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APRIL 2025

Readers' homes in...

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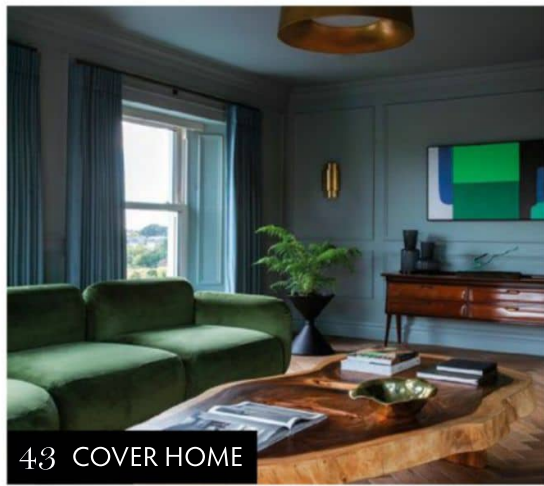
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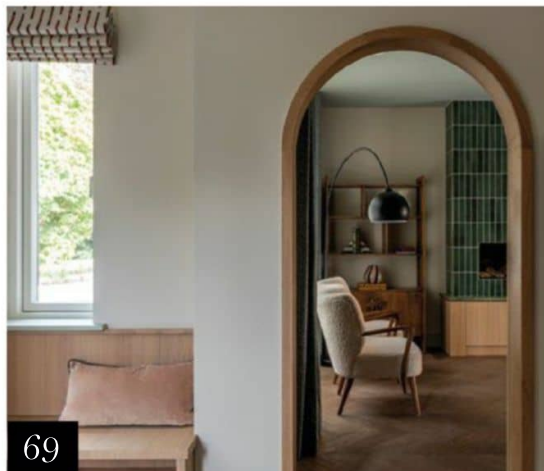
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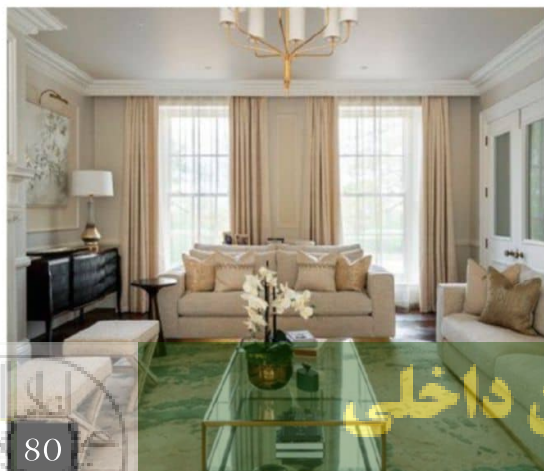
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COLIN MAHER DESIGN

KITCHENS & INTERIORS

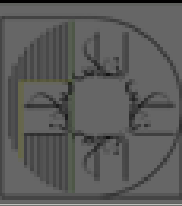


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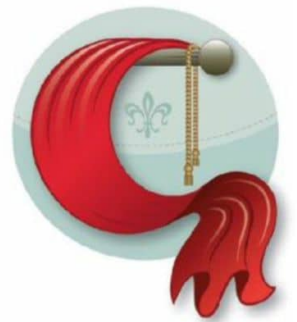
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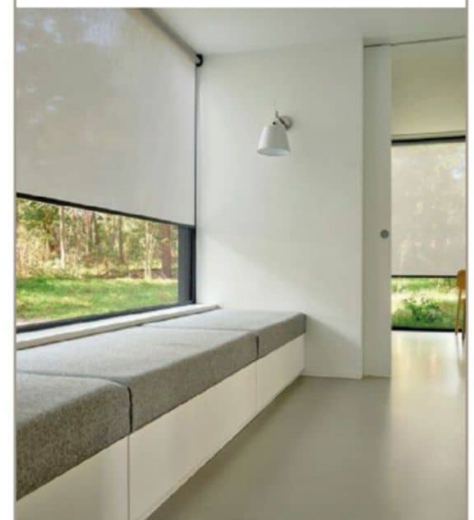
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APRIL 2025
NO 356

The homes in our April issue of Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living offer something for everyone – we've got an award-winning property in Co. Armagh, a stunning new build in Carrickmines and a beautifully renovated Grade II listed retreat in the North West. We also have a timeless transformation in Co. Mayo, led by our cover star Susan McGowan of Ashen and Cloud.

In addition to these four gorgeous readers' homes we have our usual mix of news, advice and design inspiration, as well as our regular features on cookery, travel and gardening – plus an in depth look at what's new for the bedroom and bathroom.

In our lifestyle section, our guide to Co. Offaly gives a great overview of all the best places to check out – from the best spot for a pint to great places to eat and stay and we have some great local gift ideas for Mother's Day. Property flipping expert Carly Anderson talks us through tackling her biggest project yet – building her own dream home and Claire Craig chats to TV chef Catherine Fulvio about her new show for RTE. All this plus much, much more!

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COMPETITION WINNER FROM THE FEBRUARY 2025 ISSUE

1 READER WINS A VOUCHER TO THE VALUE OF €300 FROM HAZEL MURRAY. TOTAL €300. Helen Clinton, Drogheda.
1 READER WINS A COPY OF THE IRISH COOKBOOK BY Jp McMAHON FROM PHAIDON. Sonia Conway, Cookstown.



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Interior Update

The latest news, furnishings and accessories to style your home.



A peachy wall is such an appealing hue, softly nestled between pink and orange, it inspires belonging, nurturing, and conjures up an air of calm. There continues to be a steady shift towards warmer colour trends over the last few years, especially earthy neutrals that we see far more of now than bright whites and grays. So bringing peach tones into your home is both current and since they are very enduring, neutral colours it's classic too. Combine soft peach with deep green and accessorise with blues and pinks to create a harmonious and chic outfit. **Right:** Piranesi Pink, 2.5 litres; Knightsbridge Green, £25.anniesloan.com

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Minimal Elegance

A minimalist, glass-fronted cabinet, Farlow is designed to display glassware and tableware, decorative objects or hold blankets or books. The painted outer frame complements the oak wood interior with adjustable shelving. Farlow cabinet, £2,525. neptune.com



GRAPHIC ART

This chic and arty rug has collage-like abstract graphic patterns in rich and deep shades, with a definite 70s vibe. Handmade, the Imzi wool rug adds a contemporary touch to an interior. As well as being hard-wearing, the wool carpet is also an excellent thermal and sound insulator. Available in three sizes, priced from £250/£300. laredoute.co.uk



Oriental Chic

This handmade Gansu table lamp base, in Chinese Red, takes inspiration for its shape and decoration from ancient Chinese pottery, £225/£270. oka.com



BYGONE ERA

The Guttane side table made its Ikea debut in 1963, then with the name Novette. An example of a simple yet elegant shape now given a new life. £85/£99. ikea.com



SQUISH FEST

This modern-looking sofa is as comfy as they come, sink in and spread out. Above: Squishblocks sofa in Quince Jam clever linen, £2,295/£2,758. loaf.com

AWARD WINNING DESIGN



GAGGENAU

PARKES
INTERIORS

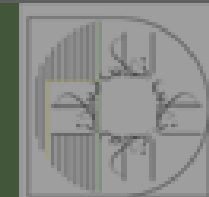
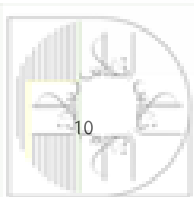
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EXOTIC BLOOM

Iconic luxury interior brand, Addison Ross has joined forces with multi-award-winning Los Angeles based interior designer, Martyn Lawrence Bullard to create a limited-edition range of homeware, the Black Chinoiserie collection, finished with 20 coats of high glass lacquer. **Below:** Limited edition, black chinoiserie coasters, set of four, from £80/€96. addisonross.com



BIG EARS

The iconic, oversized headrest of Peggy mirrors a timeless classic since the 1700s; the ears of this contemporary interpretation stand out from the shell which slims down to create a cosy, intimate, thick seat used as a place to read or relax. From €2,312 + VAT. bross-italy.com

SOFT GLOW

Inspired by the tropical world, designer Sophie Larger created the Flou table lamp that unfolds from the repetition of a module: leaf or feather, bringing a soft lightness to the lamp, £1,750. roche-bobois.com



Tiled Top

This delightful, little square side table, tiled in green ceramic tiles with a brass finish could become a bedside table or an indoor/outdoor addition to your home. **Above:** Green tile topped side table, £175/€210. afternoah.com

ELEGANT PAIR

Lampshade of floral pattern on blue, finished with white fringes and golden metallic lining, £160. mindtheg.com
Silver base, £165. decordever.com



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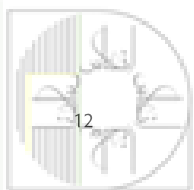


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AND RELAX

With its compact form, the elegant and modern, swivel base, Doze armchair is perfect for creating a cosy seating area or as a single seat in the office. From £1,895. wearemaven.co.uk



PERFECT POP

Elevate your décor with this azure embroidered cushion, featuring intricate detailing that adds depth and elegance. Perfect for introducing a pop of colour and charm to your living space. **Right:** Azure emboidered cushion £40. meadowsandbyrne.co.uk



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



PHOTO: FLEETWOOD PAINTS

THE ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR YOUR HOME!

Treat your home to a Spring refresh at Ireland's largest home show – the PTSB Ideal Home Show – taking place in RDS Simmonscourt, Friday 11th to Sunday 13th April. Visitors to the show will have the opportunity to meet up to 230 exhibitors, interior designers, industry experts and leading Irish suppliers, who will offer innovative solutions for all their home improvement needs.

Hear from some of Ireland's leading industry experts, including RTE's 'Home of the Year' presenter and architect Hugh Wallace, and award-winning interior designer, Roisin Lafferty at the DFS Interiors Theatre. Meanwhile, for buyers, movers and improvers, the PTSB team will be available on stand N50 to support you on every stage of your journey.

Neven Maguire and Donal Skehan will be rustling up some delicious treats at the Dunnes Stores Chef's Live Theatre, while Diarmuid Gavin will host a series of inspiring gardening talks.

For your one-stop-shop for all things interiors, home improvements, design and build, visit the PTSB Ideal Home Show at the RDS Simmonscourt, 11am to 6pm Friday 11th; 10am to 6pm, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April.

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COLLABORATION WITH CHILDREN'S HOSPICE FOR AUCTION AT THE TATE

Artist Kate Whiteman from Bangor, is pleased to announce a remarkable opportunity for her latest work. The painting, created in collaboration with the children at the Children's Hospice, was initially set to be auctioned at the NI Hospice Gala. However, in an exciting development, The Tate has now offered to feature the artwork in their upcoming Urban and Contemporary Auction on 19th March. The painting which embodies the spirit and creativity of the children involved, will now be part of a prestigious event at one of the world's most



renowned art institutions. This partnership reflects Kate's commitment to both artistic excellence and charitable causes, as well as the growing recognition of her work in the contemporary art scene. For more information, or to inquire about the auction, please contact info@katewhiteman.com



Floral Burst

This beautiful classic chintz is perfect for upholstering a vintage chair. Above: Lakeland Paradis Velvet in Carmine/Geolu, £150. sandersondesigngroup.com

PICTURE POSTCARD

incognito, in aid of the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation is Ireland's great art masquerade, where the artists' identity is secret until after the sale closes. Previous contributors include Bruce Springsteen, Bono, The Edge, Sir Bob Geldof and Tracey Emin. Half of the collection is available for purchase in person in a gallery, with the other half available online. Preview is from Wednesday 19th March and the sale is in April. Each postcard-size artwork costs €70. incognito.ie



Animal Kingdom

This quirky scene from Little Greene's latest collection of wallpaper, is drawn from a printed 1930s fabric from a North Somerset country house. Featuring a polar bear, penguins, an elephant and an ostrich, the playful design is rich in imagination and has translated effortlessly into a wallpaper pattern in a range of confident colourways. £127 per roll. littlegreene.com



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Caesarstone's Alpine Mist blends beauty with sustainability. With its cool grey background, delicate white veins, and dark grey flecks it's perfect for contemporary interiors in moody charcoal tones. It also pairs beautifully with pale wood cabinetry, modernising the traditional cosiness of the warm material. Caesarstone's new technology combines the highest quality raw materials and up to 80 per cent recycled content. This results in a sustainable surface that offers exceptional durability and design versatility.

5110 Alpine Mist, Crystalline Silica-Free surface, installed price (including fabrication), €600 per m². caesarstone.co.uk

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FINISHING TOUCHES



George Home yellow lemon-shaped sweetie jar, £6. direct.asda.com



National Trust handpainted stripe bowl 3 pack, £12. habitat.co.uk



Deep Teal Le Creuset casserole, £207/£249. lecreuset.com



Maldon Salt Pig, white, £25. amazon.co.uk

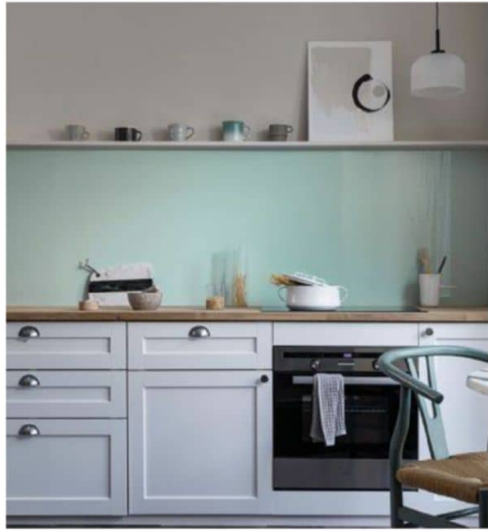


Alessandro corkscrew, £45/£54. black-by-design.co.uk



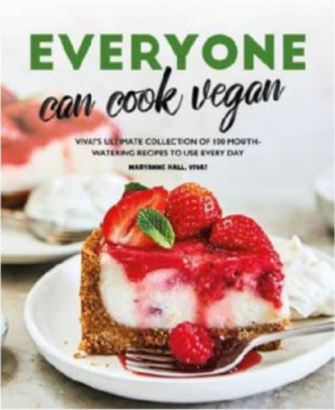
GRAND CUISINE

The CornuFé 90 Albertine offers French craftsmanship and exceptional performance. What truly sets the Albertine apart, however, is its modularity– at 90cm wide, with a 110 litre oven, as shown above, by pairing two together creates a stunning 180cm kitchen centrepiece. The price of one Albertine is £7,310. For Irish stockists visit lacornue.com



OCEAN WAVE

Soft blue, Ocean Wave has a calming quality that evokes a feeling of tranquillity. AluSplash's glossy splashback's ability to reflect natural light makes the room feel more open, which is ideal for kitchens that are smaller or have less natural light. **Left:** Elegance collection splashbacks, from £409 for a 3050 x 750mm or £199 for a 900 x 750mm panel. alusplash.com

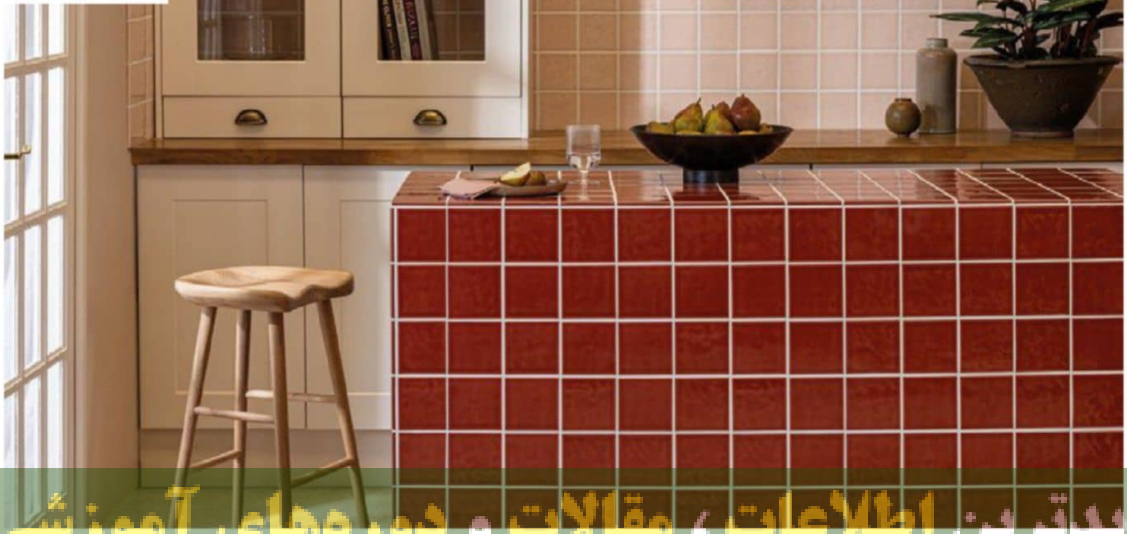


COOK VEGAN

This colourful cookbook is the ideal gift for foodies, vegans, vegetarians or anyone looking to expand their culinary skillset. Everyone Can Cook Vegan was written to revolutionise the world of vegan cooking, dispelling the myth that plant-based cuisine is expensive, overly complex or inaccessible. The book contains 100 recipes that you will actually use every day, inspiring readers to delete their takeaway delivery apps and get into the kitchen. If you're tired of cooking, let Everyone Can Cook Vegan revitalise your culinary spirit, helping you learn new tricks and have fun along the way. Available from the Viva! Shop for the price of £12. vivashop.org.uk

Terra Firma

Meet Tuscan Red, a warm, nuanced shade infused with the spirit of ancient terracotta rooftops and Renaissance frescoes. This rich hue, with its strong burnt orange undertones, works well in rooms facing any direction, due to its light-giving nature. Tuscan Red tiles can be used alone or alongside complementary colours Victorian Pink and Bleached Coral from the Chroma collection. For an equally striking look, why not pair with a blue or white tile from the same collection. **Right:** Tuscan red, per tile, £1.73/£2.08. marlboroughtiles.com



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INTERIOR SPACES

SLEEPING

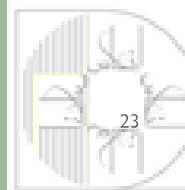
From Birdie Fortescue's Santisima collection comes a range that blends Cuban charm with the refined elegance of English summers. Designed to celebrate slow sunshine-filled days and indoor/outdoor living, each piece has been carefully created to represent Birdie's signature style of harmonious interiors, whilst introducing a unique and fresh take on luxury homewares.



Rattan headboard, from £495; quilted squares bedspread, from £240; striped crochet throw, £250; Margarita block print valance, from £295; rattan ottoman, £550; Rhombus rug, from £250. birdiefortescue.co.uk



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FINISHING TOUCHES



Bees on Thistle by Jane Bannon, £23/€28. wayfair.co.uk



Small stripe printed fabric shade, £99/€119. houseof.com



George Home rustic wooden stool, £25. direct.asda.com



Denwick wall light, £65/€78. next.co.uk/laura-ashley



SÄCKKÄRRA storage case, £3/€3. ikea.ie ikea.com

Bedroom Statement

Bring the lush beauty of nature indoors with Florabunda Vert, a green floral wallpaper designed to make a bold, botanical statement. Featuring a rich emerald-green background adorned with vibrant blooms in hues of coral, orange, and pink, this mural feels like a walk through a flourishing garden. The hand-painted watercolour effect adds a soft, artistic touch that balances the bold colour palette, making it eye-catching and elegant. **Right:** Florabunda Vert, £41/€49 per m². feathr.com

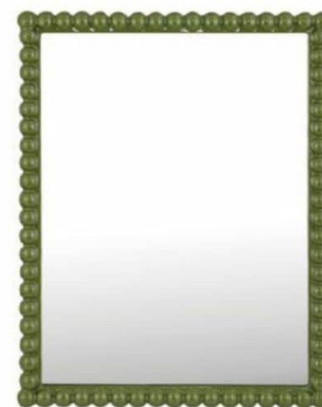


Classic Linen

An enticing blend of sunshine yellow and vanilla white striped cotton, this bed linen set exudes a perfect balance of elegance and playfulness. Printed on a soft cotton rich fabric, with a frill trim that adds just the right amount of whimsy, this bed linen set is made from Oeko Tex Standard 100 cotton, ensuring every part of the product has been produced with no harmful chemicals or substances. **Left:** Birdie stripe bed linen in Sunshine & Vanilla, £50/€60. frenchbedroom.co.uk

NATURAL CURVES

As well as enhancing the look of your bedroom, a headboard will protect your wall by reducing the chances of the wall paint or wallpaper being damaged, and a well-designed headboard will allow you to sit up comfortably in bed for rest and relaxation. So whether you enjoy reading, watching TV or spending time on your mobile, a headboard helps support the back and maintain better posture while sitting upright in bed. With all the practical benefits of a good headboard this unique style from sofa.com will also make the perfect statement piece for your bedroom, inspired by organic shapes often seen in nature. **Right:** Harmony headboard in COM fabric, from £1,030. sofa.com



Green Bobbin

This bobbin mirror will make a stand out addition to a bedroom particularly when pared with a floral wallpaper. £318/€325. orianab.com



STRIPY ROBE

Envelope yourself in comfort with the Sandstone Red, Pembroke stripe robe, made from sustainably sourced cotton, £69/€83. pigletinbed.com



BRAVE HEART

The Hero accent chair combines style and comfort, and will bring a plushness to your bedroom. £449/€585. dfs.ie dfs.co.uk

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The AUGUST Freestanding Bath
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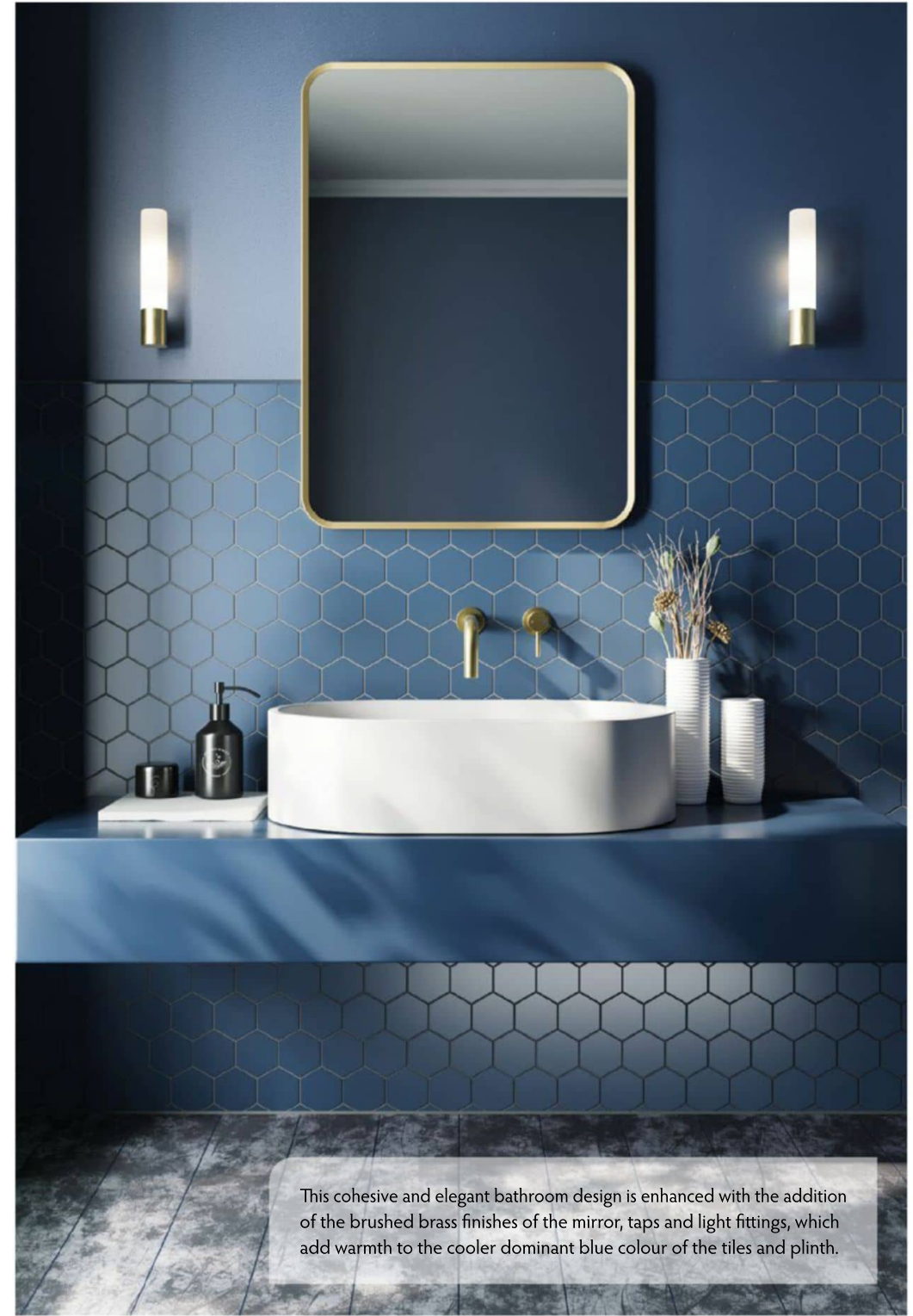
Download the New 2025
SONAS Bathrooms Brochure
 for more bathroom ideas and
 design inspiration.

sonasbathrooms.com

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INTERIOR SPACES

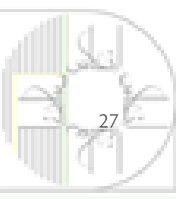
BATHING



Finn rectangular framed mirror (500 x 700mm). £140/€168. drench.co.uk

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات ، مقالات و دوره های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی

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FINISHING TOUCHES



Mango wood toilet roll holder with shelf, £17. habitat.co.uk



Blue and cream basket, £12. bmstores.co.uk



Churchgate Farndon framed prints, set of two, £40. dunelm.com



Patterned bath mat, £9.99. tkmaxx.com

Tissue box cover in Oak Leaves Sap Green, £27. cambridgeimprint.co.uk

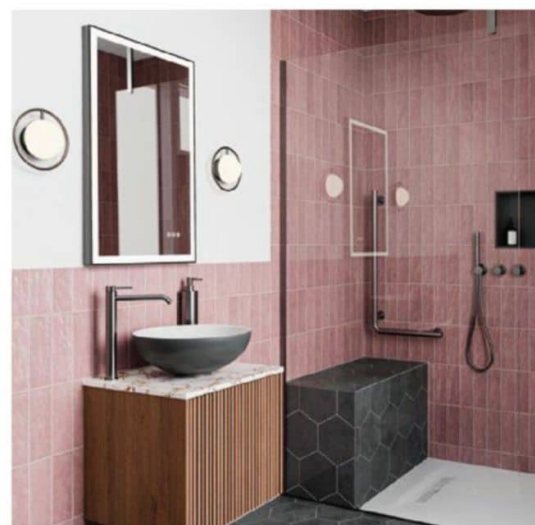


Naturally Stylish

If you're looking to create a tranquil bathroom design with a modern-rustic touch, then wood panels are a great option. Many people are bringing the outdoors into their bathroom by opting for natural-effect wall panels, such as marble or wood, and can be enhanced further when paired with Sonas Corta furniture. **Left:** Single door compact unit in Honey Oak with chrome handles, €395; back-to-wall WC unit in Honey Oak, €425. sonasbathrooms.com

AGE GRACEFULLY

From Ca'Pietra's East Village collection, this lightly aged-effect porcelain gives the impression that this collection has been laid for a while, it also gives it a beautiful, soft finish. East Village is made up of classic chequerboard designs that can be combined to suit different styles and some very cool mosaics too. **Right:** Floor, basketweave Oro Mosaic, £125 per sheet; lower walls, Oro, £89 per m²; upper walls, Pottery Oatmeal square, £84 per m². capietra.com



All Styles

Bring your bathroom to life by combining a range of textures and patterns to this much used space. This can be a complicated process to achieve the desired effect so take your time, consider putting together a mood board and visit as many tile and bathroom suppliers as possible. **Left:** Crosswater Limit single drawer unit with a gold vein Estatuario, Royal Walnut counter top, £1,850. crosswater.co.uk

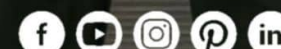
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bassettsonline.com

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RUNAWAY COAST

Printed on woven linen with a slub yarn, this medium weight fabric is ideal for curtains, blinds, homewares, light upholstery and accessories. Printed using Digital Pigment inks, it uses around 95% less energy than traditional screen printing. Price on request. runawaycoast.com

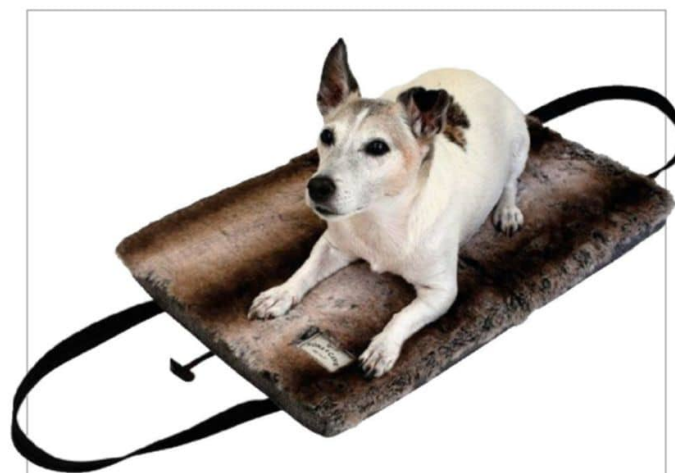


Oak Coffee Table

The rectangular tabletop design is not only visually stunning, but also functional with a subtle raised edge that helps to keep items in place. Crafted from sustainably harvested, solid American white oak and oak veneers, this coffee table is not only beautiful but also environmentally friendly. The warm colour and beautiful grain pattern of the oak make a statement in any room, £489/€586. limelace.co.uk

Braided Abaca Placemat

Handwoven by artisan, this placemat is naturally biodegradable and great for elevating everyday dining, £19/€23. rebeccaadall.com



Travel Doggy Bed

Soft flannel on the outside and lined with washable, vegan-friendly, faux fur, this easily portable, thickly padded travel dog bed is proven to help keep your dog calm, comfy, and secure, £191/€229. konacave.com



OFF THE HOOK

This wall hook is created from renewable wood sources ensuring that your stylish home addition is also kind to the environment, £28/€33. umbra.com



Sip Happens, Use a Coaster

Meticulously hand-illustrated by Swedish artist Nina Daniel with sustainable materials handmade in Britain, £7/€8. nina-d.co.uk



Award-Winning Fabric

This 'All Tomorrows Futures' cushion has been made as sustainably as possible within 100 miles of our Leeds studio. The fabric was awarded a Design Guild Mark in 2022 for Excellence in Design, £150/€180. themonkeypuzzlefree.com



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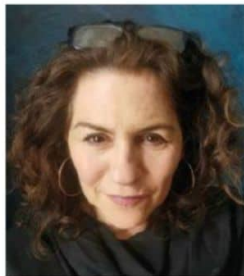


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Freda Stack

Artist Freda Stack's work is profoundly shaped by her connection to the coastline and sea.



