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Premier Living is a magazine by ESPC, the No.1 place for advertising homes for sale in East Central Scotland. Premier Living is produced twice a year and is delivered to the premier residential streets in Edinburgh. It is also available from the ESPC showroom on George Street. Premier Living is written, designed and published by Connect Publications (Scotland) Ltd on behalf of ESPC. www.connectcommunications.co.uk

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Welcome

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A PREMIER PACKAGE

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Premier clients have the opportunity to feature in our monthly *Premier Property* publication and this biannual *Premier Living* magazine. Both publications reach different readers by different platforms – this means that if you have a property listed with ESPC, it will benefit from the full Premier promotional package.

Find out more about ESPC Premier at espc.com/useful-info/premier



WELCOME to the Autumn/Winter 2015/2016 issue of *Premier Living*, bringing you the latest premier property news and lifestyle features. In this issue, we have put New York in the spotlight, revealing not only how you can develop New York style in your living space, but what fashion brands and food trends are available here. If you are planning a trip to the Big Apple, we also have a guide for some new things to do in the city, as well as excursions out of town to see all

the rich and vibrant autumn colours of the countryside. We also secured an exclusive interview with the principal officer at Edinburgh's US Consulate, who reveals her favourite things about Edinburgh. Edinburgh's Old Town, with its history-steeped closes and Gothic spires, really suits that time of year when the nights draw in. Flick through this magazine to find some of the best independent boutiques and cafés in the area. If you are inspired by history, then you'll be interested in expert advice on buying antiques from Bonhams and Lyon and Turnbull, and why they are sometimes the best option for furnishing a home. Our feature property is a fabulous Moray Place apartment that has been given a contemporary feel, and don't forget to take a look at our Must View, with a spectacular canalside outlook.

Caroline Young, Premier Living Editor, ESPC



ABOUT OUR MAGAZINE...

Premier Living magazine is our biannual publication that showcases a number of high-end properties for sale, including stunning Edinburgh townhouses and country homes, in addition to design trends, luxury shopping and inspiring interiors.

With a circulation of 25,000, a copy can also be found at your local solicitor, ESPC showrooms and other select locations. If you would like to request a number of copies for your business, please contact *Premier Living* on 0131 624 8872.



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as well as plenty of helpful advice. We are also proud to host a series of events on all topics of buying and maintaining a home. One of our newest services at ESPC is our school catchment search function, which is the most comprehensive of its kind. It allows you to search for the properties for sale that fall into each school catchment – ideal if you have your heart set on a particular school. Whether you are a landlord already or you are thinking about taking your first steps in to property investment in Edinburgh, ESPC Lettings can help. Our fully managed letting service offers exceptional property management and comprehensive advice. We can help landlords in Edinburgh maximise their property investment and expand their current property portfolio. So whether you are looking to sell or buy, all you need is ESPC.

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The 11th annual Edinburgh Art Fair will take place at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange from Friday 13 – Sunday 15 November 2015. With 60 galleries showcasing the work of hundreds of artists from all four corners of the globe, there will be literally thousands of artworks for sale, including paintings, sculpture, original prints, photography, ceramics and glass. With all subject matters and mediums covered, and with price tags to suit all pockets, there is sure to be something for everyone to take home!

For more details, visit artedinburgh.com



ALSO...
HERE IS OUR LUCKY COMPETITION WINNER
Congratulations to **SANDRA BRUCE**, who won the competition in our Spring/Summer issue. The prize was a gin tasting experience for four people at One Square – we hope you had fun!

MUST VIEW

Messing about on the river

This six-bedroom detached house in Ratho on the banks of the Union Canal offers views of the barges on the water as well as quiet village living. The house dates from the 1820s as a service stop for horse-drawn barges, but now has a lovely, modern interior.

📍 **Change House, 29 Baird Road, Ratho, EH28 8RU.** Priced at offers over £675,000 through ESPC. For more information contact VMH Solicitors on 0131 253 2964, or search for this property with reference 342390 on espc.com



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Photography represents a typical Miller Homes exterior.

PREMIER TREND SETTER

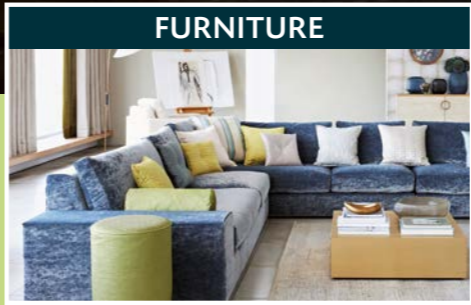
Bring texture into your interiors this autumn and winter with natural materials, a trend which reflects the desire to escape on overload of technology. You can use tweed and tartans, soft wools and knits for cosy cushions, furniture coverings and throws that make you want to snuggle down as the nights draw in...

