

A Moving Experience. From Page 23

I applied a second coat, and then a third. The final effect was just as if the chairs had been painted in a particularly nasty shade of brown gloss. The stuff had not soaked in at all, and all the attractive grain of the wood had been obliterated. Grudgingly I had to admit that all my hard work had not achieved the desired effect, and the two chairs were relegated to the status of garden furniture again.

I tried to look on the bright side, aided by a couple more beers. There were still two more chairs and the settee to grace our spacious new lounge, providing of course I could find some proper stain...

The next day I visited a local hardware shop. The shopkeeper was most helpful. "We call shellac," he said when I asked for wood stain. This sounded more like varnish to me, but when he showed me a colour card with varying shades I thought that it would be worth a try.

"How much is it?" I asked, and was flabbergasted to learn that it was only 35 baht for a bottle about the size of a large beer bottle. I remembered the 285 baht I

had paid in Tesco and doubted whether this stuff could be much good. I was proved wrong though, the 'Shellac Wood Polish' was perfect for the job, and with a coat of clear varnish afterwards the rest of the furniture looked as good as new.

By the time I'd finished my little bit of DIY, the move was almost complete. It hadn't of course been helped by the fact that at the time we'd had four dogs and eight six-week-old puppies! In fact, on the very evening that peace finally descended on our new residence, I was sitting at a neighbour's house having a beer when a strange pick-up truck pulled up and soon the sound of a hammer drill was shattering the silence again.

What the hell's going on now, I wondered as I dashed back across the road. I soon

found out! One of the puppies had got itself stuck in a drain at the back of the property, and the workmen were busy digging through the pristine and expensive-looking tiling to extricate it!

The little animal emerged none the worse for wear, although I can't say the same for the tiling, and now that we are at last settled in I think I can say with some certainty that it will be a long, long time before I move again!!

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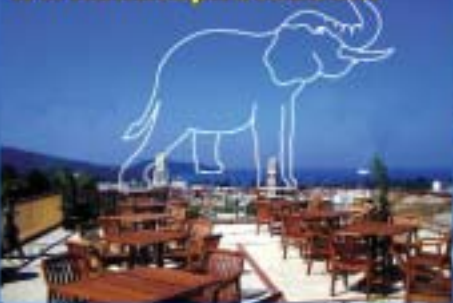
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