I have been an artist for as long as I can remember. Initially, I studied Fine Art and absolutely loved it. However,

fearing it was a non-feasible career option, I pursued other creative ways of making a living that included retail display, decorative plastering and interior design. I moved to New York City in the 90s and my creativity flourished.

I worked in Macy's doing visual display and advanced into store design and installations. My clients have included notable companies such as Betsy Johnson, Ashford and Simpson, Urban Outfitters and Anthropologie. The owners of the latter two stores hired me to design their stunning home in Pennsylvania thus igniting my love of interior design. I returned to Ireland in 2004 to raise my children here and found myself doing freelance work including window dressing, colour consultations and prop-creation for the art department at

Ashford Studios. I now have my own interior design business lifebydesign.ie.

Recently, while staging a beautiful Victorian home in the Dublin suburbs, I was faced with the challenge of finding the right artwork to fill the blank walls. This necessity led me to dust off my easel and start painting again. I created large-scale abstract paintings tailored for the space and the homeowner was so impressed that he purchased every one of them. I continue to paint today and find it incredibly fulfilling, creatively and personally and am so thankful that I rediscovered my love for fine art.

Having grown up in the seaside town of Bray (Co. Wicklow), a deep connection to the coastline and the sea profoundly shapes my art. The seamless blending of earthy colours in the landscape, where the sky and ocean often merge into one is a major inspiration for my artwork. My process is fluid and intuitive where I let the brush



incredibly rewarding about knowing that my work has not only met their expectations, but has become a cherished part of their home.

My original paintings are now available as framed limited edition prints and giclee canvas prints that can be scaled to suit any space, insuring the original artworks quality is maintained while still creating an impressive visual impact. I am open to commissions and my art can be found at Woodesign in Dublin, The Wilds in Wicklow, and Curated by MRD in Dun Laoghaire.

Visit lifebydesign.ie for more information. Or contact: info@lifebydesign.ie



and pallet guide me. I'm drawn to muted tones with subtle splashes of colour which reflects the natural beauty around me. The large canvases I use mirror the vastness of the sea and sky, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in the scene. My art, while depicting beauty, is also intended to share the peace and connection I feel in nature with others offering a moment of tranquility and calm in this busy world.

One of my greatest joys comes from witnessing the excitement of my clients when they see their commissioned artwork displayed on their walls. There's something

COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine along with Freda Stack is offering one lucky reader the chance to win 'Bliss,' a framed 84cm x 98cm print, worth €350.

How to enter

Answer the following question: In what year did Freda move back to Ireland?

Send your answer, name, address and phone number marked **Freda Stack** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living, PO Box 42, Bangor, Co. Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, 26 Foxrock Court, Foxrock, Dublin 18, D18 R2K1 or email competitions@ihil.net or enter online at: ihil.net

Entries must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 4th April 2025. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are non-transferable.

If you would like to receive our monthly Newsletter please include your email address with your entry.

View our privacy policy at ihil.net/privacy-policy



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Property Flipping

When Carly Anderson, a.k.a Flipping Belfast, started flipping properties she had one big end goal in mind – building her own dream home. With that goal now a reality she shares how the process is going.

Am I the only single woman in Northern Ireland building a house all by myself? After extensive research, I think I could well be. On one hand I am delighted to be bringing girl power into the property world but I also can't help but feel disappointed that more solo females are not choosing to build themselves their very own dream home.

Many women up and down the country would love to build a house by themselves. They daydream of designing the perfect pantry and the dreamiest dressing room but what holds them back from making it happen? Often it can be finances, but options such as development mortgages and property funding platforms can make it just as straightforward as purchasing any property. We don't get taught this at school so often you wonder where do you even start? Once you have found a plot of land or an old house to demolish, I would recommend establishing your power team by hiring an architect, employing a planning consultant and choosing a well recommended building contractor. These professionals will guide you through the entire process.

Building this house is a dream come true for me, after all it is the reason I started flipping properties in the first place. Back then, even when I was looking at properties way above my budget, there was always something I would change about each and every one, that's when I knew the only way I was going to find the right forever home, was to create it myself. By building from scratch, I have complete control over every aspect of the design. It may be



'Many women up and down the country would love to build a house by themselves. They daydream of designing the perfect pantry and the dreamiest dressing room but what holds them back from making it happen?'

more complicated than simply buying a house, but it is an option for people like me who are very precise about what they want!

A newly built home can also offer energy efficiency and sustainability which has potential for long-term savings. Although it can seem expensive initially, by building yourself you can often achieve a better home for much less than it would be to buy and, as such, add significant value once completed. This coupled with tax allowances for newly built properties can make it worth all the hard work.

To get the location of my choice, I chose to purchase and then demolish a dilapidated home on my favourite street. It has taken me a long time to get to this point but eventually I have my foundations laid and the subfloors poured. There is not a wall in sight yet but the bricklayers arrive next week and then the next stage will get moving. Multiple decisions have to be made daily and quickly, it can be a whirlwind and it's tough not only making those decisions but also financing

it on your own, but the beautiful homes showcased in IHIL are giving me lots of inspiration and quality suppliers to help me make sound choices. I will keep you updated on my house build as it progresses and maybe if I do a great job, it will be featured on the pages of IHIL in 2026!

Follow @flippingbelfast

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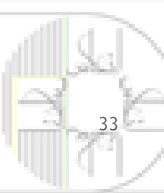
3 Mulnafye Road, Mountfield, Omagh BT79 0PG Tel: 028 8077 1226 www.mountfieldkitchens.co.uk



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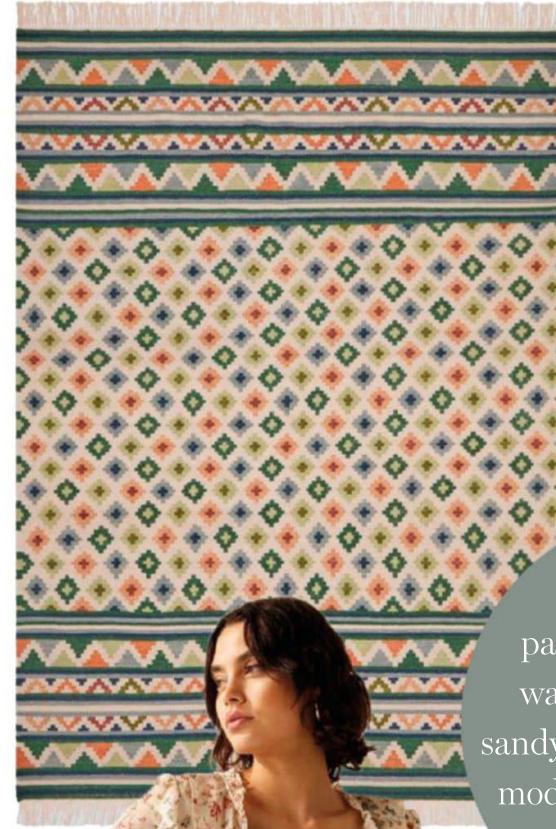


Chenille sofa, £1,499.
sofology.co.uk

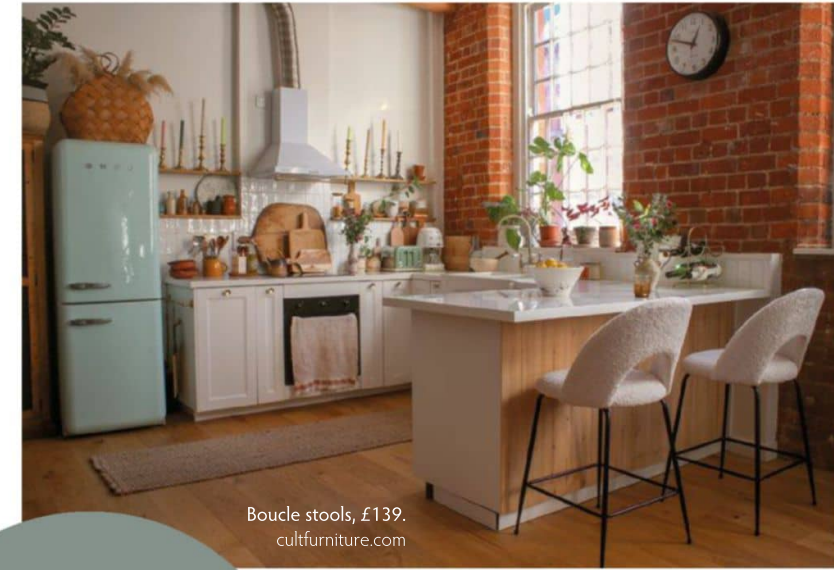


Midi skirt, £18.
peacocks.co.uk

Flatweave rug, £330. johnlewis.com



Choose a colour palette of soft greens, warm terracottas and sandy beiges and pair with modern prints for a fresh take on the trend.



Boucle stools, £139.
cultfurniture.com



Lounge chair, £429.
idyllhome.co.uk

From a selection at marksandspencer.com

For Folk Sake

It's boho but not as you know it... The Modern Folk trend is a captivating blend of vintage and modern, with earthy rustic tones and tactile fabrics. Inspired by diverse global cultures and nature, this style brings visual storytelling and rustic elegance into our everyday spaces.



Quilted jacket, £60.
matalan.co.uk



Glass lamp, £10. george.com



Rattan pendant, £180

Floral maxi dress, £20. tuclorthing.
sainsburys.co.uk



Bedside table, £169. dunelm.com

Macramé pouffe, £79.99.
homescapesonline.com



آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات ، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی

Mother's Day

Irish-made gift ideas to say thank you to the superwoman in your life this Mother's Day.



Lost Garden Skincare set, €110. burrenperfumery.com

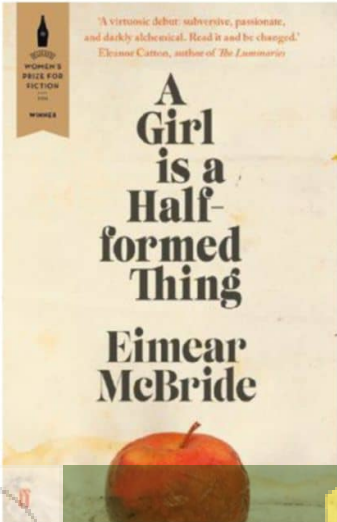


For The Best Mum A6 card, £4. majukooo.co.uk



The Elite Crossbody Bag, €169. flaunta.ie

A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing by Eimear McBride, £10. waterstones.com



Three heart family ceramic vase, €68. stobhamsteeleceramics.com



Agenda bundle in black, €89. theheadplan.com



Oblong earrings, £18. fiddlefigstore.com



Hot chocolate mix and ceramic mug, £26. refugechocolate.co.uk



Mini 'Heart in The Clouds' and Jörd birthstone pendant gold-plated, £132. linesandcurrent.com



Mind Yourself gift set, £44/€51. thenatureofthings.ie



Gua Sha facial gift set, €60. oxmantownskincare.ie



Sirens Meadow long set 100% cotton pyjamas, £149. moonandmellow.com

آموزشگاه تخصصی منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات ، مقالات و دوره های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی

My favourite ROOM

Patricia McGinnis, co-owner of Maven and House of the Year judge, show us around the living area of her Belfast home.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELYSE KENNEDY

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF.

Along with my sister Catherine, I own Maven a furniture and homewares store based in a beautiful old bank on Belfast's Lisburn Road. As well as the physical shop, we also have an online store and we also help private and contract customers create beautiful spaces. I live in a 3-bedroom apartment in Belfast with my partner Vince and my 17 year old son Lalit.

WHICH ROOM IN YOUR HOME IS YOUR FAVOURITE AND WHY?

It's definitely the living/dining/kitchen. This space is very much the heart of the home. It's where we cook, eat, read, relax, play music, hang out. It works hard as it covers a lot of uses and being open plan means it all needs to be cohesive. It's got two huge windows so we're bathed in natural light all day long. There's a lovely big terrace that we can spread out onto whenever we're lucky enough to have a bit of sunshine and we're really happy with the way it all works together.

WHO DESIGNED THIS ROOM AND WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION?

I designed it, but I'd say it was probably more of an evolution rather than a design. Being open plan means it all has to flow together. When I'm watching TV, I can see my kitchen so I wanted to make sure it was not only a great looking kitchen but also one that worked in a living room space, and that sort of worked as a piece of furniture in itself. The all-black has been really successful, and black has worked with any colour I've painted the room over the years. In fact, most of my big pieces in this room are black and they've afforded me flexibility to make changes around them as I've wanted to. When I moved in, the kitchen area was tiled and the rest of the room had a semi-solid wooden floor. Having two floor surfaces made the room feel disjointed so I decided to replace the entire floor with one engineered oak flooring, to create a lovely flow. Storage is a premium living in an apartment, so I had extra tall kitchen cupboards made to make sure there is no wasted space. I also added a return to the kitchen to give me more under cupboard storage and additional preparation space as I love to cook.

My inspiration comes from the brands we work with at Maven. We try to go to '3 Days of Design' (a design festival), in Copenhagen every year, where we get to see the very best of design from across the world. I also love visiting art galleries and houses like Glebe House and Kettle's Yard for inspiration when I travel.



'If I had a magic wand, I would make the room a little bigger. I come from a big family and when we all get together it can get a little chaotic!'



IS IT REFLECTIVE OF THE REST OF THE HOUSE AND IF SO HOW?

This room is reflective of the rest of our home – I love classic pieces that work hard and that will stand the test of time – but it's not static. It's a constant evolution with little tweaks continuously being made here and there.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE PIECE IN HERE?

That's a tricky one... I might have to pick a couple of things! The dining table is very special to me. It's a Macintosh table that my parents bought second hand in Manchester when they were not long married. It was our family table as we grew up and I'm honoured that it's now the dining table for my little family. I love all of my antique rugs and I'm always looking for new ones to add to the collection. The pendant light over the table is another favourite. It's huge but because it's made of rice paper,

it brings with it a lightness, so it never overwhelms the space. And another favourite is my fledgling collection of Carl Hansen 'Wishbone' chairs. These are unfortunately often copied, but to me the genuine chairs are truly special, heirloom pieces. They are investment pieces, so I'll continue to grow my collection over the years; I've already told Lalit that one day they will be his to enjoy.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE?

If I had a magic wand, I would make the room a little bigger. I come from a big family and when we all get together it can get a little chaotic!

HOW DOES THIS ROOM REFLECT YOUR PERSONAL STYLE?

I'd say it's timeless, but flexible. I don't really follow trends but

would rather invest in pieces that I genuinely love and that I'll enjoy for years and years to come.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR THOSE WANTING TO CREATE A SIMILAR SPACE?

Consider choosing your main pieces of furniture in neutrals (I've gone for either black or wood), that will afford you flexibility to change up the look easily with paint and accessories. My kitchen has quite a bit of clutter, but the clutter is corralled to specific areas, so it doesn't look messy (I hope!). Have a place for everything and be ruthless about what you bring into your space. I've painted the walls, ceiling, woodwork and radiators all the same colour here which has given the room a lovely, mellow feeling.

Discover more of Patricia's style @itspatriciamcginnis and follow @wearemaven

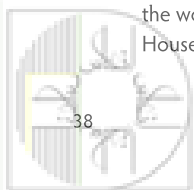
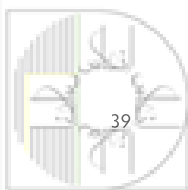
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MEETING THE BRIEF

Della Interiors created a luxurious and sophisticated scheme in this stunning detached residence at the foothills of the Dublin Mountains.

The owners of this beautiful five-bedroom property wanted to create a sophisticated, timeless home with a predominantly monochrome colour palette. Practicality was just as important as aesthetics and storage was a key consideration, as they wanted a space that looked beautifully put together but was also highly functional.

On a friend's recommendation they reached out to the team at Della Interiors, initially just with the intention of renovating their master bedroom and ensuite. After seeing the results they decided to extend the project to include their guest room, nursery, hallway, kitchen, utility and living room.

They wanted a home that felt contemporary and welcoming, while retaining certain key features, such as their stunning marble flooring with a contrasting border, which has a strong Art Deco influence.

One of the most transformative aspects of the design was in the kitchen and dining area. There was a structural pillar in the centre of the space, which disrupted the flow of the room and blocked

the view of the garden. Della Interiors encouraged the clients to remove it, opening up the space and creating a much stronger connection between the kitchen, dining area, and garden. This change completely transformed the room, allowing natural light to flood in and making the entire area feel more spacious and inviting.

To maintain a clean, cohesive look, Della Interiors designed a hidden door leading to the utility room, integrated within the pantry cabinetry. This was an important detail, as the room already had a French door to the garden and two sliding doors, one connecting with the living room and one sliding door at the back for the house, including the internal door connecting the kitchen with the hall – so keeping the design streamlined was essential.

The kitchen itself was designed to be timeless and functional. Off-white cabinetry was paired with a solid walnut island, complemented by Calacatta quartz worktops and splashback. To add a refined touch, Della Interiors sourced custom-made

‘By carefully balancing the monochrome palette with textural contrasts, rich tactile materials, and thoughtful furniture selection, we ensured the space felt inviting rather than stark.’

Armac Martin handles and incorporated the latest technology in appliances for both practicality and elegance.

Carefully selected pieces were chosen for the living room, reflecting the clients' style while maintaining a comfortable and inviting atmosphere. Instead of built-in traditional alcove units (a standard approach for living rooms) the designers proposed made-to-order TV units on either side of the fireplace. The dark lacquered wood introduced contrast, while the sculptural handles added a subtle Art Deco touch.

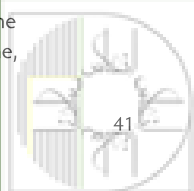
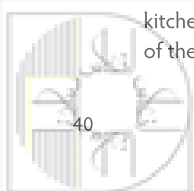
A corner sofa was chosen to maximise comfort without overcrowding the space. They also included two pouffes, which can be used for extra seating when entertaining or as footrests for relaxed evenings in and an armchair with a recliner for the lovers of sports and movies. Statement lighting, side tables, and a designer coffee table and designer mirrors add a touch of understated glamour, while a bespoke area rug was carefully selected to define the seating area, introducing an extra layer of cosiness and warmth. To soften the monochrome palette,

green accents were incorporated through accessories and natural planting, bringing life and warmth to the space.

The designer explained, 'By carefully balancing the monochrome palette with textural contrasts, rich tactile materials, and thoughtful furniture selection, we ensured the space felt inviting rather than stark. We also introduced green accents throughout the interiors, subtly connecting the indoor spaces to the lush views of the garden.'

'The overall scheme is monochrome, creating a timeless and elegant aesthetic, but we ensured the space didn't feel cold or stark by introducing: dark lacquered wood in bespoke furniture pieces for depth, contrast and richness; textured and metallic accents in lighting and accessories, adding warmth and a refined sophistication and earthy green tones in decorative elements and soft furnishings, bringing life and warmth to the space.'

'However, the master bedroom was the one space where we introduced more colour. Here, we softened the monochrome theme with muted purple tones, blending cream, champagne,





and dark lacquered furniture accents for a refined and tranquil feel. The curtains were selected in a toned-down plum colour, perfectly complementing the beautiful wallpaper in a shade resembling 'ashes of roses'. This added depth and a sense of understated luxury, creating a serene and inviting retreat. We have also hidden the chimney breast which was in the bedroom within a storage unit. We designed a functional storage unit with a dummy unit on one side and concealed shelving storage on the opposite side. This balanced the space and created an overall harmonious finish.'

The design was carefully considered to ensure a seamless flow between spaces, with a consistent material palette and thoughtful lighting choices. The original marble flooring was retained and worked into the scheme, allowing the designers to blend the home's original character with more contemporary elements to create a look that felt both timeless and fresh.

One of the biggest transformations in this project was the creation of a stronger connection between the interiors and the

garden. Della Interiors achieved this by opening up the kitchen and dining area to maximise views and natural light and keeping the indoor palette neutral so that the garden becomes the natural focal point.

The design is a true reflection of both the clients' lifestyle and the home's surroundings. The designers aimed for a quiet luxury, where every detail feels effortless and timeless, but also practical and comfortable. 'This concept of quiet luxury is about understated elegance, where quality craftsmanship, refined materials, and carefully considered details elevate the space without it feeling over-designed,' they explained.

The home now feels warm and inviting but retains a sense of sophistication and balance. The bespoke pieces and carefully selected finishes ensure that the design feels unique to the homeowners, creating a space that is both beautiful and deeply personal.

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an exclusive interview with
Interior Designer Susan McGowan



Mayo Hillside Haven

When the iconic Croagh Patrick rises to the west of your home, with the rich green countryside populating the rest of the view, there is so much opportunity to create an aesthetic that plays with natural beauty and mixes timeless with modern. That's just what designer Susan McGowan has done with this Mayo property.

EDITORIAL BY EMMA DEIGHAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RUTH MARIA MURPHY.

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A stunning showcase of the beautiful design approach synonymous with Ashen & Cloud, led by Susan McGowan, this home balances contemporary and heritage features. 'It was important that the family's home is a reflection of them, not us, so we did not have a specific look or theme in mind. We worked closely with them to develop a unique aesthetic that would satisfy both their individual tastes and styles,' Susan begins.

She adds that every corner of this five-bed property 'reflects a vision,' ensuring that every occasion, from grand gatherings to intimate moments, is catered for in style.

The overall aesthetic, she says, is a delicate dance between modern sophistication and timeless tradition. 'We sought to create a home that felt both current and enduring, where the structure, materials, and furnishings would age gracefully,' Susan continues.



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We face this style mantra head-on as we enter one of two entrances—on two levels. One showcases an archway of old-style proportions that plays with a monochromatic tile choice by Suede Stone, Limerick, and a simple colour palette.

‘The chequered board tiles were a bold and connecting feature of the circulatory spaces, which nodded to the grand marble entrance halls of the Georgian era. We wanted to ‘settle’ the style, however, to one that was more akin to the hybrid style of this home, and used the softer, more subdued tones of limestone to create the checkerboard. The overall look is still dramatic, but not as sharp in its contrast,’ Susan says.