- 1 Anta Wadenhoe Mingulay and Uist Tweed Chair, £1522.80. The colour palette on this chair would be adaptable for different interiors. anta.co.uk
- 2 Eleanor Pritchard blanket in 405 Line Signal, £248. moletamunro.com
- 3 Aki Natural Sheesham Table Lamp, £100. This stylish lamp brings wood grain to the fore, for a sumptuous, natural feel. johnlewis.co.uk
- 4 Cox and Cox sheepskin beanbag, £750. Sheepskin is hypoallergenic, heat regulating and durable, and this beanbag is perfect for sinking into. coxandcox.co.uk
- 5 Tom Raffield Giant No.1 Pendant Light, £785. This intricate light would add a feature point to the room. johnlewis.co.uk



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Stunning living room, ESPC property ref 357017

WELCOMING BY DESIGN

This issue, Premier Living asks the experts for advice on possibly the most challenging space in any home – the family room

THE most successful family rooms by definition strike a balance between the needs of all members of the household and their various interests. They must be tough enough to withstand the rigours of constant use, yet welcoming enough to prevent even the grumpiest teenager retreating to their room. From television to homework, music to board games, this most demanding of spaces can be tricky to perfect, says Toby Durant, a home design advisor at John Lewis Edinburgh.

"Family rooms are often difficult to decorate, finding the right focus and furniture layout being the biggest problems," he says. "For games, sport, movies or homework, whether young or old, it's a room for everyone to enjoy so, above all, it should be playful."

"Flexible furniture such as coffee tables with integrated storage or modular seating can easily be rearranged to create a versatile space that easily adapts to different uses. Upholstered footstools can double up as extra seats when everyone is home at the weekend and nested tables give you plenty of places to pop things down without cluttering the room."

The need for flexibility is a sentiment echoed by Dixie Mirowski, director at Catalog Interiors, who says practicality

does not mean compromise.

"Investing in well-made furniture is essential for any room that has heavy traffic," she says. "Too many people take the view that it's better to fill family rooms with cheap pieces, on the basis that they'll get ruined and can be replaced. But a well-chosen, well-made piece of furniture can last decades, and enhance the room throughout that time."

She does, however, acknowledge that, alongside build quality, sensible choices in décor and material are also often necessary.

"With young children, it's often a good idea to go for fabrics that won't show marks as easily, or ones which can be easily cleaned."

Alison Howard of Christopher Howard in Gullane agrees, saying: "Fabrics list their content and durability ratings, so look for one that is also going to be relatively stain free. For older children, a piece of storage is good to keep board games easy to access and have a place set up to play them together, like a big coffee table. Wall mount TVs for clear corners."

"Create a focal point, whether it is a stunning large rug or a fireplace if you have one – set seating around for a cosy feel. For young children, soften hard

edges using upholstery and soft sides."

One of the greatest challenges in creating a successful family room is ensuring it is somewhere the entire family wants to spend time. Catalog Interiors' Mirowski again has some good practical advice.

"When families come into the shop, we find that getting kids involved in choosing colours and designs is a great way to give them a sense of ownership, as well as imparting some useful experience. With older children, incorporating a slim desk or other work surface in your design can also help, as it provides somewhere to do homework without being banished to another room. It's important to think practically about how the space can be made to work for everyone who will be using it."

This idea that family rooms should be a reflection of the household in its entirety is picked up with a charming final piece of advice from Durant.

"A feature wall of family photos is a great way to add a truly personal touch," he concludes. "Packed with memories, this can grow and develop over the years and is a constant reminder of what's important."

Continued on page 12

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FAMILY LIVING

With open plan living becoming more popular, the living and kitchen now often seamlessly merge. Here's some inspiration for creating that perfect family space

1. RICHARD F MACKAY

An island in a kitchen can be really adaptable, allowing you to cook and prepare dinner while children can do their own activities on the same space.
Laser 418 in Honeyed Ivory, prices vary, richardrmackay.co.uk

