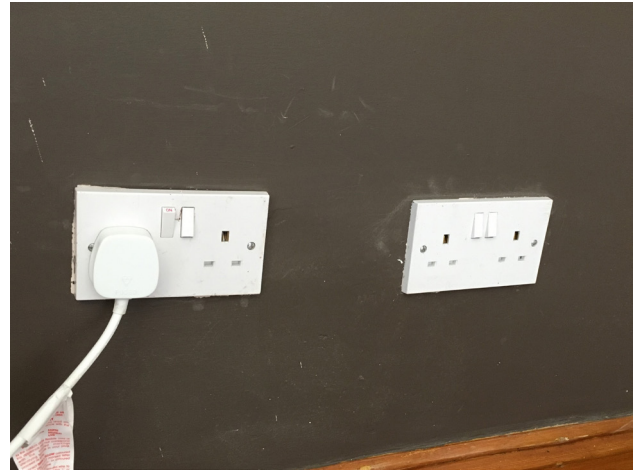


How do they look in your new library room?

The devices provide the perfect finishing touch in the library. They are of a style and quality that elegantly complements the opulent style that we chose for the room.

We understand the £1,500 prize fund was just the right amount...

We were very surprised at how many devices we got for the prize money. Our house is big with a lot of switches and sockets, and we've managed to replace them all within the budget, which we weren't expecting! The Lisse Screwless Deco range is great value for money for such a quality product.



How did the installation go?

Phill from Omnia Electrical is a great guy and did a fabulous and efficient job of installing the products. In fact, he's coming back to do some more work for us!

Do you have any final thoughts on the project?

We want to thank Schneider Electric, and Phill, for everything. It was a surprisingly nice thing to happen – who knew switches and sockets could bring such happiness!



So Phill, you completed the installation for us. Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your company?

I've only been set up on my own as Omnia Electrical for just over 12 months, after working for another electrical firm for six years. Branching out on my own was nerve wracking, however I managed to build business with contacts from my previous job and it's grown from there.

When I established my company, I looked for staple stock to use. As with many trades, electricians tend to stick to a certain brand – and mine is Schneider Electric. I have a constant stock of Lisse white moulded wiring accessories in my van, and I fit them on every job unless a customer has a specific request.



How did you find out about our Electrician Partner programme?

While perusing the internet for Schneider Electric products, I stumbled across mySchneider Electrician portal and the Electrician Partner programme and signed up there and then. It made sense as I mainly fit Schneider Electric products anyway and as a Partner, I can earn loyalty points on over 6,500 products and redeem them on a huge selection of goodies on the reward site. I'm proud to be a Partner of Schneider Electric and advertise the fact on my van.



How did you feel when you were asked to work on this project?

When I received the call to ask if I wanted to install Tracy and Pete's prize, it was a very pleasant surprise. I'd assumed that global manufacturers like Schneider Electric would only work with large electrical contractors for that sort of business, not sole traders like myself. I was honoured to be asked.



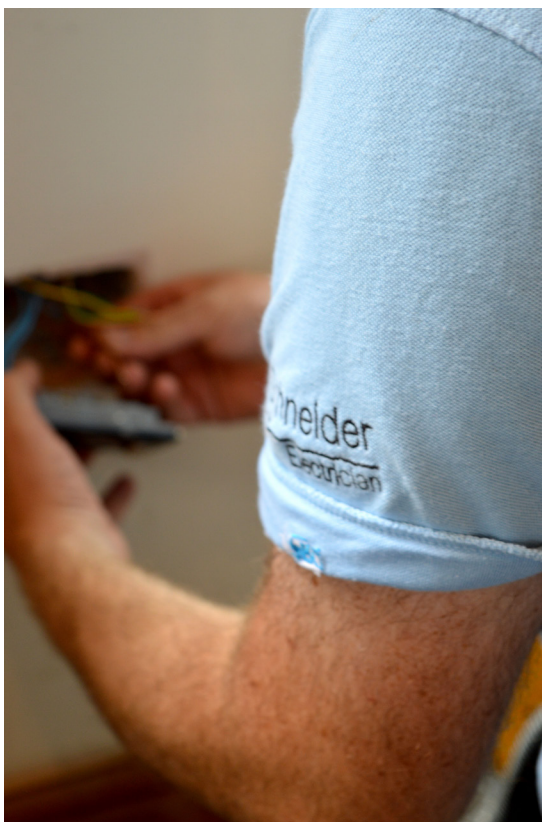
How did the installation go?

I met with Tracy and Pete and was shown around their beautiful home so that I could formulate how best to accomplish the job. There was one part of the work that was going to prove interesting. In the hallway, there were two 2 gang switches to the left of the lounge door, one of which was partially buried behind the door frame – a legacy of the previous tenants! That would need to be converted to a 2 gang back box to allow a 4 gang switch to be installed.

On the day of the work, fixing those switches went well – a bit of wall chopping, then filling, and hey presto. The wiring accessories themselves were straightforward to fit because I've installed a lot of Lisse Screwless Deco on previous jobs. They are well built and feel high quality – plus they have a nice solid click when you operate them.

And finally, any last thoughts?

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and I look forward to working closely with Schneider Electric, and Tracy and Pete, again in the future.



About Schneider Electric

Schneider Electric is leading the Digital Transformation of Energy Management and Automation in Homes, Buildings, Data Centers, Infrastructure and Industries.

With global presence in over 100 countries, Schneider is the undisputable leader in Power Management – Medium Voltage, Low Voltage and Secure Power, and in Automation Systems. We provide integrated efficiency solutions, combining energy, automation and software.

In our global Ecosystem, we collaborate with the largest Partner, Integrator and Developer Community on our Open Platform to deliver real-time control and operational efficiency.

We believe that great people and partners make Schneider a great company and that our commitment to Innovation, Diversity and Sustainability ensures that Life Is On everywhere, for everyone and at every moment. www.schneider-electric.com

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