The paint on the upper floor, where those awe-inspiring views are, is a two-toned mix of Alabaster White from Colourtrend and Oxford Stone from Farrow & Ball on the panelling. ‘We darkened the tone on the lower

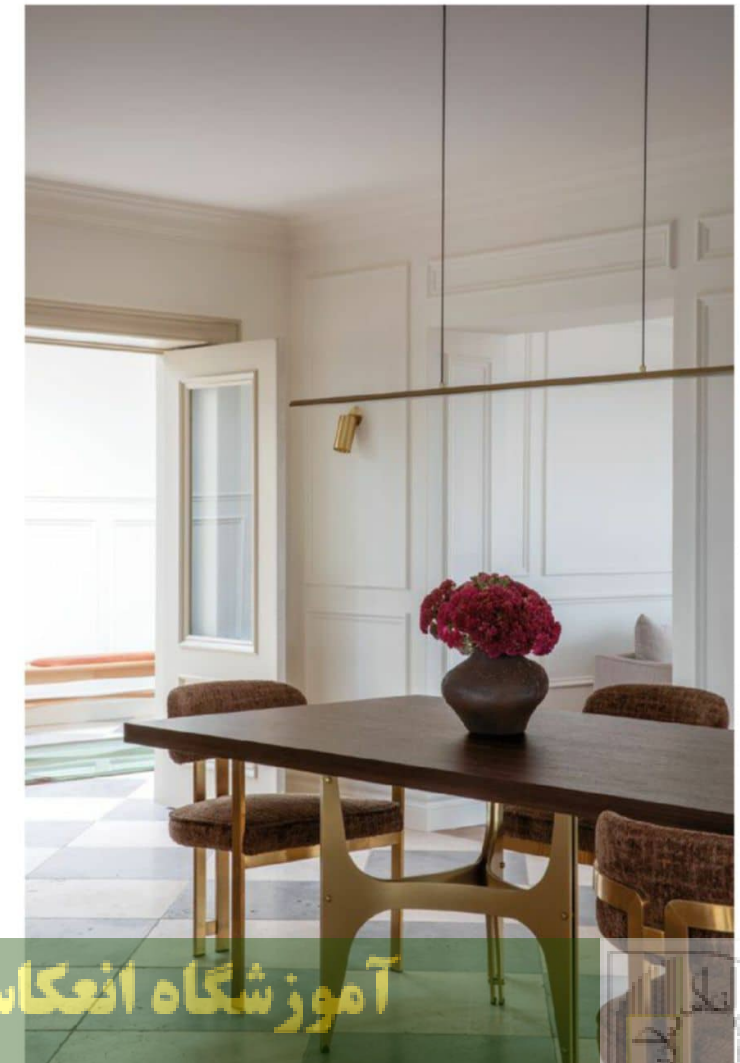
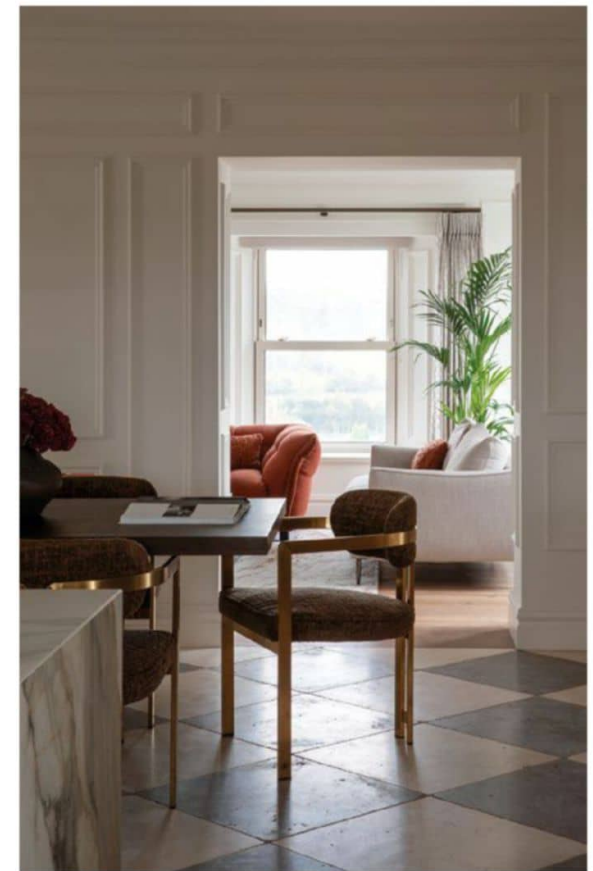
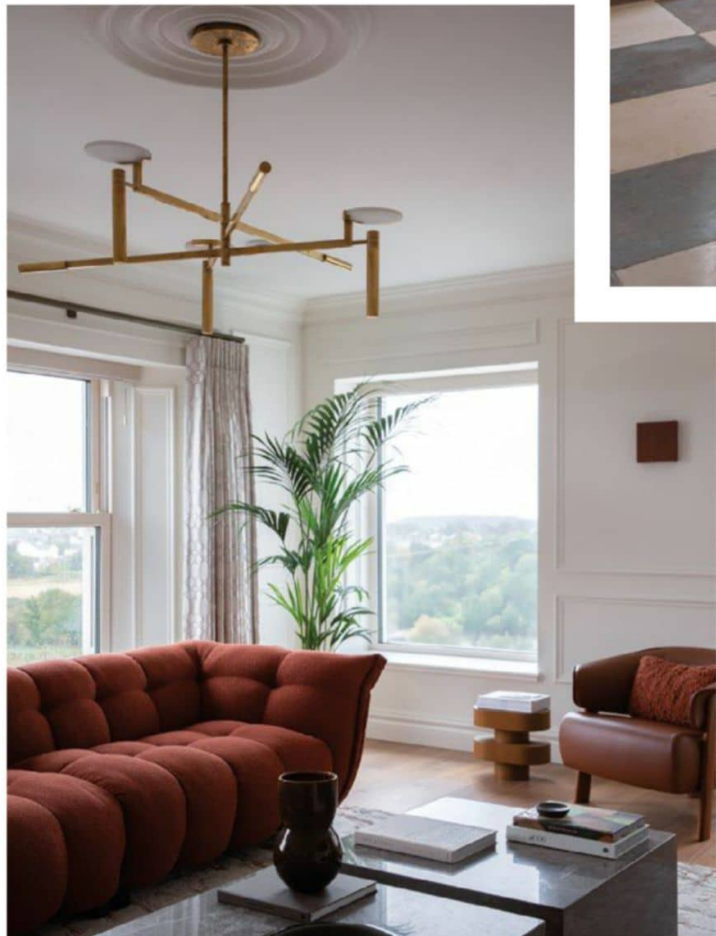


floors to create a more subdued environment with Farrow & Ball’s London Stone,’ Susan explains.

Another striking example of her design philosophy unfolds in the formal sitting room. ‘With its distinctly moody palette (Trinity Green from Fleetwood) and rich textural diversity, this space was developed as a retreat for the clients—a place to unwind or entertain in an intimate setting,’ Susan says. ‘Every piece was carefully selected, from the stunning Italian mid-century sideboard from Acquired to the sumptuous velvet green sofa (Calligaris) and the heirloom coffee table, which was repurposed from a cherished family dining table, bringing a touch of nostalgia to this beautifully appointed retreat.’

The kitchen is another play on that equilibrium of classic and new. ‘Instead of the traditional black-and-white marble aesthetic, we opted for a softer, more organic palette of grey and sandy

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limestones, which complements the home's rural setting with understated sophistication.'

The kitchen's detailing is dual-purpose; it's another balancing act, this time marrying looks with function. 'A restrained use of hardware, combined with thoughtfully chosen lighting fixtures, adds an air of refinement without overwhelming the senses. The interplay of smooth and ribbed timber veneers adds warmth and texture, ensuring that the space is not just the functional heart of the home but a design statement in its own right,' says Susan.

Trevor McDonald supplied the kitchen and much of the bespoke joinery. Features include a 150cm Smeg range oven, Fisher & Paykel appliances, an integrated pantry, tea station, dining dresser, and a spacious waterfall island.

The living space here embraces a 'broken-plan' approach. 'We incorporated partial walls to

create a more structured and architecturally cohesive composition,' Susan explains.

'The colour palette draws directly from the stunning countryside beyond, creating a sense of continuity between the interior and the landscape.' Marble tables from Zara Home set the scene. The dining area is defined by a Bontempi table.

The master bedroom suite is a feast of texture, calming nudes, and rich colour splashes, 'carefully curated to create a tranquil sanctuary,' Susan says. 'The suite comprises a spacious main bedroom, a lavish bathroom with a walk-through shower, and an intuitive wardrobe area, all designed as part of a seamless circuit.'

The bed, draped in Foxford bed linen, and bedside lockers are custom-made. The console table was sourced from Model Furniture, while the pendant light is Soho Home. Many features

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here are bespoke Ashen & Cloud.

To maintain continuity, design elements from the rest of the home reappear in this suite. 'Feature tiles used elsewhere in the house make a reappearance, subtly reinforcing the overall design language,' Susan says.

The guest bedroom here is something else. It is perched to capture breathtaking views of Croagh Patrick. 'Our clients wanted this space to be a truly special retreat for

their family and friends,' Susan adds. 'We embraced a minimal, contemporary approach, allowing the view to take centre stage.'

Beyond an unassuming door in the guest hall lies a subterranean oasis encompassing a Swim Spa pool, state-of-the-art gym, sauna, and shower areas. 'The space extends seamlessly to an outdoor terrace, complete with an open-air kitchen and living area,' Susan calls this area

the pièce de résistance of this home.

She adds, 'A reflective black stretch ceiling enhances the sense of depth and tranquillity, casting a soft, ambient glow that heightens the spa's immersive quality. Whether bathed in sunshine or wrapped in mist, this sanctuary remains a haven of relaxation.'

From its architectural form to the smallest curated detail, this hillside home is a lesson in style.

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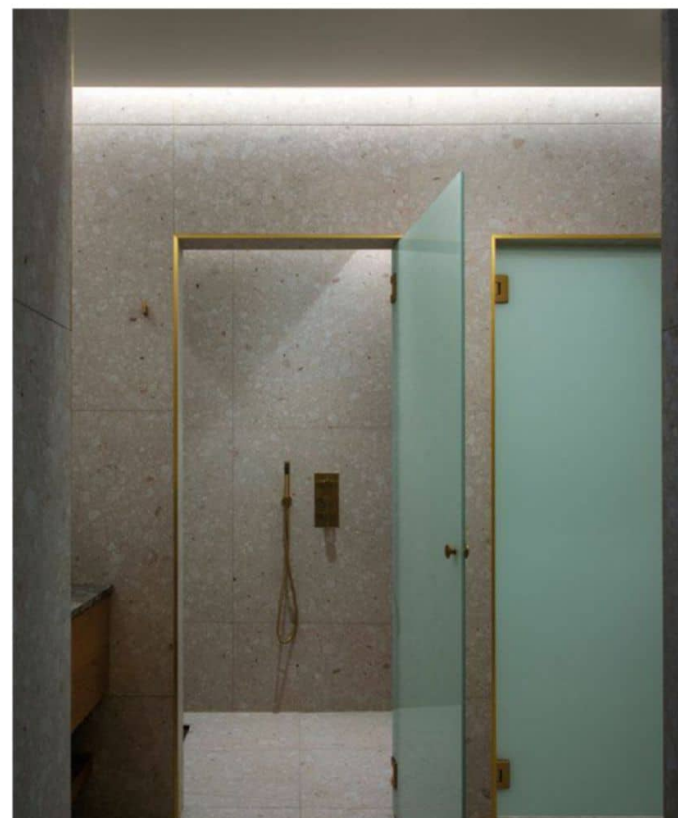
‘The goal was always to create a home that resonated with both owners’ sensibilities without compromising on cohesion,’ Susan continues.

When asked if she has a favourite element, she says: ‘If I had to choose, then perhaps the primary bedroom suite, which really is a dream space – it is so restful, and the colours have such a settling effect on your mood. The spa area is also super chic – you find surprises around every corner in this house!’

The home is a true collaboration, brought to life by a team of craftsmen and suppliers. The elegant fireplace was sourced from Spratt Fireplaces and Stove Centre in Letterkenny.

Much of the designer furniture was sourced from Minima Home and Lost Weekend Interiors. Original artwork by Katie O’Connor adds a personal touch, complemented by soft furnishings supplied by The Curtain Centre, Roscommon. 🏠

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Honouring the Past Perfectly

This 1905 Arts and Crafts villa in the North-West has become a picture-perfect retreat for its third family to live there. Here, we talk to the design company behind the aesthetic, Cest Interior Design.

EDITORIAL BY EMMA DEIGHAN,
SARAH FYFFE PHOTOGRAPHY. SARAHFYFFE.COM

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A Grade II listed property designed by renowned architect Alfred A. Foreman, this home exudes individuality and thoughtful curation at every turn.

With an entrance porch, boot room, two reception spaces, an office, and an open-plan kitchen/living/dining area on the ground floor, alongside five bedrooms, a laundry room, and three bathrooms upstairs, it is as spacious as it is enchanting.

When the family purchased the house in 2020,

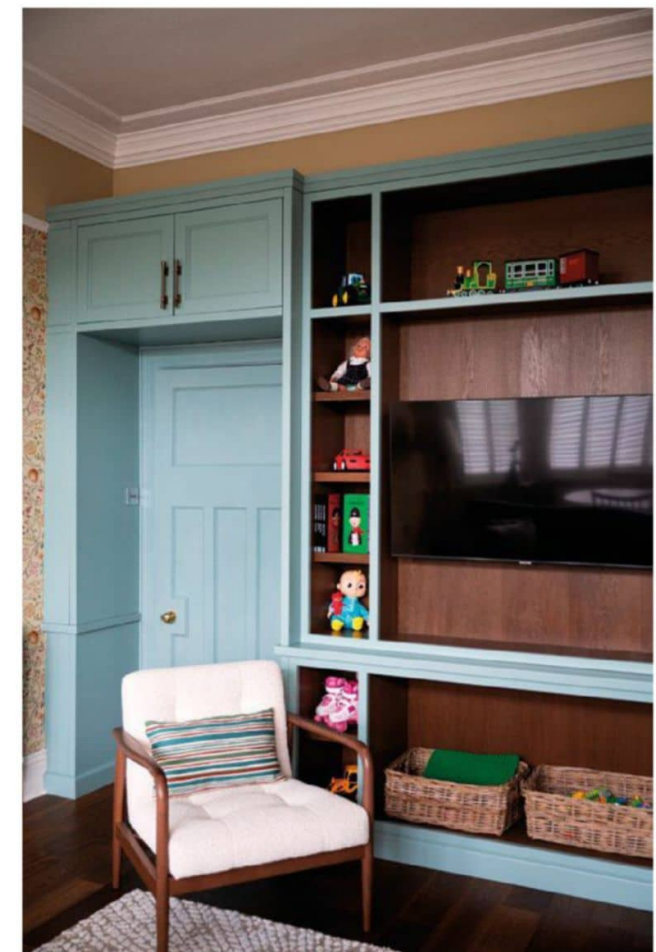
they embarked on a full renovation, maintaining and restoring its original features while introducing modern enhancements. The biggest transformation was a contemporary extension, designed to be visually distinct from the historic structure yet seamlessly integrated.

'We wanted to enhance the home's existing character while making it work for modern family life,' shares the interior designer, who was responsible for the entire scheme. The entrance hall sets the tone with its large, ornate

glass feature window, allowing light to flood the space. 'We used large-format parquet tiles, inspired by French châteaux of the same period, to run through to the open-plan area, creating a cohesive flow,' the designer explains. A reading nook was introduced in a vibrant teal hue, providing contrast against the French-polished staircase.

The reading nook features a rich Made.com chair, which rests on a Rugviva mat and is lit by a floor lamp from EZ Living. An eye-catching chandelier from John Lewis

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allows this space to mix grandeur with modern accents.

In the main reception room, a baby grand piano takes pride of place, fulfilling a long-standing dream of the homeowners. 'The inspiration for this room came from the leafy trees visible through the window and the original green-tiled fireplace,' says the designer. A striking pink sofa from Next adds contrast, while a wallpaper mural from Etsy, framed within panelling, creates an elegant focal point, reflected in the oversized overmantel mirror. The

lamp here is a vintage piece from CS Architectural Salvage.

Another sitting room, which the designer refers to as the 'floral feature room,' illustrates cohesion throughout the interior while allowing for individuality in each space. 'The hallway's blue and maroon scheme complements the floral feature room, so moving between spaces feels harmonious.' The wallpaper here is from JaneClayton.com and is a Morris & Co. Mary Isobel print. Cabinetry was made by Kyle Mooney Bespoke and painted in Farrow

& Ball Oval Room Blue. A rug by EZ Living Furniture softens the underfoot, while the boucle chair by Made.com echoes some mid-century finesse.

The home's artwork is a carefully curated mix of original pieces, Irish prints, and store-bought selections, adding an eclectic yet personal touch. Textures also play a significant role, with flooring flitting from dark wood to tiling and soft carpets. 'A wool runner on the stairs enhances warmth and comfort,' the designer explains.

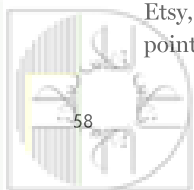
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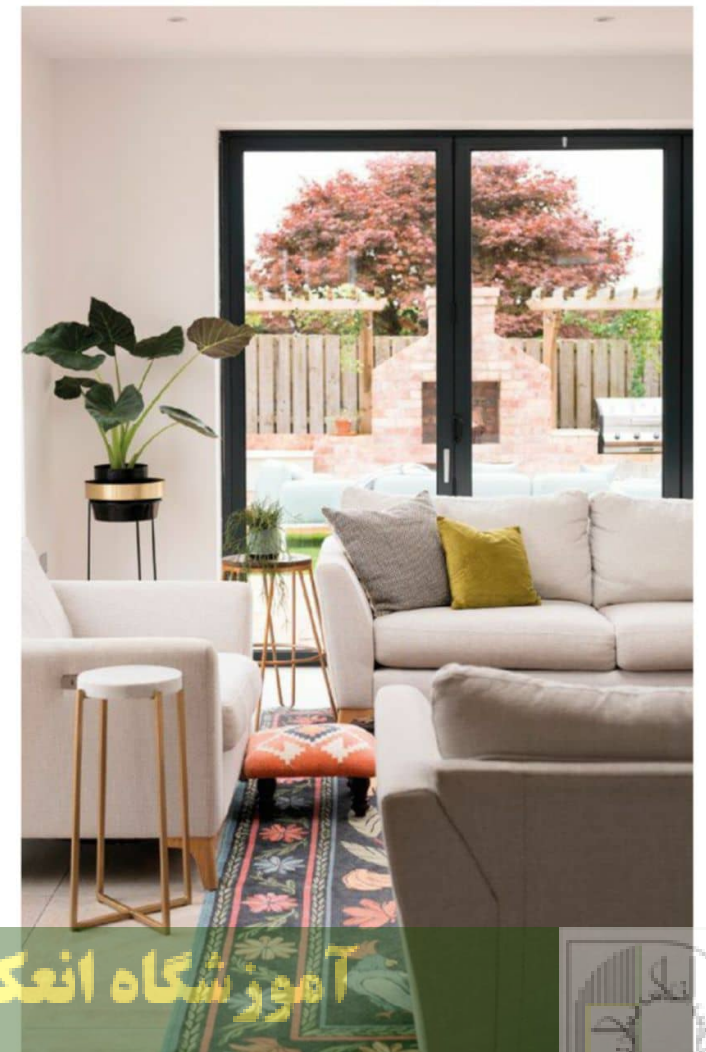


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Moving into the handcrafted kitchen by Kyle Mooney Bespoke, there's a balance of function and form. 'Tall cabinetry maximises storage without overwhelming the space. Inside, rich walnut features provide warmth, with clever pull-out trays beside the oven and hidden coffee/toaster stations,' says the designer. The large island acts as a hub, painted near-black to contrast with the light cabinetry.

The dining table, flanked by a clad brick wall, is by La Redoute, AM.PM, while the chairs were sourced

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from Where Saints Go.

The original kitchen had a separate boiler room, now repurposed into the dining space, while a two-sided bio-ethanol fireplace connects the kitchen and dining area. 'To meet heritage requirements, bricks from the demolished coal sheds were repurposed for cladding, creating a tangible link between past and present,' says the designer.

A cosy snug off the kitchen features a sofa by DFS, cushions sourced from the high street and a local craft store, while colour is injected by a rug from Ruggable.

The office, once the original breakfast room, enjoys maximum daylight thanks to its east-facing windows. 'The home's layout was cleverly designed to follow the movement of the sun,' the designer adds. The original house plans are framed on the wall here, while a desk from Made.com and a chair from Homesense populate the space.

Upstairs, the stunning original staircase and banister remain untouched. The walls are painted in Farrow &

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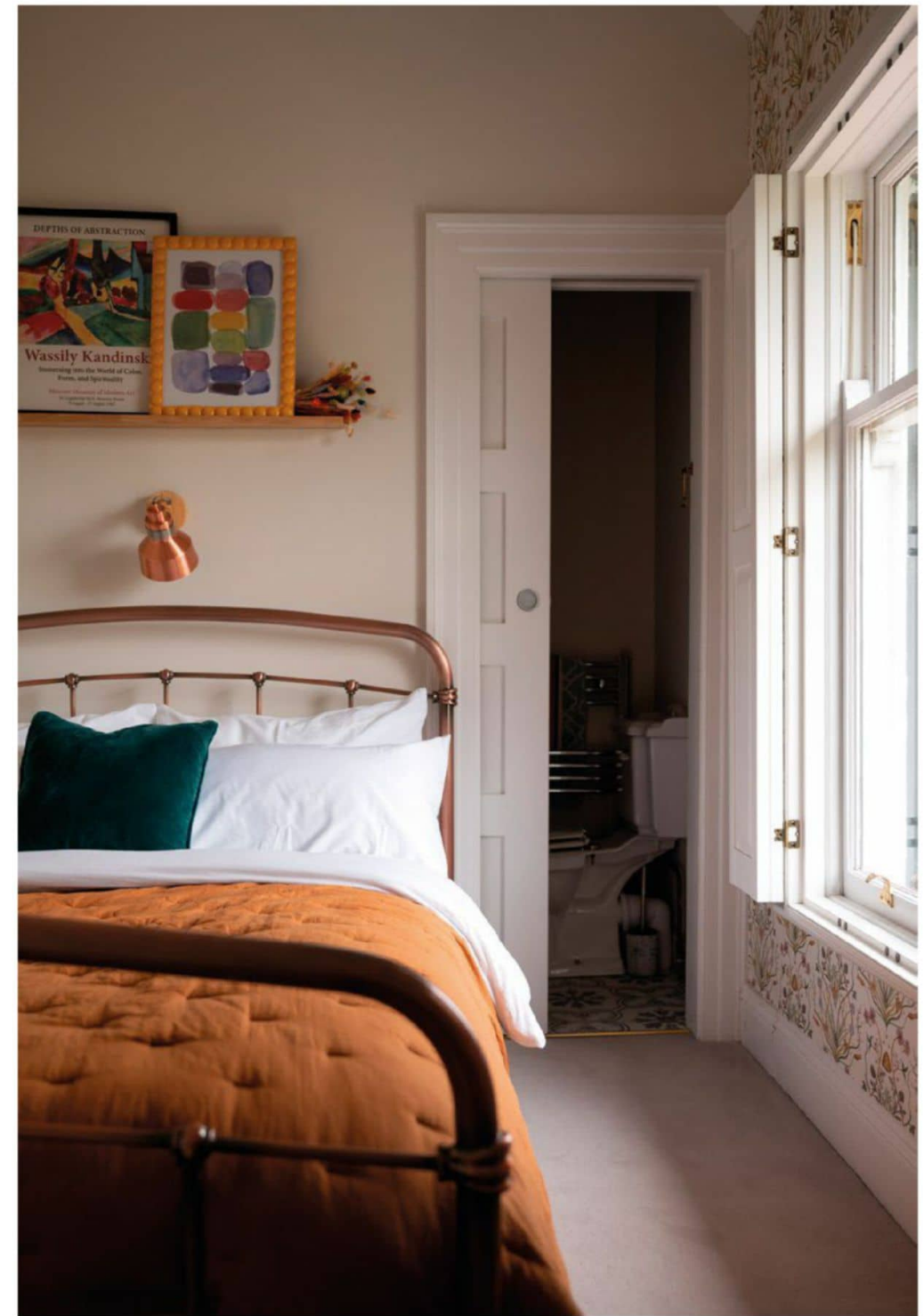
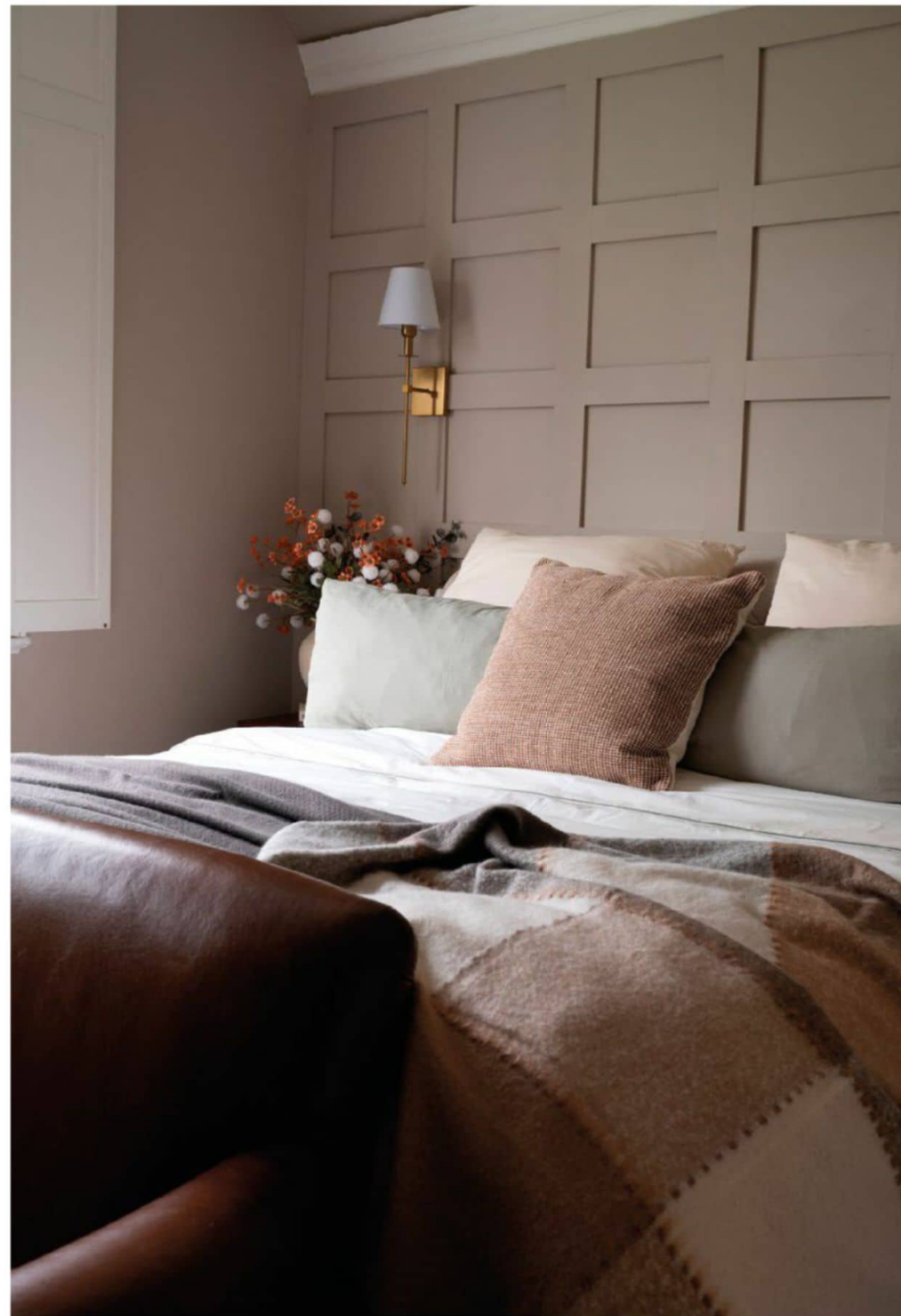


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Ball French Grey and French Grey Pale, providing a soft, elegant transition.