2. STUDIO ONE

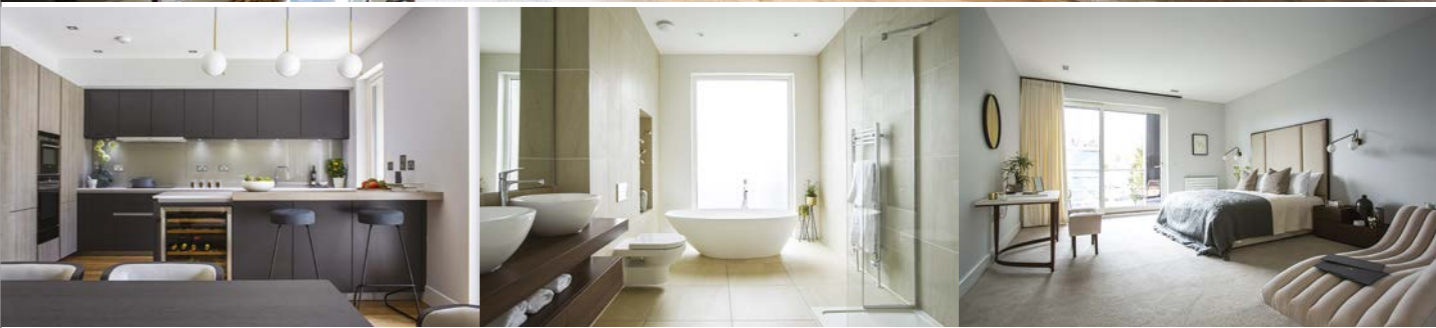
A large oak or pine dining table in the kitchen will draw people into it, and is a great way to ensure everyone has dinner around the table if need be.
Nevis Dining Table, from around £895 studioonefurniture.co.uk

3. MUUTO

You could incorporate a play area into the living room with a low-level table which could double up as a drawing desk, and storage boxes for packing away toys into neat areas.
Stacked shelving system, £644 from Moleta Munro moletamunro.com

4. JOHN LEWIS

A large comfortable sofa is a must for a living area, but throwing in bean bags or small chairs can also create seating places that can be moved around depending on the activity.
Birds and Buttons bean bag chair, £50 johnlewis.com



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This Victorian flat occupies two floors of a building that looks out over Glencairn Gardens in the West End. The focus of the kitchen is a contemporary island in white and grey which really is the heart of the home, and includes a hidden washbasin and built-in hob. You can imagine children gathering around to do their homework, and the family getting together to enjoy a light supper. There's a partial dividing wall which separates the kitchen from the dining room, but this allows for an open plan space which would be ideal for holding parties and gatherings. This extensive property also has unique period detail such as the sash and case windows looking out into the bright and airy stairway, detailed cornicing and feature fireplaces.
Contact solicitor: VMH Solicitors on 0131 253 2964, or visit espc.com and search for reference 354381

**TITHE BARN, WHITEKIRK,
EAST LOTHIAN EH42 1XS**
OFFERS OVER £585,000
A dividing book case helps to keep two defined areas in this living space in a beautifully restored 15th century countryside home. The fireplace has a wooden beam detail which reflects the exposed beams throughout the house. One side of the book case would be perfect for watching TV and gathering as a family, while a private space on the other side could be for quiet reading times and playing. The four bedroom home has many unique period features such as traditional windows, original stone fireplace, a vaulted landing, a stone stair case and the original tower house vault. It's surrounded by countryside, and there is a sea view from the master bedroom.
Contact solicitor: Simpson & Marwick on 01620 532 654, or visit espc.com and search with reference 348066



**11 SUMMERSIDE STREET,
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OFFERS OVER £630,000
With access to the back garden and large sash windows which let the light in, this kitchen and dining room is ideal as the focus of the home. It's a light and airy space with a modern kitchen and central island and the dining table is perfect for the family to gather around. The glazed kitchen door leads out onto a south west facing patio which would be perfect for outdoor dinners, or for relaxing while kids play in the garden. The five or six bedroom home is beautifully decorated throughout, with a neutral colour palette that enhances the period features.
Contact solicitor: Gilson Gray on 0131 253 2993, or visit espc.com and search for reference 355778