In the bathroom deep Victorian green, contrasting white marble, and brushed brass fixtures evoke 'grounded opulence.' 'The wood footstools add functionality, especially as this is also the children's bathroom.' A vanity unit and bath from Drench.co.uk, along with tiles from Tailored Tiles in Newtowncunningham,

complement the space.

The master bedroom was created with rest in mind, says the designer. 'The intention was quiet peace, which includes neutral floors, bed, bedding, and wall colours. The furniture is walnut to bring in warmth and richness, and the pops of warm colour are brought in through the artwork positioned throughout the space, flowers, and a large Kandinsky print on the adjacent wall.'

A guest room, once the servant's quarters, pays homage to its history. 'A brass bed reflects the era, while a rich

colour palette and metallic accents add warmth and depth,' the designer shares. The bed is from Next, while the light fitting was purchased at Made.com. An orange quilt from Zara injects a colour punch. The wallpaper here is The Chateau by Angel Strawbridge Potagerie Wallpaper.

The little girl's room, inspired by a fairytale princess with Parisian touches, features a dreamy cloudscape mural above Paris, while a voile canopy over a king-size bed fulfils a little girl's princess wish.

The nursery, the home's smallest room, blends

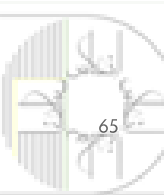
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traditional walls with a Scandi-style bed for a transitional feel meanwhile a third child's room creates a timeless look designed to grow with the child. A map mural, chosen by him, complements the deep dark tones elsewhere, while light oak shelving softens the space and offers a quirky storage solution for smaller toys.

The same attention to detail extends to the exterior,

where a newly created space repurposes original bricks from the coal sheds in a meaningful way. The salvaged sink from the old boiler room now serves as a perfect water play area for their three-year-old.

The designer concludes, 'The goal was never to recreate the past but to honour it while making the house a home for today's family!'

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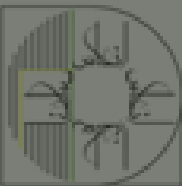


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Turnkey Transformation

A semi-detached five-bedroom home in a new Carrickmines development presented Alannah Monks of Oriana B Interiors with a blank canvas – literally, and she wasted none of it...

EDITORIAL BY EMMA DEIGHAN.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHAUNA LALLY.



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‘When we arrived, it was a pure white box with minimal detailing and concrete floors,’ recalls the Creative Director at Oriana B Interiors. ‘Our task was to bring character, gravitas, and homeliness to this beautiful but stark space.’

The owners, a family of four relocating from the Far East, had purchased the house site unseen and entrusted Oriana B Interiors with a full turnkey design and fit-out. ‘We had just 12 weeks to complete everything—from new floors, kitchen design, and painting to making the beds, stocking the cupboards, and even ensuring the Wi-Fi was set up,’ Alannah explains.



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A striking first impression was a priority for the family, who wanted to introduce elements of their cultural heritage into the Irish home. 'In Japan, the concept of a 'genkan' is essential—an entryway where you remove your shoes, transition into home mode, and leave the outside world behind. It was important to them to incorporate this,' Alannah explains.

To define the genkan, Alannah used a checkerboard tile in white and green marble with a brass inset, which moves into rich brunette oak flooring from Havwoods Ireland. 'We made the space as inviting as possible, using gorgeous oak veneer from The Wood Studio,' she says. 'The green walls, painted in a Colourtrend shade, offer a warm welcome while referencing the Irish landscape.' A 100% wool stair runner from TC Matthews, bordered with an orange band, continues this subtle nod to Irish heritage.

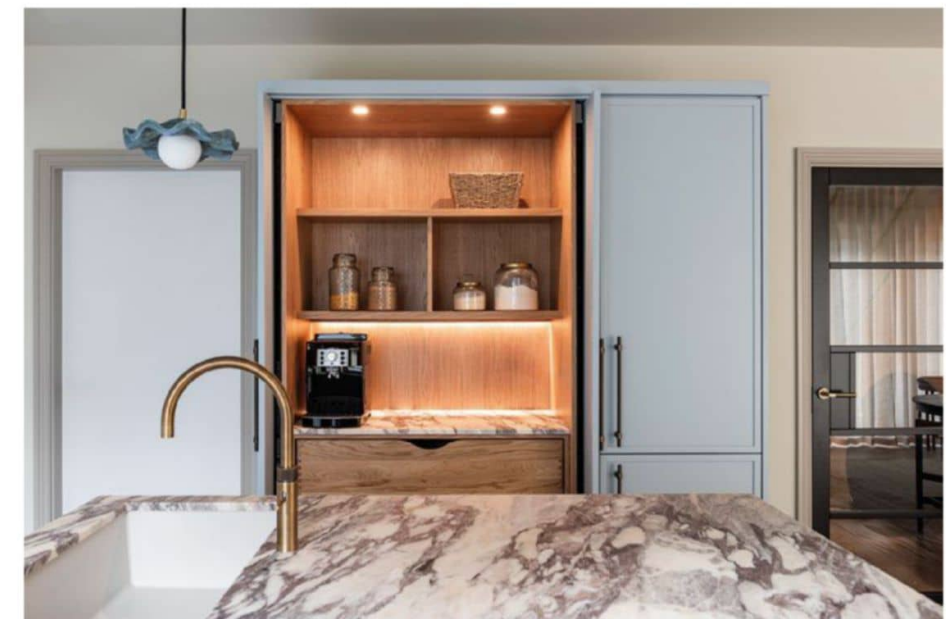
The living area, once a blank box, is now refined eclecticism. 'The clients wanted a better flow between the hallway and living space, so we removed the door and installed an oak archway—opening up the space while creating an aesthetic shift,' says Alannah.

A key feature is the fireplace, an element not included in the original development. 'There was no pre-installed fireplace, but our clients felt the space



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needed one, so we designed a bespoke electric fireplace integrated with the media unit,' she explains. 'The surround is an eclectic mix—gorgeous green Zellige tiles and a stunning Connemara marble top, which we sourced specifically for its richness and depth.'

Alannah continued this theme of layered textures and colour with blue herringbone curtains and a ceiling painted in Farrow & Ball Light Blue. 'I love mixing green and blue—it adds unexpected depth and warmth,' she says. The furniture, sourced from Oriana B Interiors, complements the scheme, while a bespoke sofa anchors the room with soft, sculptural appeal.

A sneak peek at a home gym shows this space was

designed with consideration. 'It was a real treat to design a gym for clients who were fully committed to the concept,' says Alannah. 'We balanced practicality with aesthetics, using rubber flooring and acoustic walnut panels to absorb sound. The centrepiece is a stunning, backlit 2m-wide circular mirror, which enhances both function and style.'

The kitchen is a study in contrast—calm yet striking, contemporary and warm. 'The cabinetry, crafted by The Wood Studio, is finished in Farrow & Ball's Parma Grey, paired with exquisite viola marble countertops and backsplash,' says Alannah.

The island is equally distinctive. 'While our clients

'The curved accents and blue-tiled sides add just enough personality without overwhelming the space,' says Alannah.

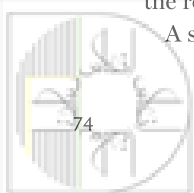
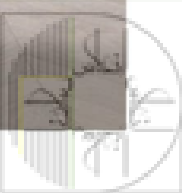
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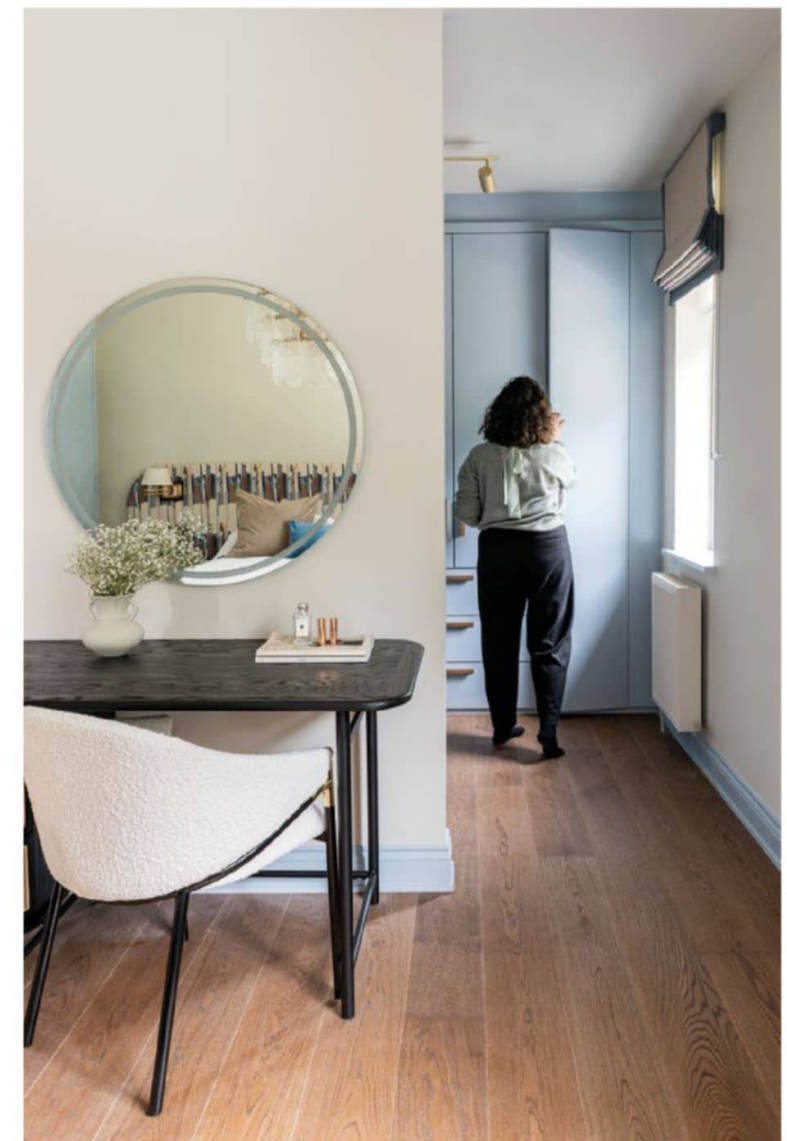




wanted to push their design boundaries, they still needed to feel at ease. We encouraged them to be bold but always respected their comfort levels,' she explains. 'The curved accents and blue-tiled sides add just enough personality without overwhelming the space.'

A key flooring detail lifts the design. 'Because the kitchen floor covers such a large area, we wanted it to be a statement,' Alannah adds. 'We laid a chevron-pattern oak floor from Havwoods Ireland but incorporated a strip of Portuguese patterned tiles along the cabinetry for a practical yet polished transition.'

Lighting is a defining feature throughout the home, and Oriana B Interiors took the opportunity to introduce their first in-house lighting collection. 'I'm particularly proud of this—it was our first project using our own designs,' Alannah reveals. 'The bedside lights, for example, are extendable and adjustable, perfect for practical use, while the hallway and bar cabinet feature our fixed-arm ambient pieces.'



For the ceiling lights, they went bold. 'We primarily sourced from Irish suppliers, particularly Mullan Lighting,' she adds.

The master bedroom is a calming space. 'The colour scheme carries through the soft blue tones from the ground floor, which the clients were so drawn to,' Alannah explains.

A bold headboard, upholstered in embroidered Designers Guild fabric, spans the full width of the room. 'We also integrated built-in lighting into the headboard,' Alannah says. 'Precision was key, as measurements had to be exact, but the result is so worth it – it anchors the space and eliminates clutter.'

The ensuite posed a design challenge. 'The original inward-swinging doors made the space feel cramped, so we replaced them with ceiling-height sliding doors on silent rails, adding a sense of seamless flow,' she says. Inside, blue and green terrazzo tiles mirror the bedroom's palette.

The children's bedrooms each reflect their personalities. 'From our very first Zoom meeting, the daughters made one request clear – they wanted pink, and lots of it!' Alannah

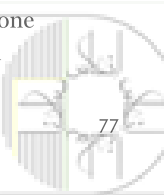
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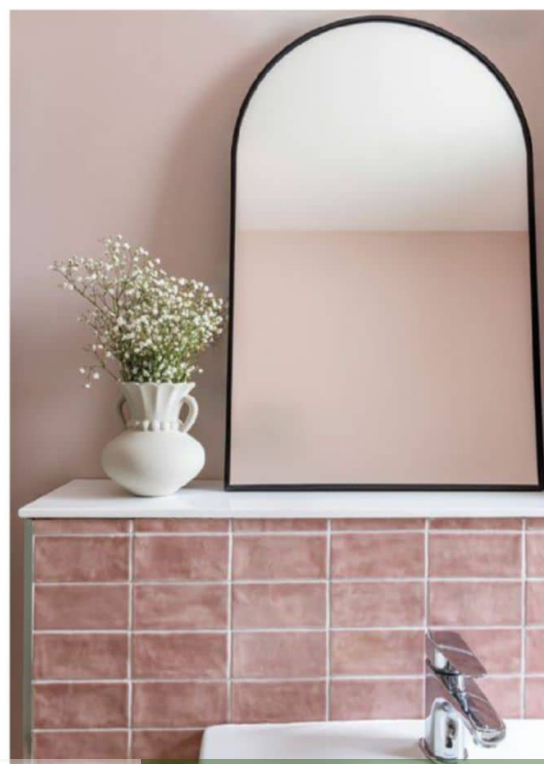


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‘From our very first Zoom meeting, the daughters made one request clear – they wanted pink, and lots of it!’ Alannah reveals.



reveals. ‘So we embraced that, creating a chinoiserie-inspired space with a stunning mural wallpaper from Rebel Walls. The scalloped edges and green trims evolved from there.’

For Alannah, her favourite part of this home is the custom-designed bar cabinet. ‘The kitchen and dining space is almost 10 metres long, so we needed a bold bookend to balance it,’ she says. ‘The clients are whiskey and wine connoisseurs, so a statement bar cabinet was the perfect solution.’

Crafted by The Wood Studio, the unit is topped with a breathtaking slab of viola marble from Lamont Stone. ‘It’s the cherry on top of a truly special project,’ Alannah says.

Asked to sum up the project, Alannah reflects on the essence of good design. ‘When I approach a full home fit-out, I aim for a cohesive flow in colour and texture, but I also believe each room should have its own personality. Our homes serve different purposes in different spaces—there’s no one-size-fits-all solution,’ she says. ‘This family are stylish minimalists who appreciate design and beauty. Their home is a reflection of that—fuss-free, interesting, and inviting.’ 🏠

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Award-Winning Design

This stunning Co. Armagh home recently won a Design Project of the Year category at the IHIL Awards in Dublin. The designer behind the project, Kris Turnbull of Kris Turnbull Studios, attributes its success to a balance of design elements. We take a look inside.

EDITORIAL BY EMMA DEIGHAN.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BRUCE.



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Reigning supreme at the IHIL Awards in the Design Project of the Year category (£50/€60k - £500/€600k), this Co. Armagh property is a true style story that embraces the outdoors. 'We are incredibly proud of how the project turned out,' Kris Turnbull begins. 'The home reflects the family's needs and personalities, blending timeless architectural details with luxurious yet practical design.'

His use of soft, textured finishes, natural materials, and an organic design approach has produced a home that is both visually stunning and practical.

Built on the original footprint of an old rectory, the building spans 3,800 sq ft and was designed by architect Des Ewing to embrace a 'picture-book perfect' architectural style. Kris balanced charming original features with contemporary touches.

'We were brought on board when the bones of the building were already underway,' Kris continues. 'As the contractor began requesting details for key elements such as the staircase and fireplace design, the clients realised they needed professional guidance. We worked under pressure

آپوزیشن، اطلاعات، مقالات و دورہ های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی



to stay ahead of the builder, ensuring decisions were made swiftly to keep the project moving forward.'

Set on four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, including an enclosed courtyard, a mini meadow with wildflowers, and a treehouse built by the father using reclaimed wood, the outdoor elements of this home became a vital influence on the design choices.

'Soft pastel accents were introduced to create a harmonious balance between traditional and contemporary elements, while the children's bedrooms embraced more playful colour schemes,' Kris explains. 'The large timber sash windows fill each room with natural light, and we drew inspiration from Georgian architecture, merging it with modern elements to maintain a timeless feel.'

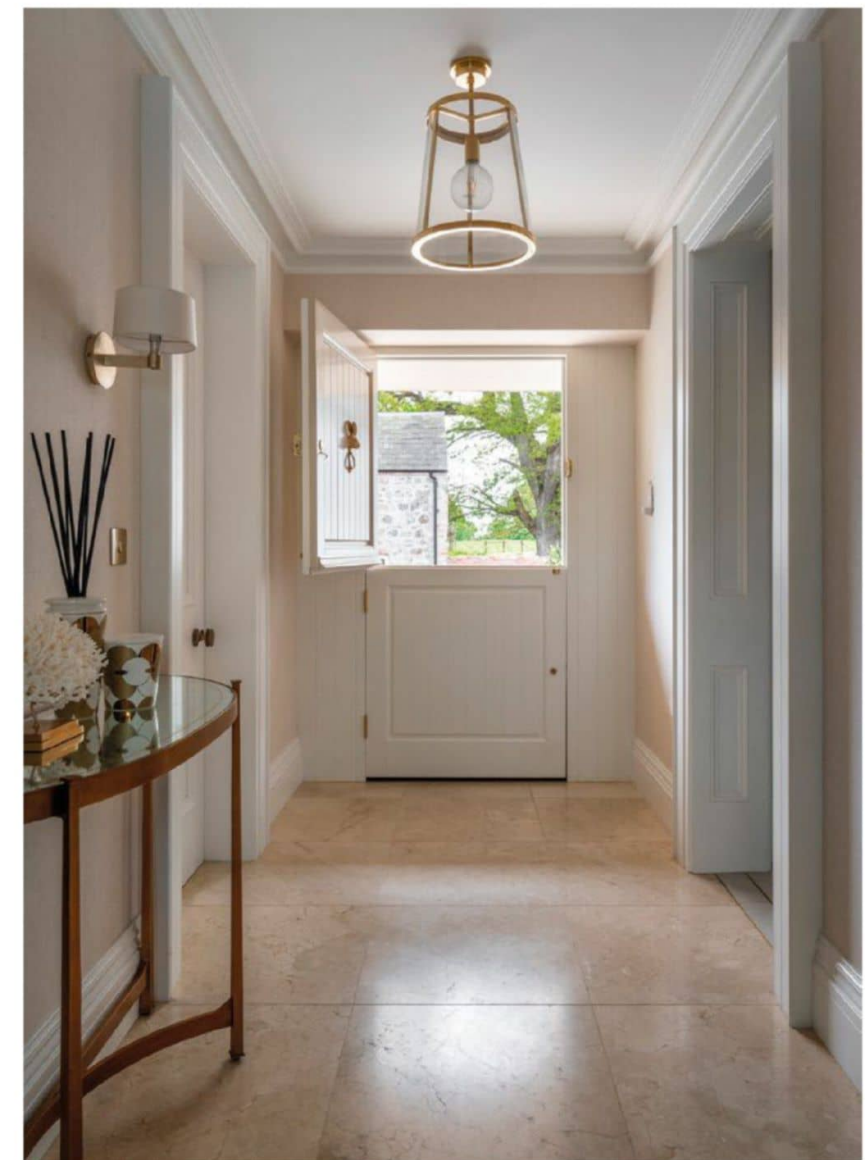
The hallway sets the tone for the rest of the home. In

large entrance halls, you need thoughtful architectural detailing, impactful lighting, and intricate flooring to avoid a cold or empty feel,' Kris says. 'For this space, a bespoke chandelier cascades down the centre, and we added a large-format porcelain tile with a brass inlay detail to define the formality of the space. The bespoke hand-tufted carpet runner brings softness to the staircase.'

The dark console table, paired with sleek mirrors and crisscross stools, introduces a dramatic but balanced aesthetic. The cabinet is by Christopher Guy, made from java wood with Daliesque hand-carved legs, creating a striking focal point.

In the drawing room, Kris continued his use of rich blue tones and introduced classical elements like a hand-carved marble fireplace and a herringbone timber floor with brass framing. The plasterwork, inspired by Georgian design,

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was executed in a contemporary way with recessed ceiling details,' he explains. 'We used a combination of materials such as botanical silk and wool for the bespoke rugs, while the sofas were upholstered in an over-knitted boucle fabric by Nobilis Paris. The 17th-century archive materials for the cushions from Rubelli in Venice brought a traditional touch to the room.'

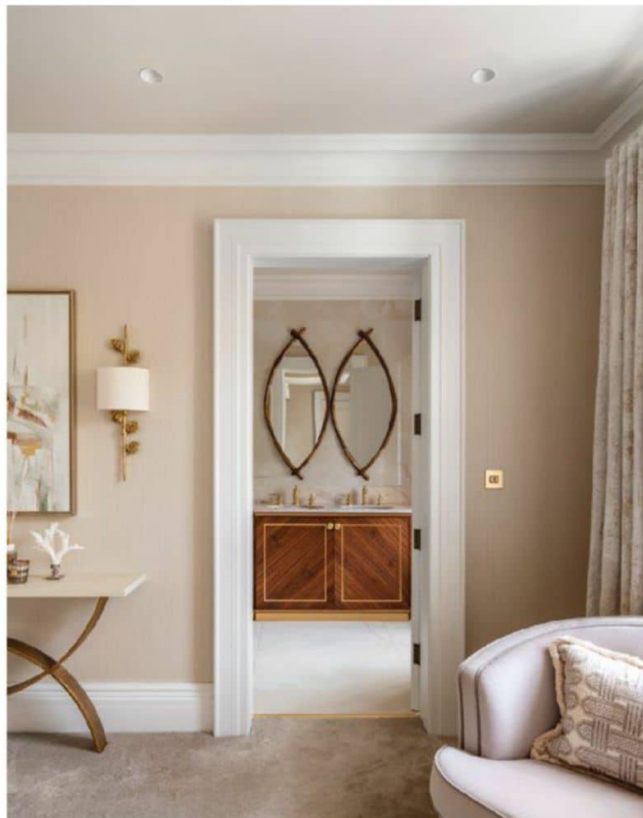
The artwork throughout consists of hand-painted textured canvases that 'add a sense of serenity to each room'.

The family room at the rear of the house required a different approach to balance the elegant proportions of

the front with a more relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. 'The large-format porcelain tiles from the hallway were continued into the open-plan kitchen and family room, creating a seamless transition,' Kris says. 'For the lounge, we wanted comfort and a sense of luxury. The bespoke corner group, combined with Minotti swivel chairs, creates an inviting space. The dress curtains from Nobilis reflect the light with subtle metallic threads and geometric patterns.'

Kris worked closely with the clients to design a kitchen that would deliver both practically and visually. 'We created a large island where the children could eat while

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“The clients wanted the space to reflect the peaceful environment outside. We used feature wall panels behind the bespoke headboard, which represent the shadows of oak trees, and dressed the bed with luxurious linen and velvets from Evitavonni.”

the parents cooked. The challenge was integrating elegant design with practicality—keeping kitchen appliances out of sight and organising the space efficiently. We introduced a neighbouring pantry to store everything together.”

The hand-painted kitchen features a centrepiece Aga range, a Calacatta Oro backsplash, while brass inlays were used to elevate the Quartzite worktops. Kris explains, “The

key is to create balance and symmetry without sacrificing functionality.”

For the master suite, the goal was to create calm and luxury. “The clients wanted the space to reflect the peaceful environment outside. We used feature wall panels behind the bespoke headboard, which represent the shadows of oak trees, and dressed the bed with luxurious linen and velvets from Evitavonni.”

آموزشگاه انعکاس شایع‌ترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی



The room also features an end-of-bed TV cabinet with a telescopic lift system. 'The combination of textures and natural materials brings the outdoors in while keeping the space serene and inviting,' Kris adds.

Throughout the home, wood accents were thoughtfully incorporated to balance the soft, neutral tones. 'Wood elements tell a story and add warmth and sophistication. By embracing the natural imperfections of materials like wood and stone, we create a warm, timeless feel that's enhanced by natural light,' Kris explains.

A unique light sculpture in the dressing room adds the wow factor. It was designed to bring an organic touch to the clean-lined space. 'The steel leaves, brushed in gold, create a dramatic effect while remaining delicate,' Kris says. 'It's a work of art that doubles as functional lighting, providing a warm, homogenous spread of light.'

Kris and his team took a playful, personal approach to designing the children's bedrooms. 'Each room was styled to reflect the individual personalities of the children. The girls chose a pink colour palette with princess-inspired elements, while the boys' room features a bespoke wooden bunk bed, complemented by a charming vintage tractor wallpaper.'



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The paint colour in the boys' room is Dove Blue by Sanderson, in a washable, stain-resistant eggshell finish.

Asked to pick his favourite element of the home, Kris says, 'The orangery extension created an amazing new open space with an abundance of light, opening the door to a myriad of design possibilities. Its interior embraces the property's charming architectural details with sumptuous fabrics and natural materials with a tactile application to family living, yet still retaining its elegant Georgian character. The clients love more subdued, neutral tones with gentle accents of warm golds, creams, soft greens, and pinks. The serene, organic colour palette helps to create a calming mood, filled with light, and showcases beautiful garden views, while adding luxurious furnishings and materials.'

And reflecting on that award win, he concludes, 'Ultimately, judging how successful a project is starts with how the client or family in this case feels. Does their new home exceed their expectations? On this occasion, they were totally surpassed.' 🏠

*If you have any questions or queries relating to this reader's home please contact Heather Withers.
Phone +44 (0) 28 9147 3979 or email enquiries@ihil.net*

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A SLEEP SANCTUARY

From dreamy bedding to blissful accessories and furniture, we have everything you need to turn your bedroom into a safe haven.

The experts at Rotpunkt predict the bedroom space will undergo huge transformations in 2025, with separate areas reserved for boutique-style furniture arrangements that creatively display, organise, and curate an assortment of personal items.

MATT PHILIPS, Head of UK Operations at Rotpunkt believes some of the main trends to look out for are:

STYLE

The geometric design trend continues to lend itself to the latest bedroom furniture styles, introducing a range of patterns, shapes, colours and materials in 2025 to walk-in wardrobes and the private dressing room.

COLOUR

This year's bedroom colours will major on a combination of dark and light with 'the three neutrals' coming out as top performers. The white, black and grey colour palette continues to be sought out by anyone wanting to create a tranquil and soothing environment, and as the master bedroom and dressing room are

now considered our most private spaces in the home, 2025 will take a more sensitive, softer approach to colour blending.

MATERIAL

Wood remains the ultimate feel-good material choice, adding rich texture and charm to all styles of bedroom furniture. In 2025, oak has moved into the bedroom with the latest dark and light shades being used to enhance key design features across the wardrobe units and drawers.

APPLICATION

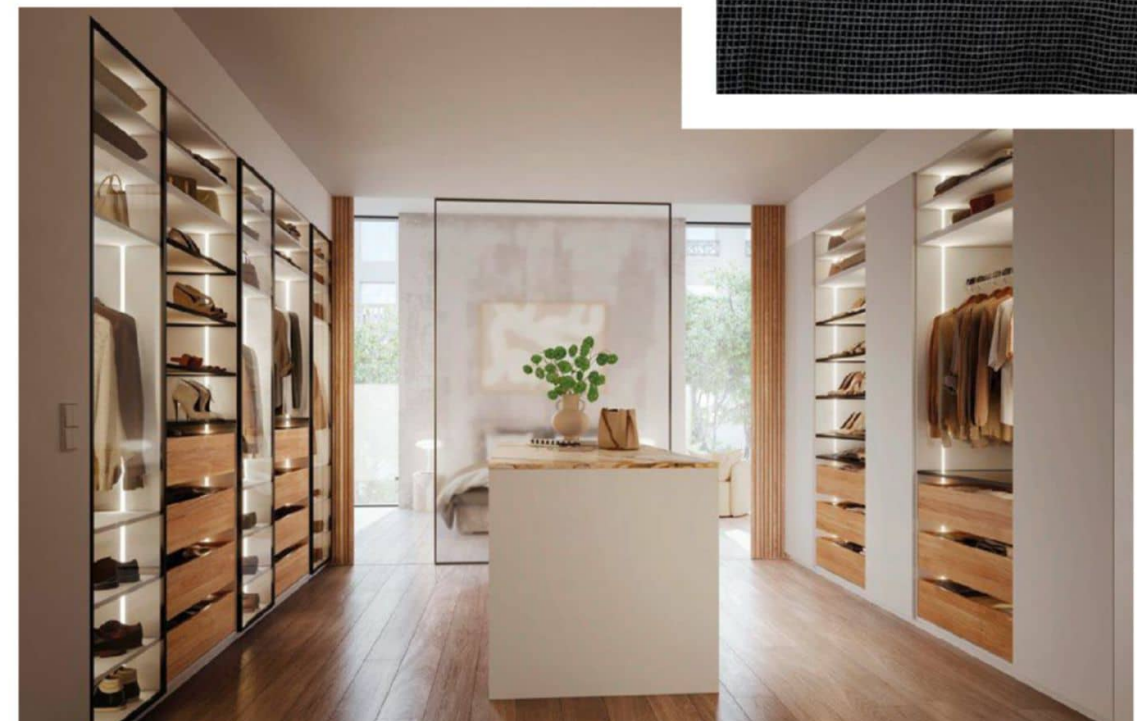
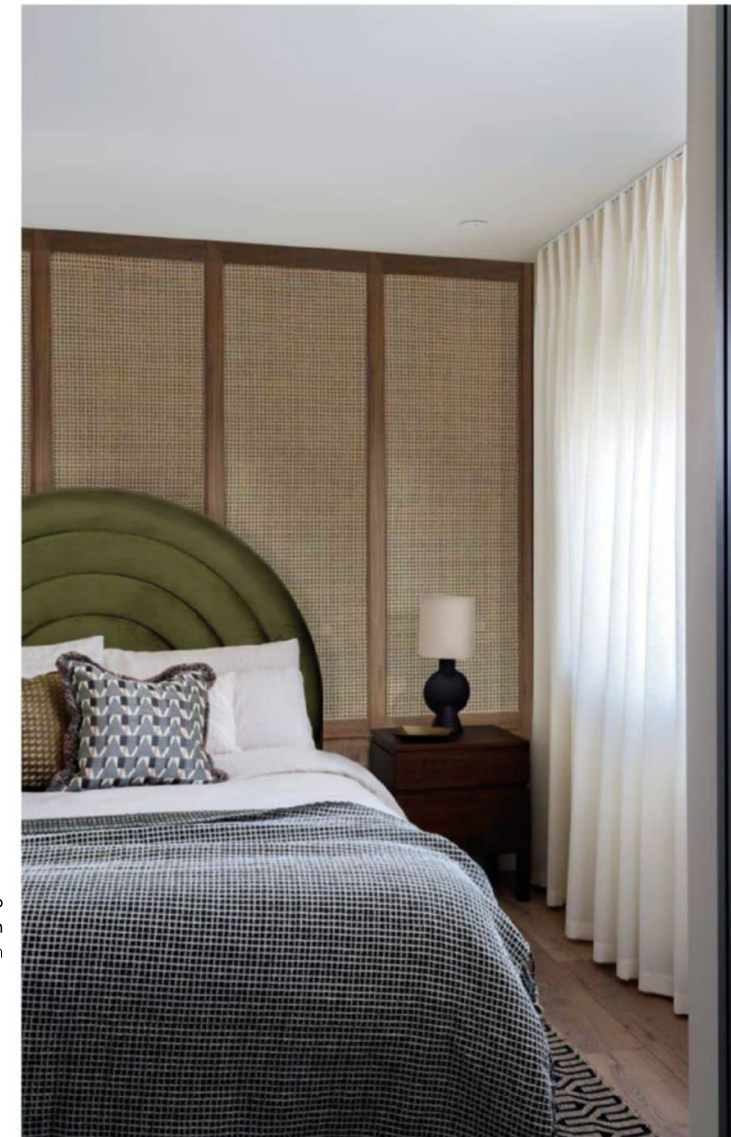
Optimisation is at the heart of bedroom storage in 2025 so that every inch of available space is fully leveraged. With creative solutions ranging from dressing room islands to floor-to-ceiling units with open shelving and ample hanging space, furniture which can be configured in different heights and widths will be top priority when ensuring the perfect fit. Integrated lighting solutions will also help to set the mood by creating depth and height, as well as a cosy ambience, which will enhance the wardrobe experience, day or night.



With its sleek appearance and convenient plug-in design, the Gio plug-in wall reading light is the ideal choice for adding functional task lighting to your living room, bedside wall or workspace, £68.90. dusklights.co.uk

Create a boutique hotel look with all-over patterned upholstery, a heritage-inspired silhouette and a towering headboard. dfs.ie

Use a mix of fabrics and texture to create a cosy retreat that calms both the body and mind. jackietracey.com



Create the dressing room of dreams with the Rotpunkt walk-in dressing room with storage island using Zerox furniture in Beach Grey and New Forest Oak. rotpunkt.co.uk

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SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS

March marks National Bed Month and as we spend more than a third of our lives in bed, it's important to get our surroundings right, but is the real answer to a good night's sleep in the stars? A report by bed specialist Bensons for Beds and astrologer Joanne Jones uncovers the sleeping habits of each star sign – revealing how well you sleep and your overall approach to rest and relaxation.

♈ ARIES

Sleep Traits: Difficulty winding down; surviving on little sleep; waking early
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: Incorporate wooden bedroom furniture to install a calming and natural sleep environment which can help with wind down.

♉ TAURUS

Sleep Traits: Want to feel cosy, secure, and indulgent; steady and unhurried approach to sleep; unlikely to compromise on sleep for the sake of others
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: A velvet headboard can create a sensory experience in the bedroom, and add a touch of luxury.

♊ GEMINI

Sleep Traits: Have trouble switching off; can swing between being night owls and early risers depending on mood; prone to disrupted and fragmented sleep
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: A bedroom with a cosy nook for reading a book before bed might be just the solution to calm a Gemini's active mind.

♋ CANCER

Sleep Traits: Sensitive to change (meaning they like their own bedroom best!); restless sleep and vivid dreams; crave a cosy sleep environment. Cancers may also notice fluctuations in their sleep quality during the full moon.
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: Luxury touches such as a super soft goose down pillow.

♌ LEO

Sleep Traits: Social personality means they are tempted to burn the candle at both ends; inconsistent sleep schedules.
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: A top quality mattress, like the Staples & Co Artisan range, will suit Leo's luxurious taste down to the ground.

♍ VIRGO

Sleep Traits: Aware of establishing a good sleep routine and sticking to it; prone to being analytical which can lead to overthinking which disrupts sleep.
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: Ottoman beds can help Virgos keep their bedroom tidy and free of clutter, perfect for their need for order!

♎ LIBRA

Sleep Traits: Thrive on a balanced sleep schedule; can dwell on unresolved conflict before bed leading to worry.
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: For a visual statement, Librans could consider the maximalist trend – with bold design and statement pieces to bring joy to bedtime.

♏ SCORPIO

Sleep Traits: Natural night owls, preferring the solitude of nighttime; can experience insomnia
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: Dark coloured bedroom furniture (even black) and blackout curtains can help Scorpios achieve the ultimate rest.

♐ SAGITTARIUS

Sleep Traits: Thrive on spontaneity so often have inconsistent sleep schedules; play down the need for sleep (when there are better things to be doing!).
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: Always dreaming of their next adventure, Sagittarians might want to consider some beautiful wall art in their bedroom to inspire and excite them.

♑ CAPRICORN

Sleep Traits: Understand the importance of quality rest for productivity; value a structured sleep routine; ambitious nature can lead them to think late into the night.
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: Capricorns are also very mindful of wellness, so they may find it rewarding to optimise their sleep environment with a high-quality mattress or a supportive pillow to enhance their sleep quality.

♒ AQUARIUS

Sleep Traits: Find it hard to switch off from the day's events; unpredictable in nature so don't like bedtime routines.
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: A space where they can relax and wind down before bed is important, with plenty of personal touches to help them feel individual and valued.

♓ PISCES

Sleep Traits: Often experience intense dreams or vivid fantasies; highly emotional which can lead to trouble switching off and relaxing.
Perfect Sleep Sanctuary: Highly sensitive, Pisces may benefit from bedding which is soft but also anti allergy, to ensure their sleep is peaceful and serene.



Create a maximalist dreamscape with some fantasy bedlinen. emmajshipley.com



Geometric gets gorgeous with this sumptuous bedding. habitat.co.uk

The GEN001-939 range from Franks Furniture is available in three height options – 197cm, 216cm and 236cm, plus seven widths and a choice of Soft White or Modern Oak finish. franksfurniture.ie



A captivating botanical print, Linlithgow from Laura Ashley is a gorgeous design featuring delicate blooms and foliage, from £45. ashleywildegroupp.com



Sumptuous deep buttoning and super soft velvet characterises this Clapham bed frame. soundasleepbeds.com



THE STORY OF SOUND ASLEEP: Crafting Dreams, One Night at a Time

Improve your sleep quality and create a sanctuary with a bed from Sound Asleep.



In a world that never stops, where the hum of daily life can drown out the quiet call of rest, Sound Asleep exists as a sanctuary. A place where sleep is not just a necessity but an experience – one crafted with care, comfort and an unwavering commitment to quality.

A LEGACY OF COMFORT

Sound Asleep has been helping customers find the perfect night's sleep for years, building a reputation for excellence in both product and service. What began as a local showroom dedicated to value for money beds and mattresses, has grown into a trusted name, known for its dedication to quality, customer satisfaction, and a deep understanding of what makes a truly great bed.

Each product in the showroom is carefully selected to meet the highest standards – because Sound Asleep believes sleep isn't just about closing your eyes, it's about waking up refreshed and ready to take on the world.

DESIGNED FOR DREAMING

From handcrafted luxury mattresses, to stylish, durable bed frames, every item at Sound Asleep is chosen with one goal in mind – unmatched comfort.

MATTRESSES: From Vispring to Hypnos and Harrison Spinks the selection caters to

every type of sleeper. Whether you prefer a soft embrace or firm support, Sound Asleep has a mattress to fit your needs.

BED FRAMES: Elegant, sturdy, and available in a variety of styles, these bedframes are more than just functional – they're the centrepiece of a perfect sleep sanctuary.

DIVAN BEDS & STORAGE SOLUTIONS:

Combining comfort with practicality, Sound Asleep's divan beds offer deep, luxurious support while providing smart storage options for modern living.

LIFESTYLE BEDS:

Designed to make life easier for those with mobility issues or just providing that extra comfort when relaxing in bed. The adjustable bed range offers personalised support at the touch of a button. Elevate your legs, incline for reading or find the perfect sleeping position for a restful night.

BEDDING & ACCESSORIES: Because the perfect bed isn't complete without the right finishing touches, Sound Asleep also offers a range of mattress protectors,

pillows and toppers to enhance your sleep experience.

WHY CHOOSE SOUND ASLEEP?

In a market filled with choices, Sound Asleep stands out by offering more than just products, it offers expertise. The team is dedicated to helping each customer find the right fit for their sleep style, ensuring that every purchase leads to better nights and brighter mornings.

With a commitment to quality craftsmanship, competitive pricing, and outstanding customer service, Sound Asleep makes finding the perfect bed an effortless experience.

The Sound Asleep showroom is open Monday to Saturday, 9:30am–6pm, where you can experience the range in person, test out different options and get expert advice on what suits you best.

For those who prefer to shop from the comfort of home, soundsleepbeds.com offers a seamless online experience, bringing the same dedication to quality and service to your fingertips.



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Stylish Bathing

Your bathroom needs to be functional, but should also reflect your style and theme. Take this space to the next level with luxury solutions and materials designed to endure and elevate your room.

Heritage Stone emphasises the best characteristics of natural stone in a fabulous porcelain. Available in a selection of sizes with integrated antibacterial technology Heritage Stone is ideal for bathrooms and all areas of the home. Prices start around £55+vat m². porcellanadesignstudio.com



The ILBGANO Alessi iconic bathroom furnishings – a collaboration between the Alessi Italian design factory and LAUFEN – continues to expand as the classic archetypes are reinterpreted with more fluidity, colour, soft lines and lighting options to create an elevated sculptural character. Prices on request. cecoproducts.com

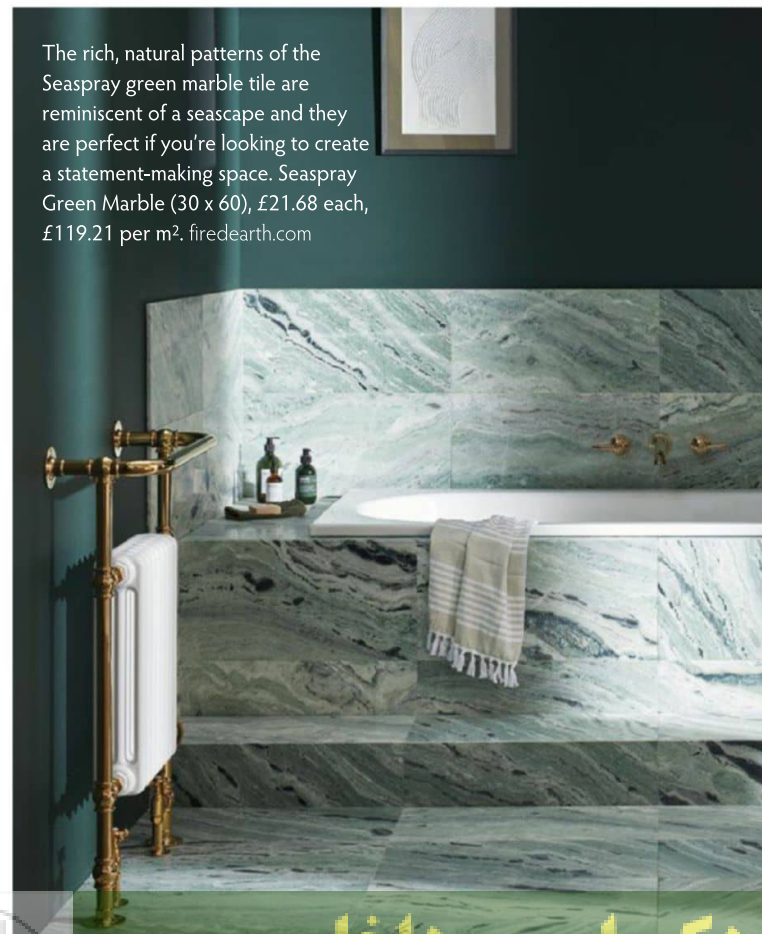
Bathrooms have become one of the most considered rooms of any home. Homeowners expect their bathrooms to offer so much more than a simple washroom. They want a room that looks great, can become a peaceful sanctuary when required and yet still be a practical space. Tiles play a major role in combining both aesthetic and functionality and the technology used now ensures that the homeowner has both. Porcelain tiles have so much to offer – the luxurious feel of marble, the calm elegance of stone, the warmth of wood or the personality of colour. Coordinated sanitaryware and lighting along with exquisite tiling will elevate the style of any bathroom.

MANDY LITTLE,
PORCELLANA TILE STUDIO

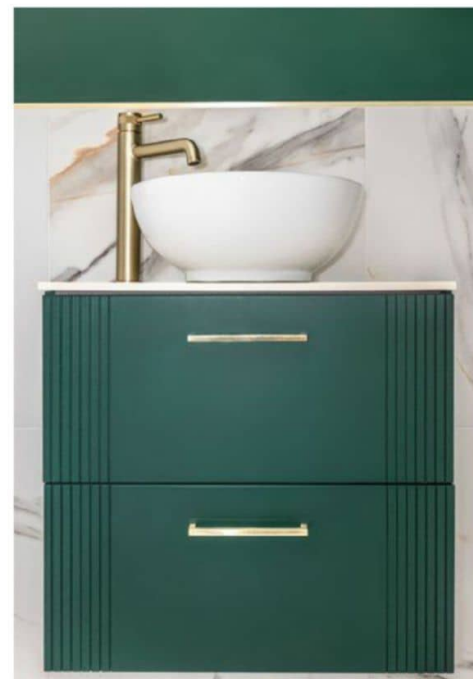


Bathroom window treatments often take a backseat to fixtures and tiles. However, choosing the right window covering can elevate both the functionality and aesthetics of your space. Price on request. californiashutters.co.uk

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Below: Discover the elegance of the HIB Fabrica Unit in Dark Emerald, paired with a Venato Marble worktop and a HIB Vessel basin – this vanity unit inspired the homeowner to match the walls with the exact Pantone colour, enhancing the room's drama and unity. Prices on request. bassettonline.com



BATHROOM INNOVATION

Surround yourself with the latest bathroom designs that will keep you up-to-date with your daily routine.

1 HygienGlaze® Plus sink. £992. duravit.com

2 Dune illuminated mirror, £385. crosswater.co.uk

3 Treemme W-Smart shower fittings, mixer, from €432; concealed body, €340. rubinetterie3m.it

4 Black marble effect shower tray. Price on request. sonasbathrooms.com

5 Onyx electric towel radiator in Brushed Brass, £665. jtpuk.co.uk

6 GROHE Plus tap with digital temperature display. Price on request. grohe.co.uk

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Q I'm renovating my bathroom and I want to create a space with character. How do I combine this with functionality?

Interiors Association member Denise Smith offers her expert advice.

Bathroom renovations can be tricky for a homeowner to negotiate. They involve a lot of trades – a plumber, an electrician and a tiler – and many people get overwhelmed by the project management involved. While it's perfectly possible to oversee a project like this yourself, some find it easier to seek the help of an interior designer. I design a lot of bathrooms! For the client it takes the stress out of the project and they can be certain of a good result.

I recently renovated a bathroom for a North Dublin client. It was a typical 'builder's bathroom' with an uninspiring design and a bath that took up a great deal of space. My client asked me to get rid of the bath and replace it with a shower. They wanted a room that was elegant as well as functional, and easy to keep tidy.

With bathrooms, the piecemeal approach often doesn't work. When people attempt a renovation in dribs and drabs, the result can look patchy. It's usually best to take everything out and start again. That's what we did here. The result was a complete transformation but, because we didn't change the plumbing, it wasn't hugely expensive. The toilet, washbasin, and taps stayed in the same position.

The space vacated by the bath allowed us to put in a very long shower tray, at the end of which I installed a towel rail. This means that the client doesn't have to step out of the shower to grab a warm towel. We tiled the walls in a marble-effect ceramic tile with minimal grout. The tiles are very large and look like a seamless wall of marble, at a fraction of the cost.

We put in a herringbone pattern of dark green subway tiles around the shower, which gives the room a sense of richness and character. We also selected a nickel-effect shower. This is a lovely metallic for bathroom taps and showers – it's visually warmer than chrome and softer than a gold or brass finish.



For the floor, we chose a ceramic tile in a wood-effect. The tiling looks like wooden planks but the ceramic is much more suitable for a damp environment. The whole room is tanked, which means there will be no leaks! I installed recessed shelving above the loo, with three glass shelves and a soft down-light. There's also a recessed space in the shower for shampoo and soap.

In general, if you're renovating a bathroom, the first step is to measure and photograph the room. Mark out where the plumbing is currently located, as well as the windows and doors. Think about how you want to use the bathroom. If you like the idea of a bath, be realistic about how often you're likely to use it.

Then, make an appointment at your local bathroom showroom. The people who work there have a lot of experience and can offer good solid advice on how to design and renovate your bathroom.



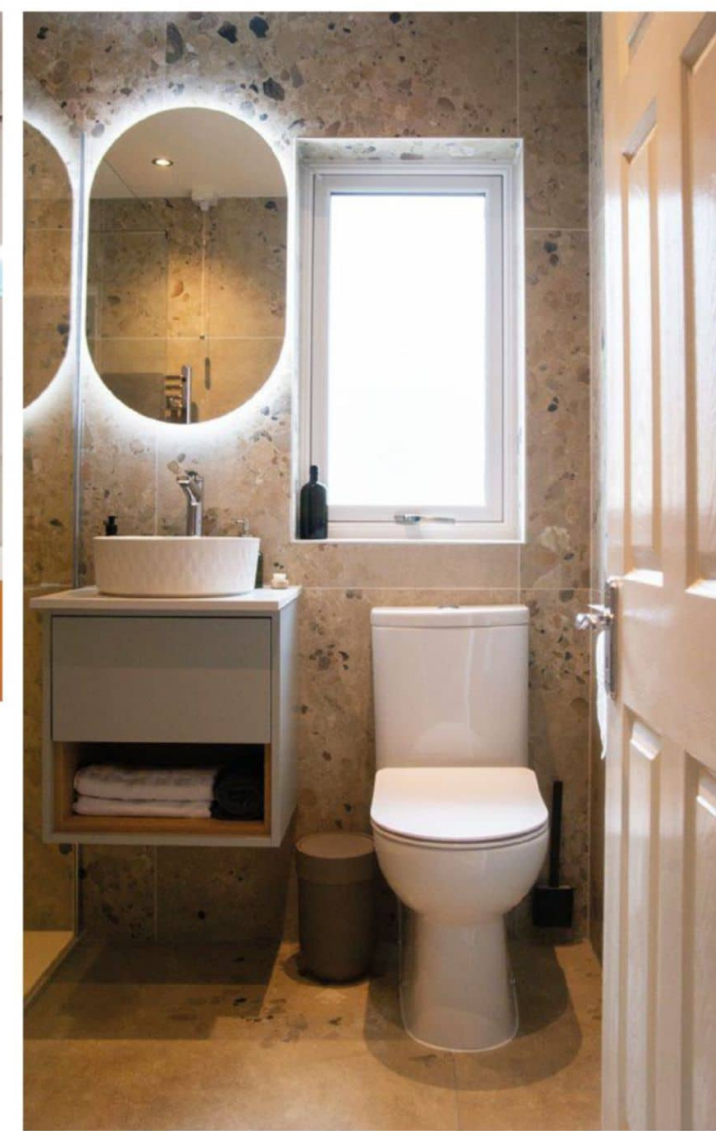
This is a free service. It's very useful to see bathroom furniture in-situ before you commit. If you're considering a small shower enclosure, step into one of the same size in the showroom and pretend to wash your hair. If your elbows bump against the glass, you may need a larger space.

For tiling, I always recommend a shop that specialises in tiles. Their staff have the knowledge and expertise to guide your choice. If the room is small, large tiles in a light colour will make it seem larger. I'd also recommend using a non-slip version of the same tile on the floor. Add interest by introducing a textured tile on one wall of the shower. Ask for samples of each of the tiles you're considering and bring them home to see how they look in the room.

Remember, you don't have to tile the whole room. In older homes I like to make a feature of the tiles, so I'll paint one wall or part of a wall. I'm not a fan of wallpaper in



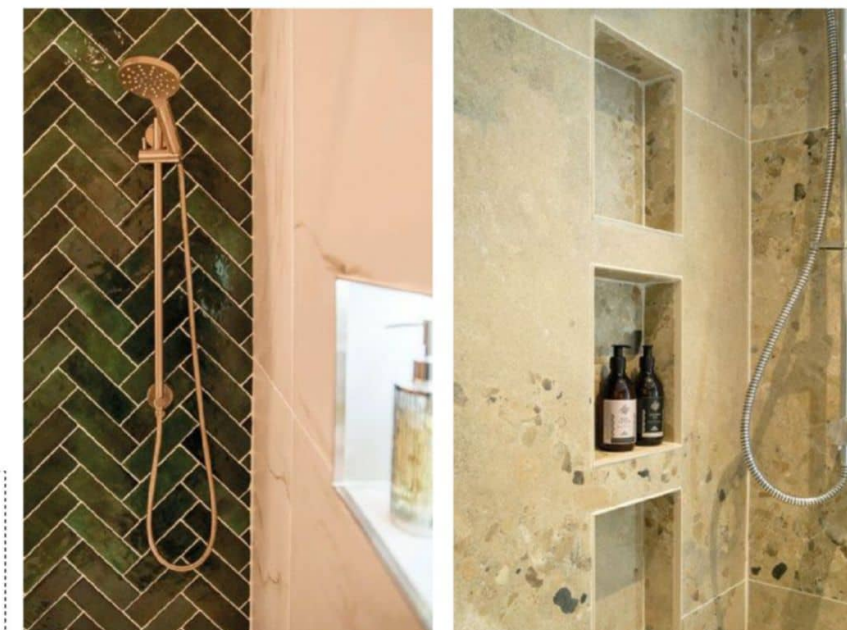
The space vacated by the bath allowed us to put in a very long shower tray, at the end of which I installed a towel rail. This means that the client doesn't have to step out of the shower to grab a warm towel.



bathrooms, although it can look fabulous in a cloakroom.

Finally, don't forget about lighting. Take a trip to a specialist lighting shop at the planning stage of the project and ask their advice. Consider different lighting zones: a central light, pendant lights on either side of a mirror, and a light in the recess of the shower. Don't place a light directly above your mirror! In another recent project, I installed a backlit oval mirror with an inbuilt de-mister. It's a wonderful solution as it makes a practical aspect of the bathroom into a decorative feature.

Professional qualified members of the Interiors Associations offer everything from one-off consultations to fully bespoke design schemes for every style and budget. For more information, visit theinteriorsassociation.ie and denisesmithinteriors.com



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SPRING INTERIORS REFRESH

The arrival of Spring heralds a new start and fresh ideas, as we look for inspired ways to update our homes. The **PTSB Ideal Home Show** this April will offer all things interiors, as well as expert design advice and creative décor tips.



Neven Maguire, celebrity chef

Ireland's largest home show – the **PTSB Ideal Home Show** – will take place in RDS Simmonscourt, from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th April. Visitors to the show will have the opportunity to meet up to 230 exhibitors, interior designers and leading Irish suppliers who will offer innovative solutions for all your home-improvement needs.