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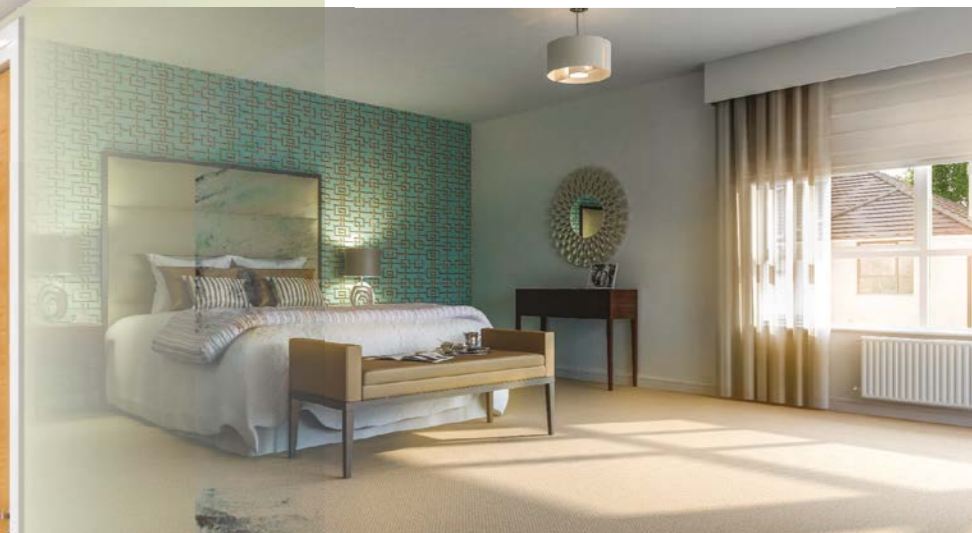
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FAMILY FRIENDLY

Situated in one of Edinburgh’s most desirable locations, this chic yet welcoming apartment combines the convenience of city living with the comforts of a traditional family home

MORAY Place is one of the New Town’s grandest crescents, centred around tranquil private gardens and where many historic figures have called their home. This two-floor apartment at 13a Moray Place not only benefits from this illustrious area, but also features a modern interior with some special features.

Melissa Reed and her family are currently renting the apartment, having been here for four years. The family, originally from Delaware, have really enjoyed being in such a central location.

“It’s fantastic in this area” says Melissa. “We’ve really been spoiled with it, as you can just pop into town, the kids can

walk to their schools, or walk to their activities. There’s parking on the street – you buy a permit and there’s never any problem finding a space to park.

“It really ticks a lot of boxes, as not a lot of places have a garden, have parking and are so central. If you live here you have keys to go into the central garden [for an annual fee]. The house also has its own garden which gives us enough space for our dog.

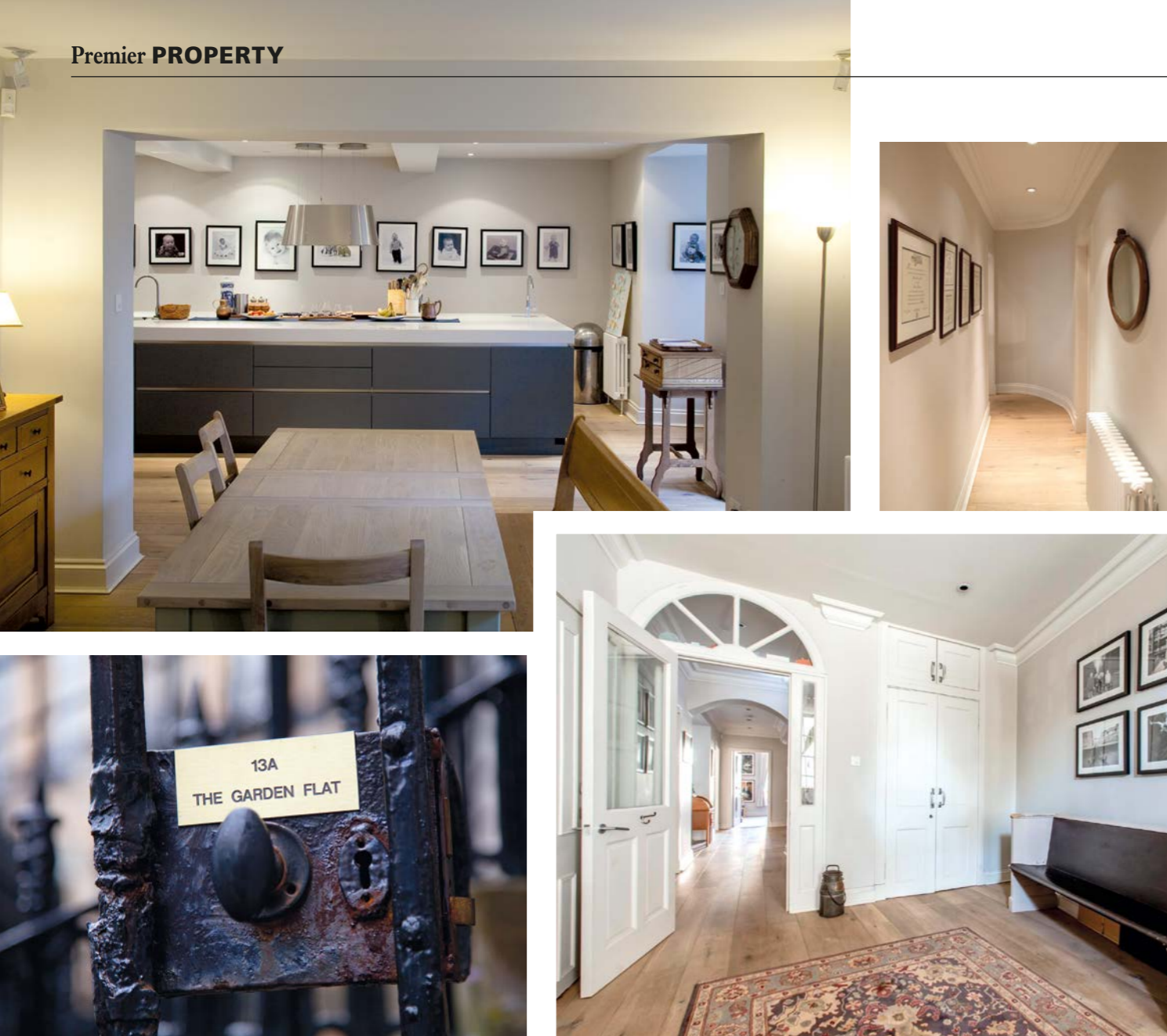
“They’ve done a great job with the bathrooms, the showers are fantastic, and the front room is lovely,” she adds.

Split over two levels, you enter through

Continued on page 20



From its high ceilings to its many original features, 13a Moray Place epitomises the unmistakable style of Edinburgh’s New Town



Continued from page 18

the main door of the basement level. There are three storage spaces available in the courtyard area at the front of the house, as well as a lower level courtyard, which the Reed family found perfect for storing their bikes and any extra boxes.

The reception hall, Melissa's favourite space, has a fan light over the door to the hall, a church style pew for perching while getting ready to head out the door, and a cupboard for hanging coats and shoes.

On the left of the hall is the spacious sitting room which has an original fireplace and sash windows. This floor also has three bathrooms - a large WC, a bathroom with shower and also an en suite for the master bedroom. The master bedroom looks out over the back gardens, so it would be a quiet space at night-time. There's also a second bedroom on this floor.

A characterful stone staircase leads down to the open plan kitchen and living room. The sleek and imposing kitchen island has deep drawers which provide

plenty of storage space, two sinks and an integrated hob and oven. One of the unique features of this property is the floor-to-ceiling wall unit which has a microwave, a grill, an espresso machine and a deceptively hidden walk-in utility room.

This open plan kitchen and living space has room for a dining table and comfortable seating, and a backdoor leads out into the back garden and raised terrace area. The kitchen also leads to a hallway with more cupboard space, a bathroom and two further bedrooms.

With an address that is one of the most desirable in the city, and with contemporary interiors that enhance its character, this town house really is a must-see. **PL**

PROPERTY DETAILS

13a Moray Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6DT. Offers over £1,050,000. For more information, call ESPC solicitors HBJ Property on 0131 253 2889 or visit espc.com with reference 351791

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LAYERING STYLES AND PERIODS

Antiques can provide the perfect focal point in any interior, modern or period

TIMES have changed since people furnished their rooms with pieces that had been handed down over the generations. Firstly with Habitat, and then with the advent of IKEA, filling a room with furniture direct from the shop floor became much easier.

But antiques are now used as statement pieces, as investments, or as bold accessories to liven up a room. Visiting an auction house can also offer you the chance to get a real bargain, where you could buy an investment piece with history for the same price or less than a modern piece of furniture.

Here, we speak to experts from Lyon & Turnbull and Bonhams for key tips on purchasing antiques.



**DOUGLAS GORTON,
LYON & TURNBULL, 33
BROUGHTON PLACE**

**What are the benefits of
buying antiques?**

What I tell people is that it's a very green industry, where you are recycling things that have been around for 100 or 200 years. You are buying something that's unique – you can't walk into a shop and find it. It's not flatpack, it's not picked out of a catalogue, and it's really a way to show your tastes. In some ways, antiques have a bad reputation for being old fashioned, so you need to rethink what they are and how they get used. I love the idea that there's a story behind each piece – I think about what conversations have gone around a table at dinner, who has touched it.

**Do you have tips for those
buying antiques?**

Always buy the best that you can get at your price level. People are often surprised at what they can get. I'd recommend building up a relationship with an antique dealer and visit auctions frequently. What you spend in the high street you

can sometimes find for less money, and it will last longer. A lot of new furniture won't be relevant years down the line.