Interiors Inspiration

Treat your home to a Spring update at the **Home Interiors Fair**, which is packed with on-trend furniture, accessories and lighting concepts. Find the latest home décor to suit your personal style, from beautiful soft furnishings to unique ornamentation. At the **DFS Interiors Theatre**, you can hear directly from some of Ireland's leading industry experts with tips and tricks to unlock your home's potential. Journalist and sustainability advocate **Jo Linehan** hosts a jam-packed schedule of talks with a fantastic line-up of speakers, including RTE's Home of the Year presenter and architect **Hugh Wallace**, and award-winning interior designer **Roisin Lafferty**. Enjoy free one-to-one colour consultations with **Fleetwood Paints' Interior Design Team** who are offering bespoke advice to help you

bring your interiors ideas to life. Tailored to suit your own space and style, you will be guided through a world of creative colour palettes.

Smart Solutions

Alongside design and interior inspiration, the **PTSB Ideal Home Show** is also a hub for smart and sustainable solutions for your home. Step into the future with innovative ideas to save energy, media savvy technologies and smart home appliances. From efficient thermostats to discreet wireless media systems, smart lighting and automated appliances – witness the future of living in comfort, all with the tap of an App. The **PhoneWatch Ask An Expert Hub** is the perfect place to visit if you are looking for clever ways to tackle any kind of home improvement project or renovation, with free advice on costs, planning and energy upgrades; while the **Mitsubishi Electric Ecodan Home Advice Theatre** and the **Electric Ireland Superhomes Home Energy Upgrade Pavilion** will present a range of ways to save on energy, advice on how to retrofit your home and insights regarding access to grants. Meanwhile, for buyers, movers and improvers, the **PTSB team** will be available on stand N50 to support you on every stage of your journey.

From the Kitchen to the Garden

Our popular **Dunnes Stores Chef's Live Theatre** returns with a bumper line-up of familiar faces, including **Neven Maguire**, who will delight visitors with delicious and easy cooking demos using his favourite **Simply Better** products. **Donal Skehan** will also be on hand with tips for seasonal mid-week meals for all the family. For those with green fingers, garden designer and TV personality **Diarmuid Gavin** will host a series of gardening talks; while experts and exhibitors at the Show will be available to discuss how to make the most of your outdoor space during Spring, with advice on landscaping, furniture for dining al fresco, and creative outdoor-living concepts.



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To keep up to date with exhibitor announcements, prizes and show news, visit the **PTSB Ideal Home Show** at www.idealhome.ie
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*Tickets available for a limited time only.

The Beauty of Modern Minimalism

Colin Maher Design is the name behind this simply stunning kitchen. Designer Sarah Walorska talks us through the brief and the design choices that make it such a special space.

EDITORIAL BY EMMA DEIGHAN. PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS WALORSKI

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات ، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی



When the homeowner approached Sarah Walorska for her kitchen renovation, she had a brief – a sleek, modern space that could accommodate the needs of her busy family. The goal was to create a minimalist kitchen that was both high-functioning and, as the homeowner put it, ‘childproof.’ Designer Sarah adds, ‘The homeowner’s brief centred around creating a space that was not only stylish but also practical, given the demands of a bustling household.’

As the design progressed, Sarah and the homeowner worked together to refine and enhance the initial concept. ‘We evolved the design throughout the process, fine-tuning it to incorporate solutions that would best suit the client’s lifestyle,’ says Sarah. This flexibility allowed the project to take shape in a way that truly reflected the homeowner’s personal preferences.

The homeowner was clear about the kind of appliances

she wanted in her new kitchen, opting for high-end brands that would complement the space’s modern feel. ‘She chose premium appliances to elevate the design, such as a Fisher & Paykel integrated American fridge freezer and a dishwasher, which add both luxury and practicality,’ explains Sarah.

Sarah highlights additional features that elevate the design’s functionality: ‘We included a Sweepo vac seamlessly integrated into the island plinth, allowing for effortless cleaning without disrupting the sleek lines. The stone countertop also has a discreet charging dock built in, perfect for keeping devices powered up without compromising the minimalist look.’

‘The space is designed to be calm and organised – every item has a dedicated place,’ Sarah continues. Thoughtful design features like horizontal tray dividers above the ovens, spice rack drawers, and plate organisers ensure everything

has a home. ‘The pantry, with its pocket doors, is another great example of seamless function, providing easy access while maintaining the clean, uncluttered feel of the kitchen,’ she adds.

The island, another key feature, with its asymmetrical design offers a bold visual contrast. ‘The ribbed oak cabinetry on the island adds depth and texture to the space,’ says Sarah. ‘It’s a feature that draws the eye and adds a layer of visual interest to what is otherwise a very clean and understated space.’ The choice of oak cabinetry introduces warmth to the neutral tones of the kitchen, making it feel dynamic.

Above the hob, Sarah and the homeowner incorporated a lift-up cabinet fitted with bronzed glass. ‘This cabinet subtly reflects the surrounding space, enhancing the aesthetic while serving a functional purpose,’ Sarah explains. This attention to detail ensures the kitchen is both visually

engaging and practical for everyday use.

Colour was a significant consideration for the homeowner, who wanted the kitchen to reflect her love for peach and coral tones. ‘The stone worktop – Dekton ‘Laurent’ – was a key part of the design,’ says Sarah. ‘The homeowner chose it for its warm veining that carries hints of peach and coral, adding a subtle pop of colour without overwhelming the space.’ This soft yet warm tone is carried throughout the kitchen, with Farrow & Ball’s ‘Templeton Pink’ on the walls and a copper Gola rail completing the look. ‘The use of these colours ties everything together,’ Sarah says.

The lighting in this kitchen plays a crucial role in setting the tone. ‘We integrated warm LED strip lighting in strategic areas, including the pantry, under the cabinet lips, and along the rear of the island,’ explains Sarah. ‘These subtle lighting accents provide ambient mood lighting that can transform the atmosphere when needed.’

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات ، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی

Irish Antiques

Powerhouse of Irish Georgian and Regency antiques, O'Sullivan Antiques, founded by Chantal O'Sullivan in 1989, soon became part of the renowned Antiques Quarter in Dublin, expanding to New York in 1995.

The impressive collection of furniture, mirrors, art and ceramics was used to furnish some of the most prestigious homes in both Ireland and abroad and this allowed O'Sullivan's to expand the business across the Atlantic, with the opening of the New York O'Sullivan Antiques store in Greenwich Village in 1995 (now located in The Gallery at 200 Lex).

With more than 4,000 pieces between both stores, the meticulously curated assortment of items, spanning 18th, 19th centuries and beyond, comprises of impressive dining and occasional tables, beautifully carved chairs, sofas and chests of drawers, desirable mirrors and fireplaces, precious ceramics and glassware and garden statuary. The craftsmanship excellence permeates both the Dublin and New York collections, with spectacular examples of marquetry, precious stone inlay, hand painted and gilt detail, as well as ornate wood carvings.

O'Sullivan Antiques presents a comprehensive catalogue of items on its website, including both Dublin and New York stock. Similarly, social media platforms such as Instagram, have become a useful tool for the company. Each week the team at O'Sullivan Antiques in both cities, creates content to highlight some of the stand-out examples available for sale. This online presence has introduced many new clients to O'Sullivan Antiques, fostering new professional relationships, allowing them to combine the old with the new.



O'Sullivan Antiques
Email: info@osullivanantiques.com www.osullivanantiques.com



Late 19th century pair of Waterford mirrors, bordered with alternating green glass faceted studs and white glass gems. (H122 x W76cm)



SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



Limestone garden sculpture of mythological figure Pan, circa 1780, god of protector of shepherds and flocks. Portrayed as having the body of a man and the beard and horns of a goat, he is enrobed in a lionskin holding a set of his signature pipes. (H183 x W56 x D41cm)

SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



18th century Georgian mahogany estate cabinet secretaire, the cornice surmounted with broken swan neck pediment and centred acanthus crest flanked with carved scroll and sunflower motifs. Provenance: From the collection of Colonel and Maeb Daly, Russborough House, Co. Wicklow. (H221 x W97 x D65cm)

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When it comes to flooring, Sarah notes that the material choices were equally important. 'The flooring complements the stone and colour palette while offering practicality. It's durable enough for a family kitchen but also visually appealing, contributing to the overall aesthetic of the space,' she adds.

Designing a kitchen that's both streamlined and functional posed unique challenges, particularly when it came to incorporating smart features without disrupting the kitchen's minimalist look. 'The biggest challenge was ensuring the smart features blended seamlessly into the design,' says Sarah. 'The Gola rail system was key in maintaining symmetry. It allowed us to incorporate handleless cabinets while keeping the lines clean and the design balanced.'

The meticulous work of Sarah's production team ensured the kitchen's final layout stayed true to the original vision. 'The production team did a fantastic job aligning all elements, ensuring that every feature was integrated in a way that preserved the sleek, minimalist aesthetic,' Sarah says.

The entire project took 10 months. 'This was a thoughtful and well-paced process,' says Sarah. 'We took the time to carefully plan and refine every detail, ensuring that the final product was exactly what the homeowner envisioned.'

One aspect of the design that stands out to Sarah is how the kitchen complements the rest of the home. 'The design is deeply connected to the space it inhabits,' she explains. 'The collaboration of materials between the kitchen, ceiling, walls, and floors helped create a cohesive environment.'

The architectural design by Declan O'Donnell of ODKM Architects was crucial to this, as his work opened up the space and brought in natural light.'

The kitchen is bathed in sunlight thanks to large sliding windows, creating a sense of openness that enhances the overall feel of the room. 'The natural light flooding in really brings the kitchen to life, highlighting the thoughtful design choices,' Sarah says.

Reflecting on the project, Sarah concludes: 'The homeowner's boldness in embracing colour and design elements truly shaped this kitchen. Her creativity helped bring the vision to life.'

The homeowner's satisfaction with the final result is evident, with Sarah noting that her favourite feature is the way the kitchen works for her. 'It's a space that truly works for her family while also capturing her personal style.'



KITCHEN DESIGN by Sarah Walorska

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Christoff Custom Built Rooms Hillsborough Showroom

The Northern Ireland Christoff showroom is located in Hillsborough, the historic village that offers a complementary and equality beautiful base for the stunning craftsmanship of this kitchen company.

Known for its Georgian architecture, rich heritage, and picturesque surroundings, Hillsborough offers a fitting home for Christoff - a brand with detail, classic style and quality at its heart.

A short drive from Belfast, and conveniently located close to the M1 and A1, it's an easily accessible showroom from which homeowners can derive inspiration for their next project.

In this inspiring setting, the Christoff showroom allows clients to immerse themselves not only in the warmth and timeless appeal of the village itself, but also in the artistry of Christoff's bespoke kitchen designs.

The showroom, based on The Square in a beautiful stone-clad terrace invites visitors to explore and see firsthand the meticulous craftsmanship, luxurious finishes, and attention to detail that define a Christoff custom-

built room. It's an experience that goes beyond selecting cabinetry or finishes; clients can visualise how these elegant designs might enhance their own homes, all while enjoying the charm and ambience of Hillsborough.

Stepping into the showroom kitchen, crafted by Christoff Custom Built Rooms, guests are greeted by the quintessential dream kitchen — one that pairs bespoke design, delectable detail and top grade functionality in the form of the industry's more revered appliances.

Every detail reflects quality, from the richly hued island to the Sub-Zero French Door Fridge and the Wolf Rangetop cooker—appliances chosen not only for their beauty but also lasting quality and usability.

The heart of this kitchen is the expansive island, finished in a muted deep Hyacinth that contrasts beautifully with the Christoff Signature White cabinetry. Its polished

EDITORIAL BY EMMA DEIGHAN.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM HEAL

آنور شگاه انعکاس شیخ جدیدترین اطلاعات ، مقالات و دوره های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی



Caesarstone quartz countertop offers a sleek, durable surface that's perfect for food preparation, entertaining, or simply enjoying a morning coffee. The generous overhang invites family and friends to sit comfortably.

Chrome pendant lights above the island add a hint of industrial sophistication, balancing the warm traditional elements with a sleek, modern touch.

The cabinetry, custom-crafted and fitted impeccably, captures Christoff's signature commitment to traditional style with a contemporary edge. Soft, recessed paneling and gently curved details bring depth and softness to the design, while illuminated glass-front cabinets add a warm glow, displaying glassware or cherished decor pieces. Meanwhile, each drawer and cabinet handle has been selected to complement the colour palette, resulting in a cohesive finish.

Above the professional-grade Wolf range top, a

decorative hood and Caesarstone quartz backsplash create a focal point. The Wolf range, a powerhouse for any cooking enthusiast, renowned for its precision and reliability, is the perfect partner for passionate home chefs, marrying high-performance functionality with the luxurious design of the Christoff kitchen.

The rangetop boasts dual-stacked burners, offering precise control over the heat, perfect for high-heat searing to delicate simmering. With its durable stainless-steel finish and signature red knobs, the Wolf Rangetop adds a professional edge to the kitchen while integrating seamlessly into the traditional aesthetic of Christoff's cabinetry. It's a chef's dream, bringing gourmet capability right into the home.

Across the room, the Sub-Zero French Door Fridge's design creates something of a statement. With advanced food preservation technology, this item is more than

a showpiece. With dual refrigeration, separate cooling systems for the refrigerator and freezer, it prevents odours and flavours from mingling, preserving the quality of fresh ingredients. The sleek, French door design offers ample storage, and the fridge's advanced air purification system, pioneered by NASA, helps eliminate bacteria, mould, and odours. This feature-rich appliance fits perfectly into the Christoff kitchen, where quality and longevity are key.

The combination of Christoff's custom design, the Wolf Rangetop, and the Sub-Zero Fridge delivers a kitchen that's as functional as it is beautiful. These appliances are not simply add-ons; they are integral to the room's design, elevating the overall experience of cooking, entertaining, and living in the space. Christoff kitchens are crafted for those who seek an elevated lifestyle, where every element, from cabinetry to countertops and appliances, works together in harmony, enhancing daily life through quality

and thoughtful design. This kitchen is not just a room; it's the heart of the home, built to welcome family, friends, and memories for years to come. ✕

KITCHEN DESIGNS
by Christoff Kitchens

Christoff

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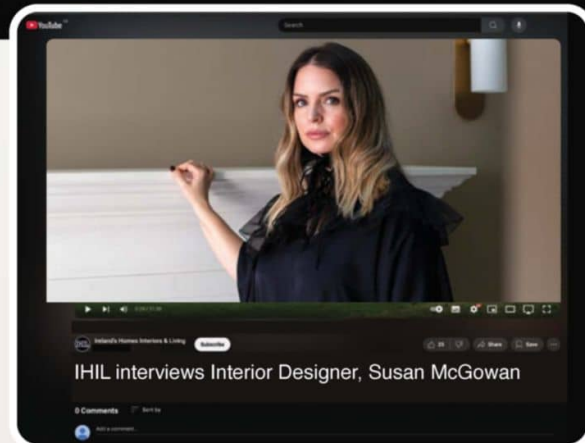
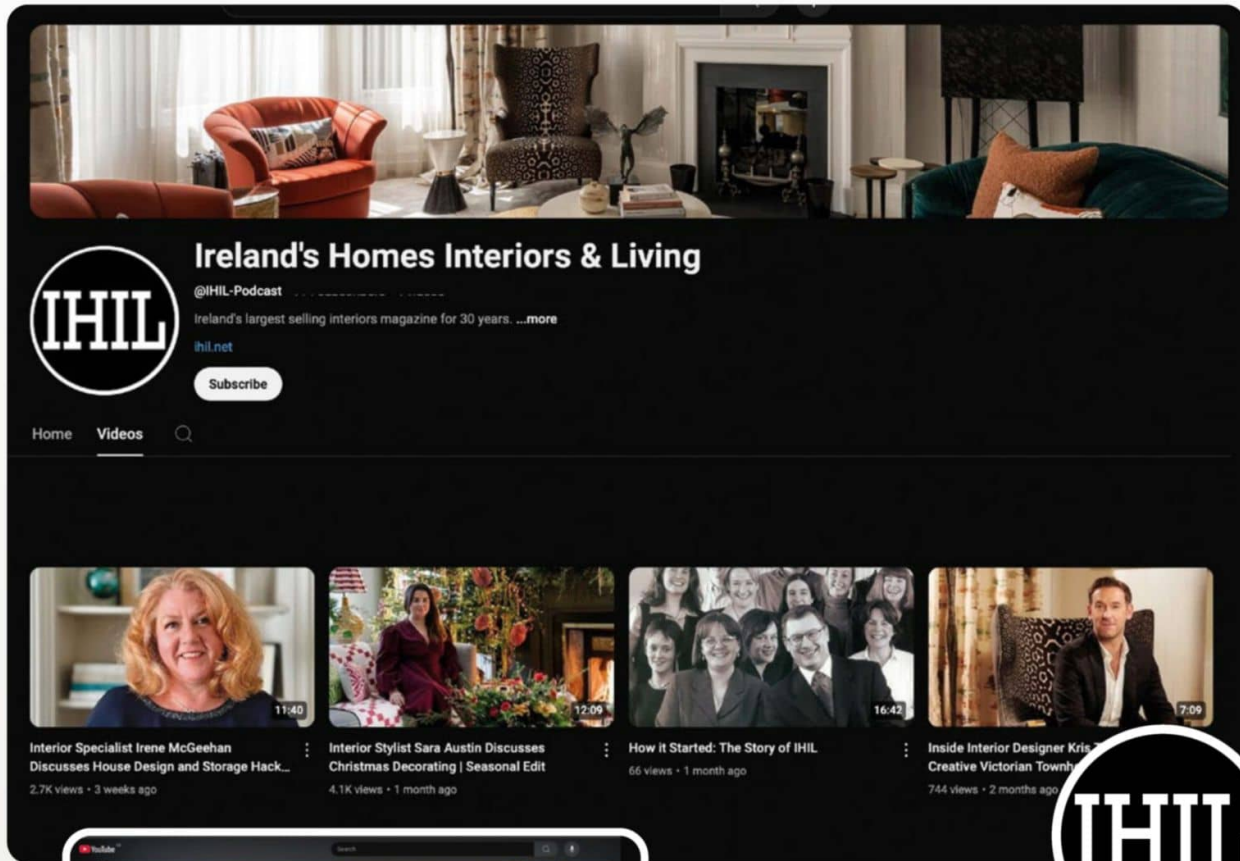
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Exploring Co. Offaly

From the best views to the best pints, here are our
top picks of places to visit in Co. Offaly.

BEST VIEW - Birr Castle Demesne

Set in the heritage town of Birr, Birr Castle Demesne spans 120 acres of stunning parklands and gardens, featuring over 5,000 species of trees, plants, and wildlife, scenic trails along rivers and waterfalls. It is not just a historic landmark but a living testament to Ireland's cultural and scientific heritage. Whether exploring the castle's rich history, marveling at the wonders of the universe, or simply basking in the serenity of the gardens, visitors are sure to be captivated by the allure of this remarkable Demesne.



Enekas.Academy

BEST PINT - JJ Killeens Bar

Found in the heart of Shannonbridge, this local gem is a haven for those seeking an authentic Irish experience, and most importantly, a good aul pint. Their extensive menu includes a curated selection of whiskies, showcasing the pride of the region. Like their Seven Churches Whiskey, a tribute to the ancient monastic site of Clonmacnoise. Visit jjkilleens.ie and follow [@jjkilleens_shannonbridge](https://www.instagram.com/jjkilleens_shannonbridge)



Killeen's Bar, Shannon Bridge



Old Warehouse, Tullamore



Conway & Co, Tullamore

BEST FOOD - Old Warehouse

The Old Warehouse is a must-visit restaurant in Tullamore, set in a historic venue that was once the home of Tullamore Dew Irish whiskey dating back to 1829. Spread across two floors, it offers a stylish industrial bar on the ground level and a beautifully designed restaurant upstairs. The menu features a mix of modern European dishes, popular classics, and fresh vegetarian and vegan options, all made with the finest ingredients. Guests can also enjoy expertly crafted cocktails and coffee at the Copper Still Café. Whether for a casual meal or special celebration, The Old Warehouse promises an unforgettable dining experience. Visit oldwarehouse.tullamore and follow [@oldwarehousetullamore](https://www.instagram.com/oldwarehousetullamore)

BEST COFFEE - Conway & Co

Conway & Co is a must-visit specialty coffee shop located on William Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Renowned for serving the highest quality specialty coffee, this cozy café offers an extensive selection of dairy-free milk alternatives. Whether you're enjoying their perfectly brewed straight-up coffees or exploring their creative signature drinks, every cup is crafted with passion and precision. Nominated for Best Café in Offaly at the Irish Restaurant Awards 2024, Conway & Co is serious about coffee – every sip, every time. Stop by and taste the difference! Follow [@conwayandcoffee](https://www.instagram.com/conwayandcoffee)

THINGS TO DO

Lough Boora Discovery Park: For outdoor enthusiasts, keen botanists, nature lovers, and arts and culture fans; the things you can do here are endless.

Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery

Tour: Go behind-the-scenes to see everything from distillation to maturation.

Viking Tour: Cruise to Clonmacnoise to see the famous 6th Century monastery.

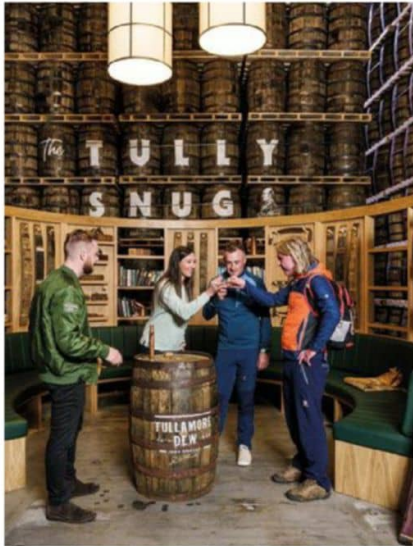
Mountain Bike Trails: Explore Slieve Bloom Mountain on bike and immerse yourself in its beauty.



Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery Tour



Lough Boora
Discovery Park,
Tullamore



Viking Tours, Clonmacnoise,
Monastic Site



BOUTIQUE SHOPS

The Stables Birr:

The Midland's go to destination for fashion, gifts, homeware and amazing food.

Tullamore Food Fayre:

Premier indoor farmers market every Saturday.

Solo Boutique:

Serving the fashion savvy lady with bespoke items and exclusive Irish fashion.

Kate & Charlie:

Timeless children's clothing and gifts handpicked with care.



Slieve Bloom,
Mountain Bike Trails



PLACES TO STAY

Ardmore Country House

Ardmore Country House is a historic 19th Century house nestled at the foot of the majestic Slieve Bloom Mountains. Easily accessible from all corners of Ireland, this charming rural retreat sits on the edge of the small country village of Kinnitty. The area is picturesque, peaceful, gloriously multi-coloured and one of the least explored in Ireland. The owner, Chris Byrne, loves to welcome guests to her home and is more than happy to share

local insights and places of interest. In the mornings, you'll be treated to local artisan food, freshly baked Irish soda bread with options for vegan or vegetarian meals. Surrounded by the stunning natural beauty of the Slieve Blooms, discover the great outdoors with wondrous walking trails, challenging mountain biking and horse riding off the beaten track. Step back in time to a slower pace of life in a landscape that is rooted in Irish legends. kinnitty.com



Ballycommon House

Located on the tranquil banks of the Grand Canal, just six miles from Tullamore, Owners Gerry and Maria McGrath invite you to experience their newly built, pet-friendly self-catering apartments and charming Irish country pub. The accommodation includes four luxury 2-bedroom apartments, each designed to comfortably accommodate 4-6 guests.

This beautifully renovated two-storey building offers a cozy retreat with modern amenities. A secure, walled courtyard with private parking and a spacious timber-decked barbecue area provides a perfect space for relaxation. Whether you're exploring the scenic countryside or enjoying the local hospitality, Ballycommon House offers a peaceful and convenient getaway. ballycommonhouse.com



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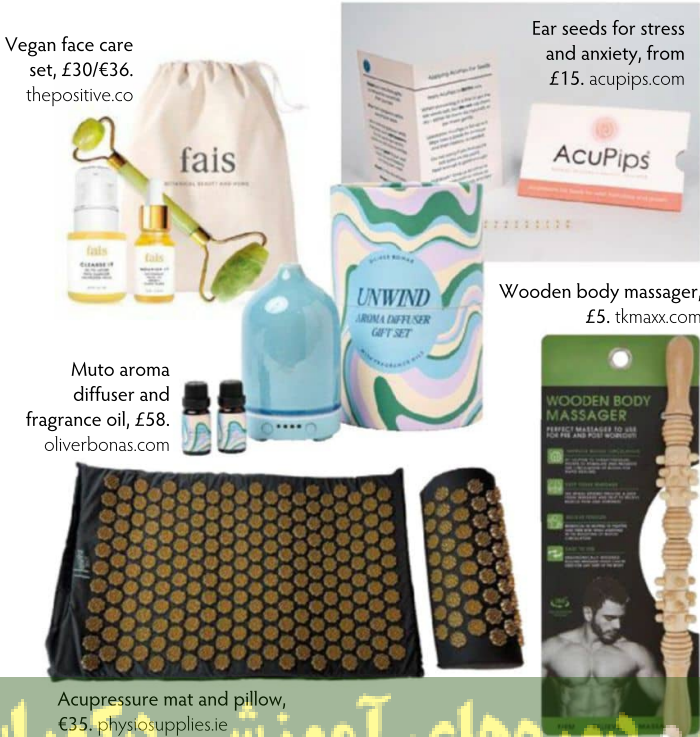
Health & Wellbeing Acupuncture

ACUPUNCTURE IS A COMPONENT OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE THAT INVOLVES INSERTING FINE THIN NEEDLES INTO SPECIFIC POINTS OF THE BODY AND WHILE THE CONCEPT MIGHT BE SCARY, THE BENEFITS WORK WONDERS.

The way it works is simple – and no, it’s not some sort of mysterious voodoo – the needles are placed at specific points on your body that correspond to different organs, systems, and energy pathways. These points are often along pathways called meridians, and stimulating them can help clear blockages, release tension, and promote circulation. Think of it like a tune-up for your body’s system, adjusting little things that might be throwing you off balance.

- BENEFITS INCLUDE:**
- Relieves chronic (long-term) pain
 - Reduces stress and increases relaxation levels
 - Improves quality of sleep
 - Relieves tension headaches and migraine
 - Reduces prostatitis symptoms
 - Helps with joint and muscle pain

THE EXPERT
Maria Rafferty has dedicated her career to helping women overcome hormone health issues. Based in Belfast, she is a licensed acupuncturist Chinese medicine herbalist, and Arvigo Maya massage therapist with over 15 years of experience. Maria states that, ‘Acupuncture is a key element of Chinese Medicine that offers natural pain relief and deep relaxation, often leading patients into a restorative ‘acu-nap.’ It dilates blood vessels, calms the nervous system, and is highly effective for stress, anxiety, insomnia, musculoskeletal issues, and hormone balance. Backed by extensive clinical research and included in the NICE guidelines, a course of treatments is recommended for lasting results – all without side effects.’
Follow @thehormonehealthcoach and visit mariarafferty.com



Vegan face care set, £30/€36. thepositive.co

Ear seeds for stress and anxiety, from £15. acupips.com

Wooden body massager, £5. tkmaxx.com

Muto aroma diffuser and fragrance oil, £58. oliverbonas.com

Acupressure mat and pillow, £35. physiosupplies.ie

BRIGHTEN UP

Why Vitamin C can be a great all-rounder when it comes to skincare.