**Are there any antique trends in
Edinburgh at the moment?**

People aren't so concerned about what period an item is from, whereas 40 years ago, they would buy all Georgian, all Victorian. People don't want the museum look – they want something modern mixed with something antique for a strong, bold look, a statement piece, or items with a nice clean line that can work in modern interiors. A plain but simply done oak table, an Art Deco sideboard – it's getting the balance between old and new. A Georgian chest of drawers with a contemporary print over it can look really smart. You need to trust your own ideas and experiment.

Continued on page 24



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Continued from page 22

 **BRUCE ADDISON
FROM BONHAMS,
22 QUEEN STREET**

What tips would you give people when buying antiques?

Do some research first by having a look around the sale, and then have a good idea of prices. We publish estimates in advance and also condition reports. You should also consider the space you have and take a measuring tape with you. You should choose pieces that you will be comfortable sitting on, or eating from, for hopefully a period of time.

If you live in a Georgian or Victorian house, you don't have to furnish in that period. But furniture built in that period will fit into your space, as the proportions and style will be similar. You don't have to drop in the formality of the Georgian era, or use Victorian clutter – you can choose a bookcase or a chair, and the proportions and style will be right. In a modern house, you may find the proportions are too small for big items of furniture, but smaller pieces could act as purely decorative.

Do programmes like Mad Men and Downton Abbey inspire people to buy period pieces?

People may be attracted, but we don't really see a spike in the market. Mad Men may well influence how people want their rooms to look. There's a big market for contemporary designs and icons of style in property at the moment. At Bonhams, we sell 20th-century design that could peek people's interest and it can be fun to mix these different styles.

What are the advantages of buying antiques?


Furniture in the Georgian period were one-off pieces that were hand-made by craftspeople, and very few people have that expertise now. You could buy a Georgian chair at auction for £500, but if you commissioned a bespoke chair, you could be paying 10 times that.

The market has changed significantly in the last 15 years, moving away from the 1980s and 1990s when prices were high. Good-quality, nice condition pieces will sell and, while people might think these big pieces are expensive, buying antiques can be accessible.



Ampersand Interiors

An expert's view on mixing old and new

 **JACQUELINE FISKEN, DESIGN
DIRECTOR OF AMPERSAND
INTERIORS, 73 DUBLIN
STREET**

We really are architecturally blessed in Edinburgh and part of the city's charm comes from the contrast between the Old and New Towns.

This contrast between old and new can be incorporated into your interiors to great effect, providing a creatively eclectic backdrop to your lifestyle.

Far too many interiors have the overly "off-the-shelf" look of the just-designed. This needless quest for the fashionable is often combined with a fear of mixing new designs with older objects.

Yet it is just such a clever layering of styles and periods that provides interest and authenticity to your surroundings. The fear is not misplaced, however – your home isn't a museum and an out-of-place antique in a contemporary setting can look awkward and dislocated.

Equally, an obsessively curated home will look stilted and pretentious. As with so much in design, there are no absolutes. It is as much about liberation as about rules, but a few guidelines can help.

Mix up your collected pieces. Contemporary items will breathe new life into a traditional scheme, while antiques can give depth and personality to a more modern look.

Group creatively. Colour can be a great way to make collections work well together, with blocked colours clustered and/or a common hue winding through superficially disparate items.

Modern artwork works fabulously within a traditional setting when linked by colour.

Re-energise an antique chair by upholstering with a David Hicks geometric or a contemporary fabric. Or get creative and use a combination of different fabrics to give it a completely new feel.

A sharp contrast in itself can give a scheme a real lift. A gorgeous antique desk in a modern study will provide a focal point to the space while the clean lines of the room can highlight the inherent beauty and detailing of the desk.

Finally remember, as Jonathan Adler says, embrace luxury – but always add some soul. **PL**

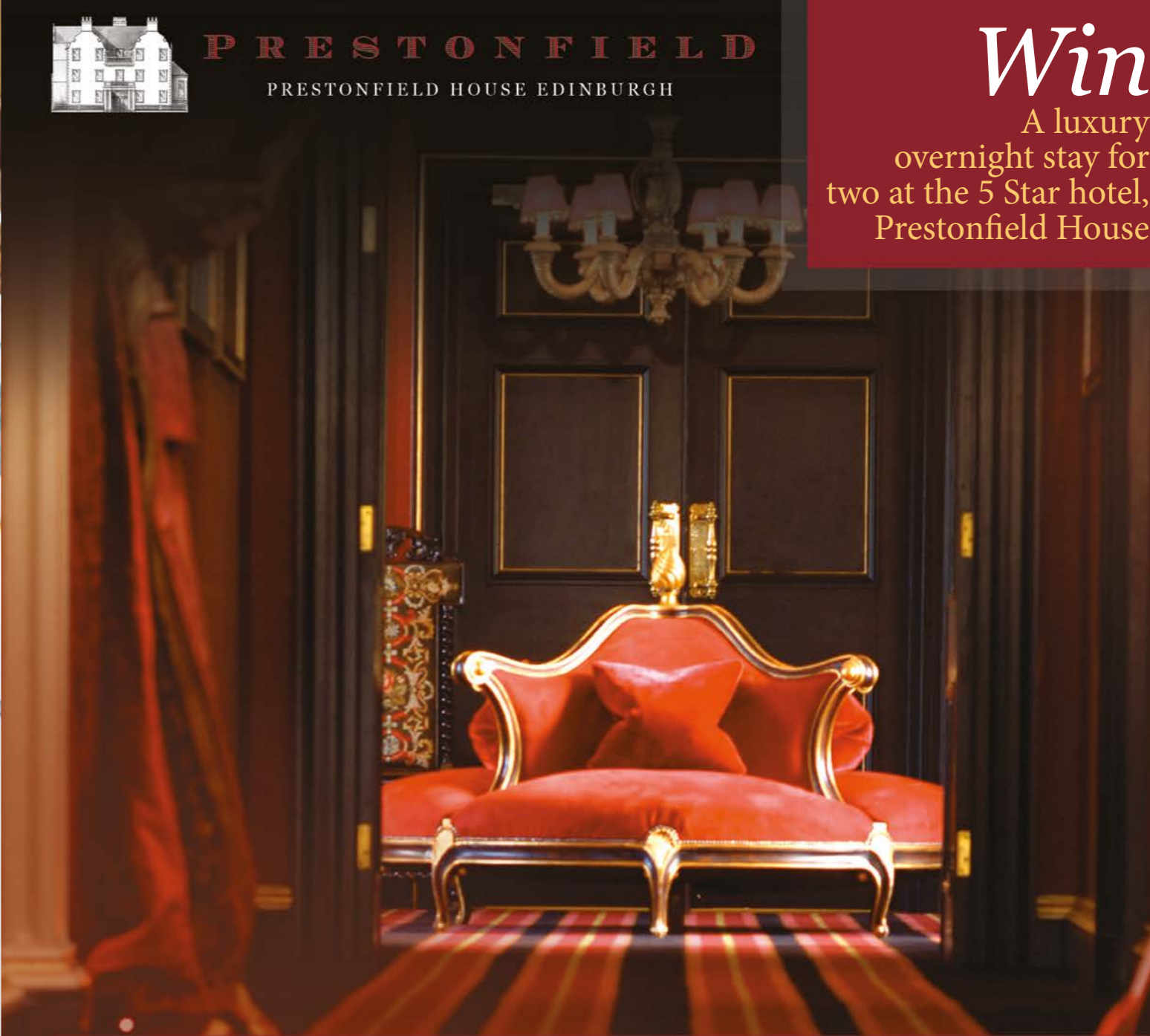
 **Ampersand Interiors, 0131 557 6634
and ampersandinteriors.co.uk**



PRESTONFIELD
PRESTONFIELD HOUSE EDINBURGH

Win

A luxury overnight stay for two at the 5 Star hotel, Prestonfield House



The Prize

A luxury overnight stay for two at Prestonfield House with Champagne on arrival, full breakfast menu and 3 course dinner in Rhubarb – the restaurant at Prestonfield House.

For a chance to win, visit

espc.com/premiercompetition
by 30th November 2015 for the online entry form.

The winner will be notified by email and announced in the Spring/Summer 2016 issue of Premier Living Magazine. This prize is valid Sunday to Thursday only until 28th February 2016. Subject to availability.

Dates excluded - Monday 21st December 2015 – Monday 4th January 2016 and Sunday 14th February 2016



ALWAYS IN STYLE, PERIOD

*Be inspired by these striking homes
that use antiques in their interiors*



Garscube Terrace



Glenarch House



McLaren Road

**30 GARSCUBE TERRACE,
EDINBURGH EH12 6BN
(UNDER OFFER)**
OFFERS OVER £825,000
This home in Murrayfield showcases antique pieces throughout the house, including in the hallway with a Georgian bureau, an Elizabethan chair and grandfather clock. It adds character to a space that has many period features, including an original bell, balustrading and cornicing.