We’re all aware of the importance of Vitamin C in our diets but this powerful antioxidant also packs a potent punch when it comes to skincare. Skincare expert Dr. Laura Geige comments, ‘In my view, Vitamin C is a cornerstone of any comprehensive skincare regimen.’ She adds, ‘In my professional experience as a skin expert, I’ve observed the remarkable effects of Vitamin C in skincare. It’s not merely a trendy ingredient as its efficacy is grounded in solid scientific principles. I’ve critically analysed countless formulations and witnessed the transformative impact of well-formulated Vitamin C products.’ ‘From a biochemical standpoint, Vitamin C, in its L-ascorbic acid form (the most potent), functions as a powerful antioxidant. I understand that this is crucial in neutralising reactive oxygen species, the culprits behind premature aging, fine lines, and a lacklustre complexion. I’ve seen studies demonstrating its ability to significantly reduce oxidative stress and thereby preserving skin’s youthful integrity.’

- BENEFITS**
- Brighten skin:** Vitamin C can help to boost skin’s health and smooth its surface – both of which mean a reduction in dullness and an increased glow.
- Tackle hyperpigmentation:** Vitamin C is thought to inhibit melanin production to help lighten skin discolouration and age spots. Its anti-inflammatory properties can also reduce redness and reduce the appearance of under-eye circles.
- Protect against environmental stresses:** Vitamin C can neutralise free radicals to protect against sun damage and other environmental triggers.
- Reduce signs of aging:** Vitamin C boosts collagen production through the process of collagen synthesis. It also improves elasticity and firmness to help combat sagging skin.

HOW TO USE
Although Vitamin C is generally well tolerated it’s always best to do a small patch test when trying any new product. Best applied in the morning after cleansing, smooth the serum on to your face and neck, then wait a few minutes before applying your moisturiser and then finishing with a high SPF sunscreen. If you are using a topical Vitamin C serum, as opposed to a product containing Vitamin C, start with a low concentration (10%) and increase as tolerated.



Medik8, £39.

Faace, £27.

Spa Ceylon, £39.

REN, £42.

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UNDER THE *Influence*

Barry McGrath, a product designer at Sonas Bathrooms, shares some home truths.

MY HOME IS... A balancing act. We have limited space, so trying to create a living environment that is cozy yet not claustrophobic is a challenge, which I think we have successfully navigated.

I WOULD DESCRIBE MY STYLE AS... Under construction. My style is something that is still evolving; I am still quite early in my design career so I am just trying to experience and learn as much as I can, allowing my style to naturally develop in time. Currently, when describing my design style, the two words that come to mind are subtle and clean.

I'M CURRENTLY OBSESSED WITH... Antique furniture. I love looking at the craftsmanship, materials, and how they were able to manufacture these pieces before mass production. Each piece tells a story, carrying history and character that I feel modern pieces sometimes lack.

MY GO-TO PODCAST WOULD BE... Tony Cantwell's Hit Show podcast. A blend of storytelling, song, and monologue – with a dabble of random ramblings – which produces a really entertaining podcast.

MY BINGE-WORTH TV SHOW IS... The Office. I am a big fan of both the UK and US versions of the show.

MY FAVOURITE INDEPENDENT SHOP IS... Vintage Dublin. Almost hidden in a basement on Capel Street, this shop has a great selection of antique furniture, as well many other vintage pieces to furnish your interiors.

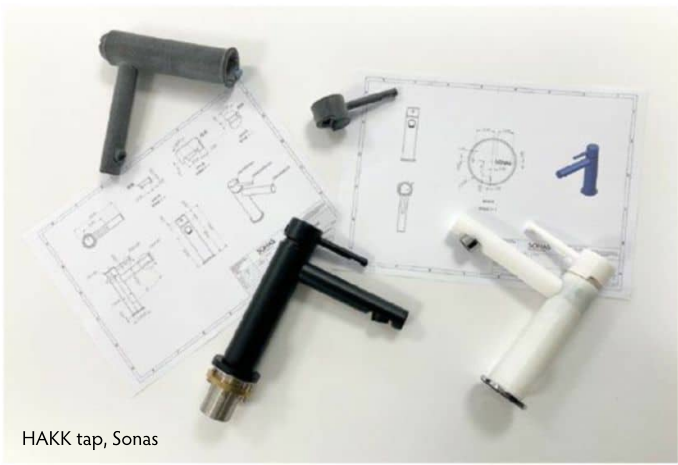
MY FAVOURITE DESIGNER IS... Eileen Gray. I think she's under-appreciated as an Irish designer. The body of work she has in such a wide range of design disciplines is astounding. From timeless furniture to landmark houses, she's done it all.

A BOOK I'VE READ ON REPEAT IS... The Design of Everyday Things by Don Norman. I'm not the biggest reader or lover of fiction, so usually when I read it's to learn and this book is something I always refer back to. It details a lot of the subtle design elements that improve, but also impair our lives.

A FILM I'LL NEVER TIRE OF IS... The Green Book. I really enjoy films that have a historical element to them, and give you a glance as to what life was like at the time, and this is one that does that brilliantly.



Barry McGrath



HAKK tap, Sonas

MY SIGNATURE SCENT IS... For home it would be Sandalwood. It helps create that warmth and coziness that I look for in my home.

MY COFFEE ORDER IS... A simple cappuccino. No sugar.

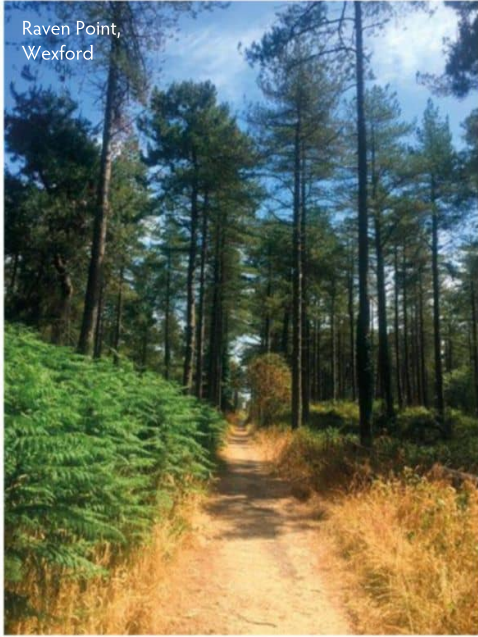
MY TAKEAWAY ORDER IS ALWAYS... A spicebag with a can of coke. The can of coke is essential, it's the perfect sweet counterbalance to the saltiness of the spicebag.

MY FAVOURITE TIPPLE WOULD BE... It depends on the season. In winter, it's a Jameson and ginger. In summer, it's a mojito.

MY BEST EVER HOLIDAY WAS... When I went to revisit the Netherlands for the first time since studying there during college.



Scheveningen beach,
The Hague, The Netherlands



Raven Point,
Wexford



Raven Point,
Wexford

It felt great to be able to retrace the steps of my younger self, and relive some of those experiences. I love the Netherlands and the lifestyle they have there in general.

MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN IRELAND IS... Raven Point in County Wexford. The perfect combination of woodland and beach, where tall pine trees sit just beyond the dunes of the sandy beach. A real treat to get back to when home.

MY GUILTY PLEASURE WOULD BE... A quiet pint of Guinness on a Thursday after Spanish class. This is typically where we debrief after class and try to make sense of whatever we have just attempted to learn. A much-needed pleasure that eases the aches of a long week. Although I do question if it has actually aided the progress of my Spanish.

THE SONG THAT ALWAYS GETS ME ON THE DANCEFLOOR IS... Anything by Kneecap at the moment. Especially after watching their movie, you can really get a good understanding of their backgrounds and the inspiration behind their music. For me, it elevates the music even further that you can enjoy something so fresh and contemporary in our native language.

MY DINNER PARTY GUESTLIST WOULD INCLUDE... Michael D Higgins, Shane Gillis and Pep Guardiola.

I WOULD SERVE... Homemade sushi and pork belly ramen. With raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake for dessert.

MY FAVOURITE QUOTE IS... "To create, one must first question everything," Eileen Gray.

food for Thought

Seasonal suggestions,
news and local launches.

Flight Club

Flight Club, the game-changing bar that's redefining darts for the modern era, has officially opened in the heart of Dublin City Centre. Bringing a brand-new social experience to Dawson Street, Flight Club is set to be the ultimate go-to destination for cocktails, delicious bites, competition, and unforgettable nights out. Following a spectacular €7million renovation, the 8,000 sq/ft venue is an immersive playground of fairground-inspired décor, semi-private oches (darts playing areas), and a dazzling 360-degree bar. The extensive cocktail and wine menu features signature creations and classic favourites, crafted with a twist. Pair your tippie of choice with Flight Club's unbeatable selection of artisanal Paddleboard Pizzas, delectable mains, and a vast array of small plates, all designed to be shared with friends. Visit flightclubdarts.com/ie and follow @flightclubdublin



NINE SQUARED COFFEE

Belfast's hottest new coffee spot has opened in the historic Printworks building on Queen Street following a £300,000 investment. Nine Squared Belfast is owned by Sean McDonnell who brings a wealth of experience within the independent coffee industry and businessman Neil Cole who has an extensive background in marketing and social media and has held senior global positions with both Meta and now TikTok. The interior is a warm, sultry, playful space that fuses interiors, graphic design, coffee and community together making it a stunning location for coffee lovers and unique event experiences in the heart of the city. With seating for 35 guests, customers can enjoy signature brews using Origin, a specialty coffee roaster with a focus on quality and sustainability, and a wide selection of delicious locally baked goods from Bakari Bakery. Visit ninesquaredcoffee.com and follow @ninesquaredcoffee

Laura's Restaurant

Dublin's newest multi-storey social destination, Old Fashioned Sam's, has unveiled its striking new top-floor restaurant, Laura's. Named in honour of the three Kelly brothers' sister, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in their business ventures, this stunning new restaurant is the latest addition to the ever-evolving venue on Montague Street. In addition to Laura's rooftop restaurant, guests can enjoy a ground-floor cocktail bar that opens into Dublin city centre's largest heated courtyard (complete with a fully retractable roof for summer), a café-style front bar catering to the local lunchtime crowd, and Sam's Parlour—an intimate basement cocktail bar exuding a glamorous 1920s speakeasy aesthetic. Visit oldfashionedsams.ie and follow @oldfashionedsams



Coming Soon
New State Of The Art 'Live' Bathroom Showroom



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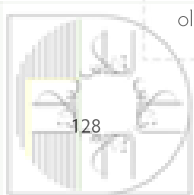
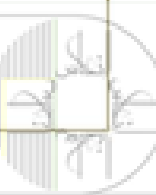
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Sunday Best

Elevate your Easter entertaining with these classic recipe ideas.



CREDIT: MALDON SALT.

Spring Vegetable Quiche. Recipe on following page.

Caramelised Air-Fryer Carrots

Preparation: 5 minutes
Cooking 15 minutes
Serves 4 as a side dish

INGREDIENTS
400g baby carrots, we used the rainbow ones
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp honey
Maldon Sea Salt
Cracked black pepper
A few sprigs of thyme, leaves picked

METHOD
Make sure the carrots are scrubbed clean and preheat the air fryer to 200°C. There is no need to peel the carrots or remove the tops.

Place the carrots into the basket and drizzle with the olive oil and honey, then place into the air fryer for 15 minutes until they are tender and starting to caramelize on the outside.

Remove from the air fryer and transfer onto a serving platter. Season with sea salt and cracked black pepper to taste and then scatter over a few thyme leaves before serving.

Spring Vegetable Quiche

Pictured on previous page

Preparation: 40 minutes,
plus 30 mins chilling time
Cook time: 40 minutes
Serves 6

INGREDIENTS
Pastry
300g plain white flour
Pinch of Maldon Sea Salt
150g unsalted cold butter, cubed
3-4 tbsp cold water
Filling
1 knob of butter
1 tbsp of olive oil
1 leek, finely sliced
150g asparagus, cut into 3-inch pieces at an angle
100g frozen peas
2 spring onions, finely sliced
4 large eggs
150ml double cream
150ml milk
Small handful of chives, finely chopped
Maldon Sea Salt
Cracked black pepper
75g soft goats' cheese, crumbled
Salad, to serve

METHOD
Start by making the pastry. Place the flour and sea salt into a large bowl and mix together. Then add the cold, cubed butter and use your fingers to rub the butter into the flour until it resembles fine breadcrumbs and there are no large lumps of butter left. Alternatively, you can do this by pulsing it a few times in a food processor. Then add the cold water (start with 3 tbsp and see if you need more) and mix together until it starts to clump and there



are no floury or dry patches. Tip onto the work surface and gently knead until it comes together as a smooth pastry.

Then lightly flour the work surface and roll the pastry out with a rolling pin until it is £1 in thickness. Carefully lift it and line a 23cm fluted tart tin, pressing gently into the sides, but leaving some pastry to overhang. Use a cutlery fork to prick some holes onto the base and then place the lined tin into the fridge to chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

After 30 minutes, take the pastry case out of the fridge and put onto a flat baking sheet. Scrunch up some baking paper and put this onto the pastry then fill with baking beans. Blind bake the pastry for 15 mins, then remove the baking beans and paper and return for another 5 – 7 mins, until the pastry is very lightly golden and feels chalky to the touch.

Remove from oven and set aside to allow to cool slightly. Then take a sharp serrated

knife and carefully trim off the excess pastry overhangs so it has a nice, neat edge.

Heat a frying pan on a medium heat and add the knob of butter and 1 tbsp of olive oil. Then add the sliced leek and sauté gently until soft and starting to caramelize. Place a pan of water on to boil, and then add the asparagus and frozen peas – you just want to blanch them quickly for 2 minutes, then remove from the pan and place into a bowl with iced water to stop them cooking any further.

In a jug, whisk together the eggs, cream, milk and chives and season well with sea salt and cracked black pepper.

Spoon the veg into the pastry case and crumble over the goat's cheese. Then pour over the egg mixture and bake in the oven for 30 mins until the filling is set and the top is golden.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly then serve with a green salad.

Leg of Lamb with Hasselback Potatoes and Salsa Verde

Preparation: 20 minutes
Cook: 1 hour 25 minutes
(plus 10 mins resting time)
Serves 6

INGREDIENTS
2kg leg of lamb
A handful of rosemary sprigs
2 garlic bulbs
10 bay leaves
5 banana shallots
1.5kg maris piper potatoes
1 lemon, halved
5 tbsp olive oil
Maldon Sea Salt
Cracked black pepper
Salsa verde
1 small banana shallot, finely chopped
2 anchovies, chopped
1 tbsp capers, drained and chopped
Small handful of parsley, leaves picked and finely chopped
Small handful of basil, leaves picked and finely chopped
1 tbsp red wine vinegar or sherry vinegar
150ml olive oil

METHOD
Preheat the oven to 180°C.

Firstly, start with the Hasselback potatoes. The easiest way to make the cuts is to place a potato onto a chopping board and put a chopstick flat on either side. Then using a knife, carefully cut slices all the way along the potato – the chopsticks will ensure that you don't cut fully through the potato. Repeat this with each potato.

Place the leg of lamb onto a large roasting tray skin side up, and then nestle the prepared potatoes around it. Cut the shallots in half lengthways and add them to the tray. Cut the garlic bulbs in half, cutting through the cloves like a cross section. Add two of the halves to the tray. Use a sharp knife to insert some small cuts into the skin of the lamb, then press some of the other cut garlic cloves and small sprigs from the rosemary into the cuts. Slice the lemon in half and add this to the tray as well. Finally slot the bay leaves into some of the cuts of the potatoes.

Drizzle the potatoes, shallots, garlic and lemons with 3 tbsp of the olive oil then drizzle



the remaining two across the lamb. Season well with sea salt and cracked black pepper. Place into the preheated oven and roast for 1 hour 25 minutes.

While the lamb and potatoes are cooking, make the salsa verde. Add the chopped shallot, anchovies, capers and herbs into a bowl. Add the red wine vinegar and give it a stir. Then slowly drizzle in the olive oil and give it a good mix. Season with sea salt and cracked

black pepper to taste. Set aside.

Once the lamb is cooked, remove it from the oven. The potatoes should be lovely and golden, and tender in the middle – but if they need a little longer, simply lift the lamb out onto a board to rest and return them to the oven for 10 minutes. Allow the lamb to rest before carving and serving with the potatoes, some greens and the salsa verde.

Garlicky Greens Medley

Preparation: 5 minutes
Cooking: 20 minutes
Serves 4 as a side dish

INGREDIENTS
200g green beans
200g sugar snap peas
100g garden peas (frozen is fine)
100g broad beans (frozen is fine)
2 tbsp olive oil
3 large garlic cloves, sliced
1 orange, zested
30g blanched hazelnuts, toasted and roughly chopped
Large pinch of Maldon Garlic Sea Salt
Cracked black pepper
A few springs of fresh mint leaves, to garnish

METHOD
Place a large pan of water on to boil. When it is simmering, add the green beans and sugar

snap peas. Let them blanch for just 2 minutes then remove with a slotted spoon or tongs onto a large plate with some kitchen paper. Then add the frozen peas and broad beans to the pan of water and do the same, after 2 minutes drain them into a sieve.

Place a large frying pan onto a medium heat and add the olive oil, once warm add the sliced garlic and let them gently fry for 1 minute. Then add the beans and sugar snap peas to the pan. Sauté them so they start to pop and char in places. If the garlic looks like its catching, then simply add a splash of water. Finally add the peas and broad beans to the pan, and sauté just until they warm back through.

Tip all the veg onto a large serving platter and season well with Maldon Garlic Sea Salt and some cracked black pepper. Then garnish with orange zest, chopped toasted hazelnuts and some mint leaves before serving.



Spiced Carrot and Parsnip Cake with Cream Cheese Icing and Salted Caramel

Preparation: 45 minutes
Cook time: 40 minutes, plus cooling
Serves 10

INGREDIENTS
400g caster sugar
400g unsalted butter, softened
9 medium eggs
500g ground almonds
200g plain flour
4 tsp baking powder
1 tsp mixed spice
1 tbsp ground cinnamon
2 tsp ground ginger
2 tsp ground cardamom
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 large carrots, coarsely grated
2 large parsnips, coarsely grated
100g walnuts, roughly chopped

Icing
200g unsalted butter, softened to room temp
200g icing sugar
400g cream cheese
2 tsp vanilla bean paste

Salted caramel drips
200g granulated sugar
85g unsalted butter
150ml double cream
2 tsp of Maldon Sea Salt
A small handful of walnuts, finely chopped for garnish

METHOD
Grease and line 3x 20cm round springform baking tins with baking paper and then set aside. Preheat the oven to 180°C.

In the bowl of a stand mixer add the softened butter and caster sugar and then beat together for 5 minutes until soft, pale and fluffy. Then add the eggs, one at a time, beating each one in until all of them have been incorporated. Next add the ground almonds, plain flour, baking powder and spices and mix until incorporated (but ensure not to over mix).

Remove the bowl from the stand mixer and add the grated carrot, parsnip and chopped walnuts. Fold these through the mixture. Then divide the cake batter equally between the 3 lined baking tins and smooth over the top.

Place into the preheated oven and bake for 30 minutes until well risen and golden on top. You can check the cakes are cooked through by inserting a skewer or cocktail stick into the centre and making sure it comes out clean.

Remove the baked cakes from the oven and place onto a wire rack to cool completely.

While the cakes are cooling make the caramel. Place the granulated sugar into a pan and place onto a low heat. Gently melt the sugar, ensuring not to stir it but you can swirl it around the pan to encourage it. You want the sugar granules to melt completely and then turn to a deep golden caramel colour. At this moment, immediately take the pan off the heat and add the butter, stirring it through until it comes together. Then add the double



cream and allow this to bubble before stirring through again until you have a smooth caramel. Then add the sea salt before setting aside to allow the caramel to cool, it will thicken as it cools also.

Now make the icing.

Add the softened butter to the bowl of your stand mixer and beat until its very soft and whipped. Then, with the motor running, add the icing sugar bit by bit until it is all incorporated.

Then remove the bowl from the stand mixer and add the cream cheese and vanilla, mix this

gently with a wooden spoon or spatula until just incorporated but make sure not to over mix. Place this into the fridge while you get your cakes ready to ice.

Take each cooled sponge and remove it from its tin. Then use a serrated knife to trim off the tops if they have domed when baking to ensure that each layer is even.

Spread a little icing onto the bottom of your cake plate or stand and then put the first sponge onto this. Spread some more icing on top and then add your second sponge, pressing down lightly. Then repeat with the third. Now

ice the top and sides of your cake. It is easiest to do this with a palate knife and then smooth around the edges with a cake scraping tool.

Once you are happy with icing of the cake you can either pop it in the fridge until you are ready to serve or serve right away. To do the salted caramel drips simply add the cooled caramel into a small squeeze bottle and squeeze some drips and differing lengths around the cake – alternatively you can use a teaspoon if you don't have a squeeze bottle.

Finally garnish the top with some finely chopped walnuts and serve.

A Way With Food

A new RTÉ series will see TV chef Catherine Fulvio take viewers on an immersive journey along St Patrick's Way, taking in the coastal landscape and culture and sampling culinary delights along the way.

EDITORIAL BY CLAIRE CRAIG.



Tollymore Forest Park

‘The show gives such an insightful overview – from what grows naturally outside and can be foraged, through to seeing just how creative our artisan producers can be when it comes to the use of ingredients.’

be incredibly inspiring and a revelation as to what's on offer on our island.

‘The food was divine and it totally exceeded my expectations. Filming in Finnebrogue and cooking over the open fire was just delicious and meeting Paul Cunningham in Scopers Dundrum and harvesting and foraging blew my mind. Then there was Killeavy Castle which was wonderful and so fascinating to see

everything that they produce themselves. Also I couldn't believe Wasabi Crop – there are only two wasabi growers in the whole of the UK and Ireland and one is in Armagh.

‘The show gives such an insightful overview – from what grows naturally outside and can be foraged, through to seeing just how creative our artisan producers can be when it comes to the use of ingredients.’

Covering slow travel, wellness, food and spirituality, Catherine expects the show will resonate with a wide audience of all ages. From a food point of view, she hopes it will raise awareness and gratitude for what Ireland produces as a country and hopefully also help to inspire the next generation of artisan makers and producers.

‘I think Ireland's indigenous food and our food story is one of our main selling points and I think we probably do need to work a little bit more at getting that message out there to international visitors. This show will massively help with that,’ she enthuses.

Food has always been a passion of Catherine's and she has enjoyed a varied and successful career in the industry – from working on Emmy-nominated TV shows, to writing six cookbooks. After the death of her mother, she took over the management of the Ballyknocken House Bed & Breakfast and in 2004 opened the Ballyknocken Cookery School.

She explains, ‘I always wanted to work in food. After college I worked in a bank and then worked in food PR, then I went to a hotel where I organised the cookery events. So even when I was working in different areas I always followed food, and of course I was going home at the weekends to help mum at the family farm house where we cooked three meals a day for guests. I suppose growing up on the farm and cooking with mum it was just in the blood. Though I never thought I'd be on TV or writing cookbooks, that has been an incredible bonus and I enjoy it so much.’

However, the award winner is modest when it comes to her many accomplishments. ‘You're always learning when it comes to food, no one is an expert. It's forever changing. There's someone somewhere in this world that is using ingredients that the rest of us haven't even heard of but will eventually come to the fore. Your eyes are always open and your tastebuds are always excited. That's what makes it so brilliant.

‘When it comes to working in food you can go in so many directions and I think this programme will show that beautifully.’

The show of course has a spiritual side and also shows how much there is to be celebrated. For Catherine, it was the passion and enthusiasm of the people and producers she met along the way that has resonated the most.

‘I think shows like this awaken people to what's possible,’ she reflects. ‘There's many of us out there with dreams and when you actually see how it can come together and the passion behind the projects you want to be part of it.

‘It's also going to show how much the area has to offer – that there's such a depth of history, such delicious artisan foods and all the views you could ever dream of. Everything is on offer and it's all there to enjoy.’

Watch Catherine Fulvio's St Patrick's Way on RTÉ1 on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th March at 8pm.



Catherine with James and Stephanie Martin, Ballyknocken Milkshake episode 1

The two-part series, Catherine Fulvio's St Patrick's Way, documents The Pilgrim Walk – a 132km trail through the Cathedral County and home of Ireland's spiritual capital, Armagh, and onward through the beautiful coastal landscape of County Down.

In it, Catherine journeys through unspoilt natural scenery on an exploration of history, spirituality and the unique culture that defines Ireland's pilgrim path as she experiences world-class local food and drink.

For Catherine, a County Wicklow native and owner of Ballyknocken House & Cookery School, the experience was an unforgettable one that gave her some bucket list moments.

Speaking to IHIL she said, ‘It's a super show and ticks everything that I'm interested in. I love hiking and I love food and I just love exploring new areas. For me St Patrick's Way was a totally new area to explore. I've driven through Armagh a number of times but I've never stopped and learnt about the history of the area. I'd

never been to Navan Fort and I've always dreamed of hiking up in the Mourne.

‘I was blown away by the areas of Newcastle and Warrenpoint and thought they were absolutely gorgeous, plus the history of Downpatrick was wonderful...there was just so much to take in.’

The iconic route opened a decade ago and Catherine believes the series, produced in association with Discover Northern Ireland, will show the area in a whole new light for many people and for others it will put it on the map.

‘It offers wonderful views, amazing people and delicious food. It's just an incredible area for exploration. And of course there's the whole underpinning story of St Patrick himself which is just fascinating,’ adds Catherine.

‘I think because the whole route and experience was so new to me I could look at it through open eyes, everything was a learning experience. I loved everything about it.’

A lifelong food enthusiast, Catherine found the experience to

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ALL THINGS AMSTERDAM

Marty O'Neill explains how Amsterdam has something to offer everyone and why this is one city break where you should leave all your preconceptions at home and not judge it by the colour of the lights in the windows.

Welcome to the Netherlands! A quick direct one hour flight will whisk you away to this beautiful country and have you exploring in super fast time. Try to stay a little further out of the main tourist areas and you'll experience the real Amsterdam. It's a very sociable country and city and has long been famous for its tulip fields, beers, shopping and window shopping if you know what I mean...

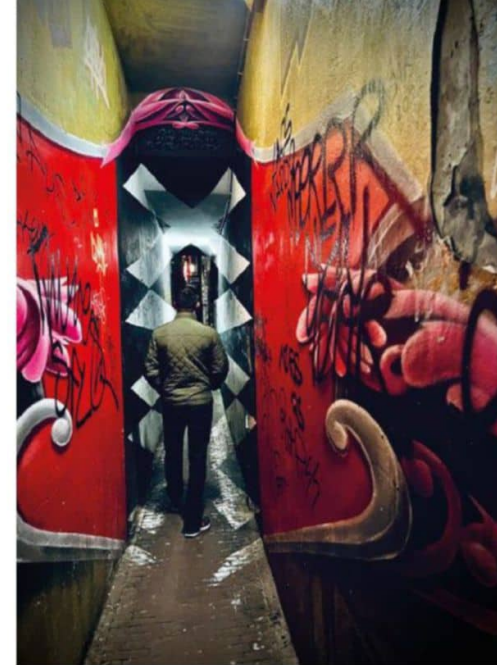
ALL ABOARD

If you stay even a mile out from the main centre, you'll find beer houses filled with locals, coffee shops that aren't jam packed with tourists and you'll very quickly get a real feel for the place. Amsterdam is one of the most visited cities in the world so expect crowds and tourists a-plenty at any time of the year. I've been countless times over the years with friends and we've stayed in everything from apartments, to hotels, to canal boats. The last one probably being my favourite. Some hotels rent out canal boats

outside their premises and you can still avail of the hotel breakfast and facilities even though the canal boats are very well equipped with bathrooms, bedrooms and full kitchens. We loved sitting up on deck in the evening with a beer or two and watching the buzz of the city go by. It was also really unique to sit downstairs at water level and wave from the living room area to all the tourist boats as they went past.

I think nowadays these boats can be booked via Airbnb as well as the handful of hotels that rent them out. They're fixed to the dock side before you ask. Imagine letting novices like us navigate the busy canal ways of Amsterdam in a 70ft barge? They're a happy bunch, but they're not stupid!

The famous government-controlled red light district has shrunk over the years, mainly due to money laundering issues but it's still very much part and parcel of day-to-day life in Amsterdam and needs to be seen if it's your first time visiting the city. Did you know there's also a purple light district too? Google it.



You can't visit to Amsterdam without bringing back some famous tulip bulbs; my mum asks for some anytime we're going. If you're planning a trip in spring to early summer be sure to have your camera ready if you're sitting in a window seat on the flight. One of the most magical sights you'll see when coming into land at Schiphol International Airport is the tulip fields. A blaze of multi-coloured tulips as far as the eye can see; it's an incredible sight that can only be truly enjoyed from above, though it's impressive on the ground too.

Expect snow in mid winter and summers that are warm with a continental European climate – the best of both worlds I suppose. Imagine having four set seasons each year? Something we in Ireland get each day! What I love about mainland Europe is how they embrace the winter in hospitality. No matter if you're in Paris, Rome, Stockholm or even Amsterdam in the dead of winter – cafés, bars and even restaurants have heated outdoor spaces set up for customers to sit out and still enjoy the kerbside surroundings and city sights whilst snuggled up under a blanket or reindeer/sheepskin as they do in the Scandi countries. Why don't we do that back home? I think we're missing a trick.

IS IT EXPENSIVE?

Amsterdam has some brilliant restaurants and bars and some of the finest hotels too. Prices are pretty much on parr with us here in Ireland and we found that the local eateries and bars in the residential areas, slightly out of the city, were much better value than the central canal areas. Like anywhere really – if you want the great view then be prepared to pay for it, it's the unseen tourist tax which is the norm in any major tourist trap in today's world. Business is business I suppose.

Amsterdam has everything for everyone. A melting pot of tourists and residents from literally every corner of the globe. Go for the coffee, stay for the cake. Go for the culture and stay for the craic. Go for the bikes and come home with a sore backside if you're not used to it!

A favourite city break of mine and one that needs a pin put in the map, if only for a box ticking exercise to say you've been. Walkable, friendly and liberally loveable; Amsterdam has something for everyone.

You also can't write an article on a city break to Amsterdam without mentioning coffee shops. After Scandinavians, Dutchies are the world's biggest coffee drinkers. Consuming an average of 140 litres of the stuff every year – that's an average of 3.2 cups per day! I'm more of a tea man myself...

GETTING ABOUT

The city of Amsterdam is very walkable but bikes are the favoured form of transport and indeed right across the county The Netherlands has an enviable network of cycle lanes and paths – 37,000km of them! And what makes it even better is that the country is literally flat as a pancake so no big hills to climb! (You guys know that I love a travel fact...) Over 50% of The Netherlands is less than a metre above sea level, so don't worry about throwing your leg over a bike and setting off even if you're a beginner cyclist.

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For more of Marty's recommendations and travel inspiration follow him at @dishyouwerehere



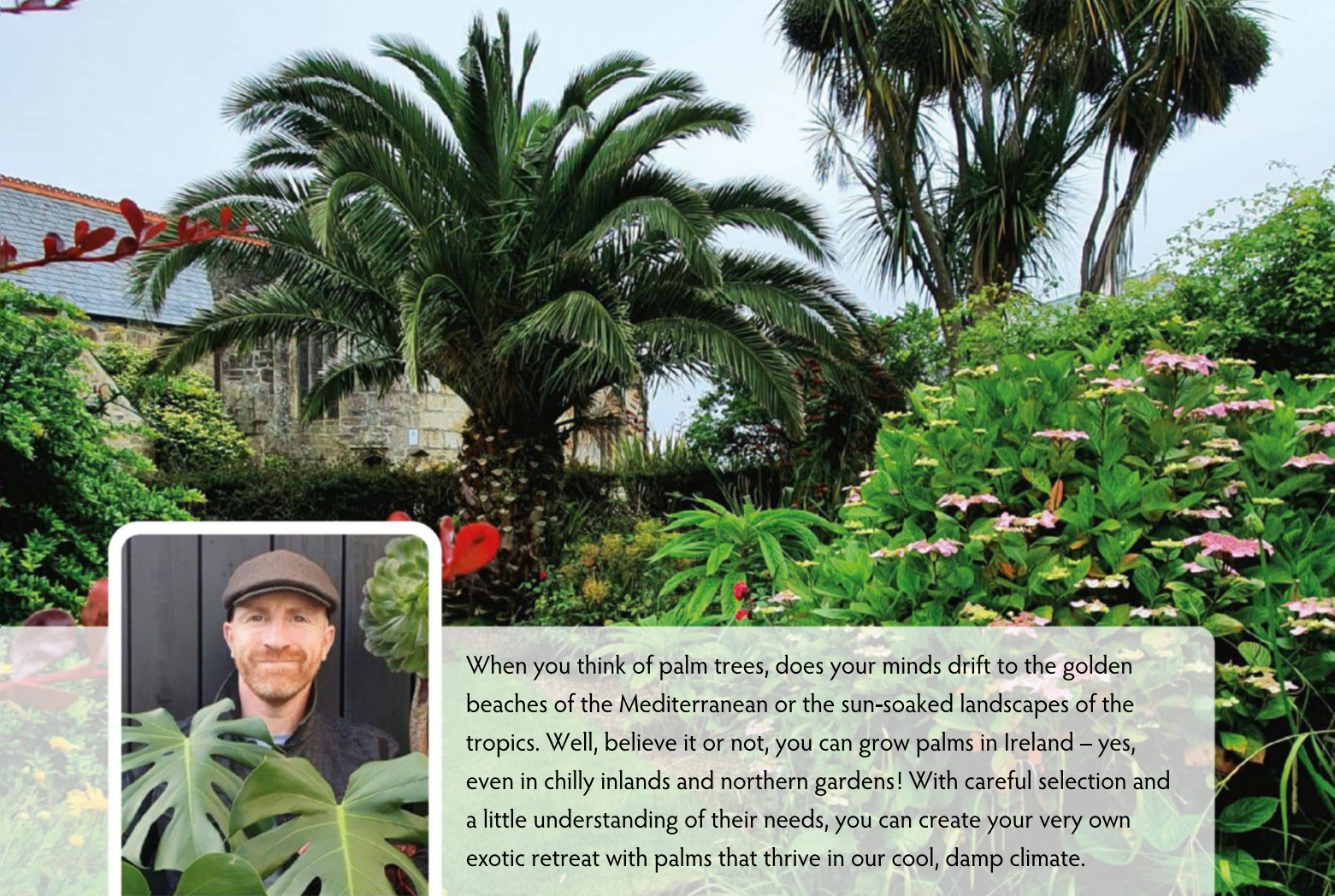
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A Touch of the Tropics

EDITORIAL BY THAT BOTANIC GUY,
CONRAD MCCORMICK.



When you think of palm trees, does your minds drift to the golden beaches of the Mediterranean or the sun-soaked landscapes of the tropics. Well, believe it or not, you can grow palms in Ireland – yes, even in chilly inlands and northern gardens! With careful selection and a little understanding of their needs, you can create your very own exotic retreat with palms that thrive in our cool, damp climate.

They add a unique architectural presence to the garden, creating structure and movement with their bold fronds. Their striking silhouettes pair beautifully with ferns, bamboos, and lush underplanting to evoke a subtropical atmosphere – without the need for a plane ticket! While not every palm is suited to Irish weather, there are several species that can withstand our winters, some even thriving in the face of wind and rain.

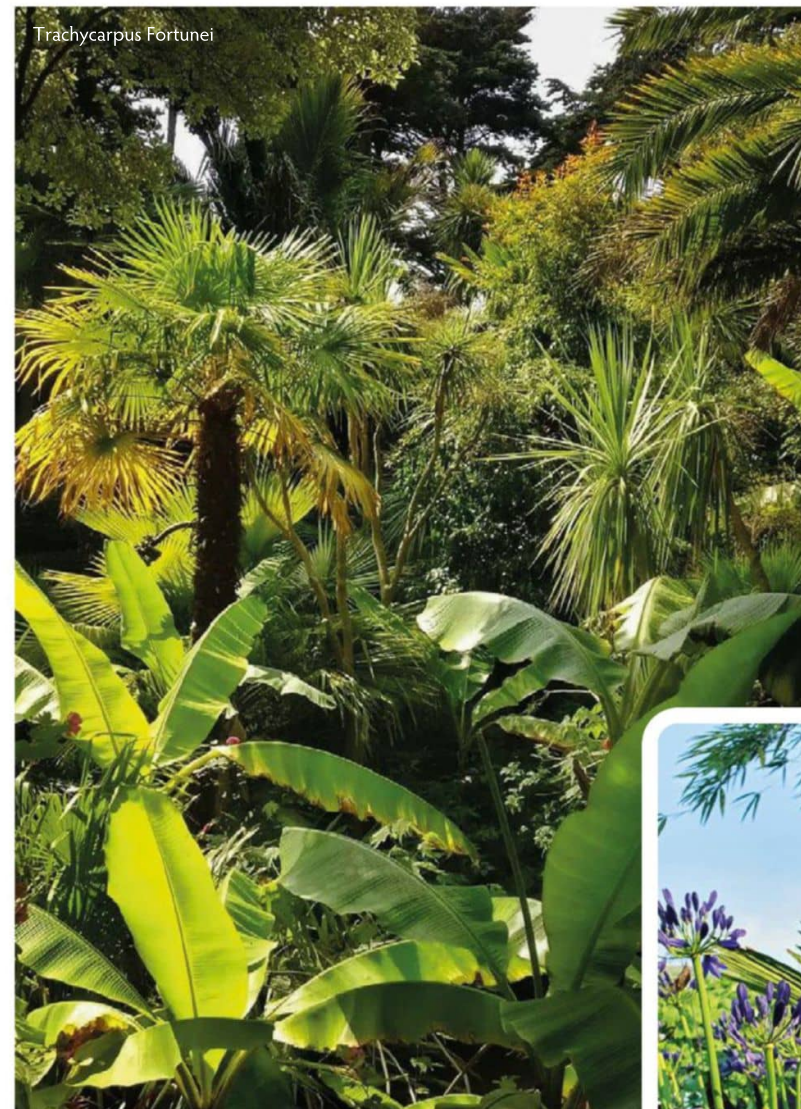
THE HARDIEST OF ALL:

Trachycarpus Fortunei

If you're new to growing palms, Trachycarpus Fortunei, commonly

known as the windmill palm, is the best place to start. This is the hardiest palm widely available in Europe, tolerating temperatures down to -15°C. Native to the foothills of the Himalayas, it shrugs off the cold, damp Irish winters with ease.

It can be surprisingly fast-growing when well sited, developing a shaggy, fibrous trunk over time. Its large, fan-like leaves give it a distinctly tropical appearance. Given a sunny or lightly shaded position and well-drained soil, out of the wind. If planted in an exposed position it will never look its best with the leaves becoming dishevelled and weatherbeaten. Over time it will grow into an impressive feature, easily reaching heights of 5-8 metres over a number of years.



Trachycarpus Fortunei



Trachycarpus Wagnerianus

‘While not every palm is suited to Irish weather, there are several species that can withstand our winters, some even thriving in the face of wind and rain.’

Trachycarpus Wagnerianus

A close relative of the windmill palm, Trachycarpus Wagnerianus is a fantastic alternative for those who prefer a more compact, robust plant. We live on a windy island, so this is a much better option for gardens that are more exposed. Unlike Trachycarpus Fortunei mentioned above, its leaves are smaller, stiffer, and more wind-resistant, making it an ideal choice for blustery coastal locations. This grows brilliantly in my garden, withstanding cold easterly winds with ease. This palm grows at a similar rate and to a comparable height as Trachycarpus fortunei but maintains a neater, tighter architectural form with its tough foliage.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES:

Chamaerops Humilis

For those gardening in milder parts of the country, particularly near the coast or in warm urban areas that benefit from the ‘heat Island effect’ that occurs in large cities, Chamaerops Humilis, or the Mediterranean fan palm, is a fantastic option. Unlike other, more common palms, it forms a clumping habit with multiple trunks, adding to its bushy, sculptural appeal.

It is slightly less hardy than Trachycarpus Fortunei, briefly tolerating temperatures down to around -8°C. However, it thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, making it a great candidate for



Butia Capitata



Chamaerops Humilis 'Vulcano'



Phoenix Canariensis

coastal gardens or sheltered urban courtyards. If you're lucky enough to garden in a particularly favourable location, this palm will reward you with an unmistakably Mediterranean feel.

A COMPACT, HARDY VARIATION:
Chamaerops Humilis 'Vulcano'

For those who love the look of Chamaerops Humilis but want something even more manageable, Chamaerops Humilis 'Vulcano' is a superb choice. This dwarf variety remains compact, with dense, stiff leaves that give it an especially tidy appearance, making it an excellent option for smaller gardens or container growing. Do remember that pot grown plants are more likely to suffer from exposure to cold over winter.

FOR THE MILDEST LOCATIONS:
Butia Capitata

If you garden in a particularly sheltered spot – especially on the coast or in a microclimate created by surrounding buildings – you might want to try growing Butia Capitata, the jelly palm. This palm is prized for its long arching, feather-like fronds, which set it apart from the more rigid, fan-leaved species.

While it is slightly more tender than Trachycarpus, Butia Capitata can withstand temperatures down to around -8°C or perhaps even -10°C, particularly when mature. It benefits from a free-draining soil and a sunny, sheltered position to thrive. In colder regions, it's best grown in a large container that can be moved under cover during extreme cold spells, but do be aware that will become increasingly large and unmanageable, so bear that in mind when you're thinking about where to overwinter it!

A BOLD STATEMENT:
Phoenix Canariensis

The Canary Island date palm, Phoenix Canariensis, is a strikingly architectural addition to the garden. With its thick trunk and long, arching fronds, it makes an unmistakable statement. Eventually, assuming it survives long enough it can become a behemoth, so don't plant it in a tiny garden! However, this palm is much less hardy than the others on this list, tolerating temperatures only down to around -6°C, perhaps down to -8°C for very short periods.

In the warmest, most sheltered gardens – large specimens can sometimes be spotted in coastal Cork, Dublin, or parts of Kerry –

where it can be grown successfully in the ground. In cooler regions, it's best treated as a very large container specimen, allowing you to move it to a more protected location during particularly cold snaps.

With the right selection, growing palms in Ireland is far from a pipe dream – it's a reality that more and more gardeners are embracing. Whether you opt for the hardy, wind-resistant Trachycarpus wagnerianus, the bushy Chamaerops, or the elegant Butia, adding a palm to your garden will inject a year-round tropical feel that defies expectations.

So, if you've ever dreamed of sipping your morning coffee beneath the swaying fronds of a palm tree, it's entirely possible, even here in Ireland. With a bit of planning and the right choice of species, you can transform your garden into a lush, exotic escape.

Conrad offers a garden design service, interior landscaping and plant advice and garden consultations.

Contact conrad.mccormick@gmail.com

Follow [@thatbotanicguy](#)

PLANTING AND CARE TIPS

Regardless of which palm you choose, ensuring the right conditions will help your plant thrive. Here are a few key tips:

SOIL:
Well-drained soil is crucial for palms, as they dislike sitting in water during winter. If your garden has heavy clay, consider raising the planting area or incorporating grit and organic matter to improve drainage.

SHELTER:
While some palms can handle wind, more tender species like Butia and Phoenix will benefit from a sheltered position, such as near a wall or among other plants especially when smaller.

FEEDING:
If your soil is healthy it's unlikely you'll need to feed them. However, in poor soils or for container grown plants, a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in spring will keep your palms looking lush and healthy.

WINTER PROTECTION:
In exceptionally cold winters, wrapping the growing point with fleece or providing a temporary cover can help protect more tender species.



#madeinireland

Support local and add a little artistry and originality into your home with this month's pick of Irish brands and makers.

KATHRYN REID

Kathryn Reid studied at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 2018 with a First Class Honours Degree in Jewellery & Silversmithing. After graduating, she returned home to set up her jewellery business on the family farm she grew up on. Working in recycled sterling silver and gold, Kathryn's pieces are inspired by the wee place that she calls home on the North Coast of Northern Ireland. Since its conception the business has continued to grow and go from strength to strength with Kathryn working full-time in it and shipping her jewellery globally through her website. Visit kathrynreidjewellery.com and follow @kathrynreidjewellery

VOCÊ

Fiona Brown launched her collection of non-slip silicone grip socks for Pilates, yoga and Barre, after suffering chronic back issues after the birth of her daughter Elle. Following surgery in 2017 to treat a herniated disc that was resting on her spine, the Belfast mum discovered Reformer Pilates significantly reduced the pain she was experiencing. The idea for the collection then came to the PR professional when she was on holiday in Portugal last summer and forget her grip socks for a beach Pilates class. This planted the seed for VOCÊ (meaning 'you' in Portuguese) and the range has since launched with five different styles in a range of colours to suit a wide range of tastes – the Classic, Core, Cute, Frilly and Tall Collections. Visit voceactive.com and follow @voceactive



ASHFIELD MACRAMÉ

Vicky Burke, grew up in Swords surrounded by yarn, wool, and weaving looms, as her mother was – and is – an amazing weaver. During the first lockdown in 2020 the mum of two started making some macramé pieces to take her mind off things. She then discovered macramé rainbows and fell in love with the technique, the colours, and the endless possibilities. Now, the personalised rainbow wall hangings are her most popular piece, and Vicky even teaches how to make them through both online and at in-person workshops. Follow ashfieldmacrame.com and follow @ashfieldmacrame

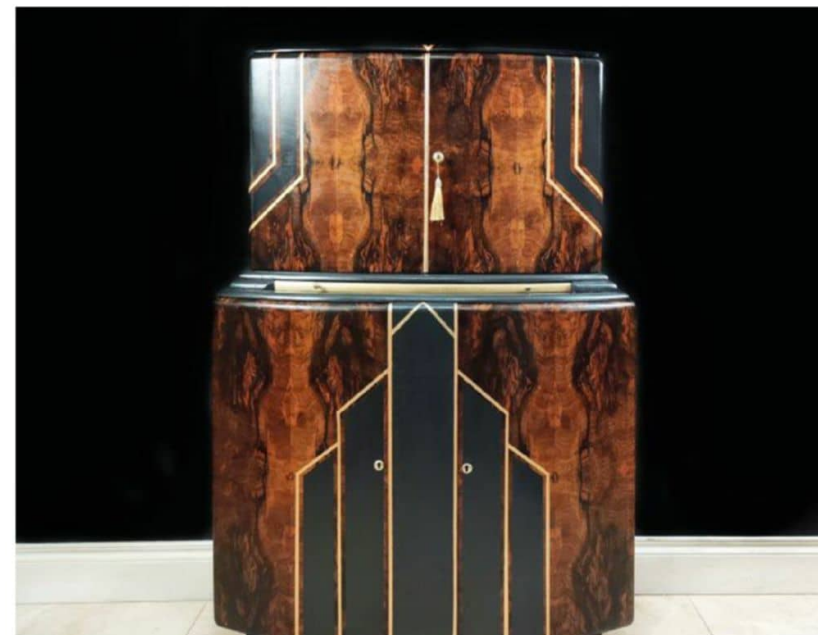


GALGORM MELTS

Inspired by the stunning landscapes of Northern Ireland, Lucinda uses homegrown and locally sourced and often foraged botanicals, herbs, and spices to create her Galgorm Melts. Her commitment to ethical practices extends to using cruelty-free, vegan-friendly ingredients and sustainable production methods from solar power production to biodegradable packaging. She's proud to have been recognised for her innovative approach, winning awards such as 'Best Innovative Small Business 2024' at the Ballymena Business Excellence Awards and achieving a Gold Standard from Innovate NI. You can find her products in a variety of local artisan shops and fine establishments, including prestigious locations like Glenarm Castle and Galgorm Resort and Spa. Visit galgormmelts.co.uk and follow @galgormmelts

SUGAR PLUM SWEETERY

Married couple, Denise and David Buckley are the visionaries behind Sugar Plum Sweetery. In 2022, they opened the door to their new chocolate factory and sweet shop – a sister to their Wholesome Kitchen restaurant next door. Inspired by the magic of Willy Wonka and the nostalgia of childhood wonder, they embarked on a quest to craft extraordinary chocolates that were not just unique but exclusive to them. Based in Mullingar, Westmeath, every chocolate creation is handcrafted on-site by a team of master chocolatiers. Their newest creation has taken the Irish market by storm and is inspired by the viral Dubai chocolate bar with premium pistachios, toasted crunchy kataifi pastry and tahini all encased in their award-winning creamy milk chocolate. Visit sugarplumsweetery.ie and visit [sugarplumsweetery](https://www.facebook.com/sugarplumsweetery)



MD SERENDIPITY DESIGNS

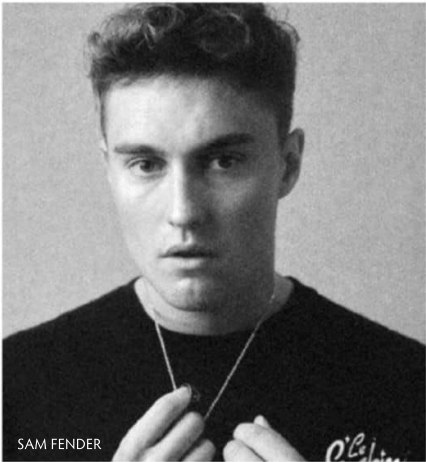
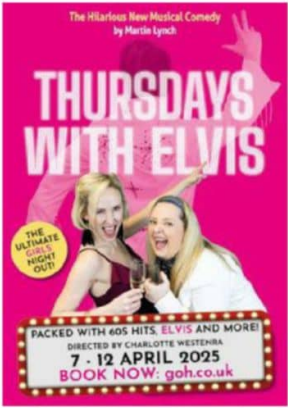
Mary Doherty started her restoration and redesign business during Covid. Based outside Buncrana in Co. Donegal, MD Serendipity Designs was born from both circumstance and passion and has since evolved into an award-winning business specialising in the restoration and redesign of vintage Art Deco and mid-century cocktail cabinets, drinks cabinets, bureaus and bars to create one of a kind bespoke furniture pieces. Highlights have included creating a bespoke sustainable mobile bar for drinks giant Diagio. The mum of four comments, 'I'm a firm believer that you're never too old to follow your dreams. Work hard, believe in yourself and once the doors open, seize every opportunity you can.'

Visit mdserendipitydesigns.com and follow @md_serendipity_designs

آنور شگاہ انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دورہ های آموزشی دگور آسیون داخلی

What's on

A round-up of some of the top activities and must-see events happening across the country in the coming weeks.



EASTER

The Lindt Gold Bunny Hunt
12-17th April

Embark on a captivating journey as you explore the gardens of Hillsborough Castle, roaming the 100 acres on the lookout for elusive Lindt GOLD BUNNY statues peeking out from an extravaganza of colourful blooms as part of its Spring Spectacular. Hidden amongst the charming Lindt GOLD BUNNY statues are letters that hold the key to a secret question. Think you've cracked the clue? Your quest will be rewarded with a delicious chocolate treat.

Easter Trails National Trust
18-27th April

Get all the family involved at the Easter Trails happening at various National Trust sites across NI including Crom Castle (Fermanagh), Castle Ward (Down), The Argory (Tyrone) and Springhill (Derry). Enjoy fun Easter games, hunt for signs of spring, and much more. nationaltrust.org.uk

CULTURE

Clifden Traditional Music Festival
24th-27th April

The 15th Annual Clifden Traditional Music Festival promises a weekend of the very best of Irish music, song and dance with concerts, sessions, workshops and outdoor entertainment. Taking place in Clifden, Connemara, Co. Galway, a big highlight of the festival is the outdoor gig on the Saturday night where attendees can expect lively entertainment for all the family. galwaytourism.ie

Thursdays With Elvis
7-12th April

Packed with the greatest hits of the sixties, Thursdays with Elvis is a heart-warming, hard-hitting, and utterly hilarious comedy about making do and making a change with the help of none other than the the King of Rock and Roll. Written by the acclaimed Martin Lynch, directed by Charlotte Westenra and starring Caroline Curran, the show is set to rock Belfast's Grand Opera House this April. goh.co.uk

FOOD & DRINK

Cork Whiskey Fest
21st-23rd March

The third annual Cork Whiskey Fest will take place across Cork City's MacCurtain Street, with whiskey fans congregating for three days of craic and fantastic whiskey experiences. Plenty of the bars on the street will also be joining in on the activities to help ensure Cork is the epicentre of Irish whiskey on that weekend. corkwhiskeyfest.com

Dublin Coffee Festival
12-13th April

Dublin Coffee Festival is a celebration of the speciality coffee scene in Ireland and beyond. Attendees to the event can expect a showcase of incredible exhibitors, competitions and much more. dublincoffeefest.com

ON SALE NOW

Pulp: 3Arena, Dublin, 10th June

Camila Cabello: 3Arena, Dublin, 9th July

Sam Fender: Boucher Road Playing Fields, Belfast, 28th August



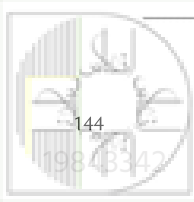
KESSEBÖHMER

When the door to the Kesseböhmer TANDEM opens, the contents are distributed between the door and unit shelves. Thanks to the intelligent pull-out technology, the rear shelves automatically move towards you when it is opened. This creates impressive visibility and allows optimum access to the stored goods.

Together with the door shelving unit, this creates maximum storage space within the kitchen.

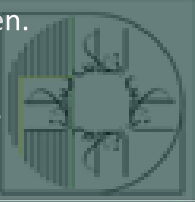
Flanagan Fittings, Falcon House, Dublin Airport Logistics Park, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin K67 F303

Ph: +353 (0)1 844 8400 Web: www.fff.ie Email: sales@fff.ie



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