📞 **Contact solicitor: Simpson & Marwick on 0131 253 2171, or visit espc.com with reference 355355**

**32 MCLAREN ROAD,
EDINBURGH EH9 2BN**
OFFERS OVER £675,000
A Georgian bureau bookcase enhances this Newington room, providing plenty of storage for books and papers. This four-bed terraced home retains many original period features including attractive cornicing, sanded floors, period fireplaces, original sash and case windows and Edinburgh press cupboards. In addition, most of the rooms have working shutters.

📞 **Contact solicitor: More Property on 0131 253 2101, or visit espc.com with reference 355223**

**GLENARCH HOUSE, MELVILLE
ROAD, ESKBANK EH22 3NJ**
OFFERS OVER £1,250,000
This early 19th-century villa is a grand country residence that uses antiques to enhance the history of the building, such as Georgian armchairs and a grand piano. The home has many interesting features, including cornicing, a ceiling rose, and curved bay windows. It also features a summer house, ornamental gardens, a paddock and three greenhouses.

📞 **Contact solicitor: McEwan Fraser Legal on 0131 253 2263, or visit espc.com with reference 349134**

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Edinburgh

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**JAMES SHOOLBRED, A PAIR OF
VICTORIAN WALNUT HALL BENCHES**

Bonhams



Armstrong's

IN THE FRAME

Colourful Victoria Street is a haven for little boutiques, and Red Door Gallery is a great place to go for art prints and quirky accessories by local designers, perfect as gifts or for your home. Leftfield designs include vibrant screen-printed bags and purses, copper or wood-cut necklaces and hand-painted homeware, children's books, crafts and paper cuttings, and they offer a framing service for prints.

Red Door Gallery, 42 Victoria Street, edinburghart.com

CLASSIC TWEEDS

Entering Walker Slater on Victoria Street is like stepping into an old world store, with railings and displays of rich tweed jackets and overcoats, gentlemen's waistcoats, handkerchiefs and gloves. There is also a ladies shop further down Victoria Street where you can get made to measure tweed skirts, coats and jackets.

Walker Slater, 18 Victoria Street, walkerslater.com



Walker Slater

Continued on page 30

THE OLD TOWN

Edinburgh's labyrinthine Old Town has long been a hot spot for visitors exploring the Royal Mile, the Grassmarket and narrow closes steeped in history. The Old Town is also thriving with independent boutiques, delectable cafes and diverse restaurants and bars



33/37 Jeffrey Street EH1 1DH
0131 556 6551
tangramfurnishers.co.uk

Continued from page 29

GRAND DESIGNS

The luxury G & V, which was formerly Hotel Missoni, has unveiled designer suites conceptualised by Scottish designers including Judy R Clark and Timorous Beasties. You can visit the vibrant, modernist G & V bar for imaginative cocktails and Italian-inspired appetisers from their restaurant, Cucina. **G & V Royal Mile Hotel, Edinburgh, 1 George IV Bridge, quorvuscollection.com/gandv-hotel-edinburgh**

CAKES AND CRUMBS

Love Crumbs is an oasis of sweet treats, a place to relax and recharge after browsing in the book shops of West Port. Large glossy cakes on display in their antique cabinet are imaginatively flavoured and beautifully decorated – ranging from lavender and blackcurrant cake to chocolate, chilli and lime tart, and even the humble scone is infused with cardamom. **Love Crumbs, 155 West Port, lovecrumbs.co.uk**



Judy R Clark at G & V Hotel



Red Door Gallery



Love Crumbs

TANGRAM

Jeffrey Street, a winding road in the heart of the Old Town, has a variety of contemporary stores among the Victorian architecture. Tangram is considered an expert in contemporary furniture and interiors. They made the move from their original store on Dundas Street in 1999 and have been an anchor of Jeffrey Street ever since. Tangram is a dealer for the very best in European contemporary furniture, lighting, rugs and blinds, including brands such as B&B Italia and Silent Gliss. Entrusted as the exclusive Scottish dealer for a number of brands, they offer something unique not only in the Old Town, but the whole of Scotland. Through their interior design service for the home, Tangram has demonstrated the potential in combining Edinburgh's traditional architecture with stunning contemporary interiors. **Tangram, 0131 556 6551, 33 -37 Jeffrey Street, info@tangramfurnishers.co.uk, tangramfurnishers.co.uk **PL****



Tangram

OLD TOWN STORIES

A short wander from these delightful properties will allow you to dip into the capital's history

24 BELGRAVE CRESCENT, WEST END, EDINBURGH, EH4 3AL

OFFERS OVER £825,000
Located in the West End, in a quiet terraced street near Dean Village and Water of Leith, this elegant four-bedroom apartment occupies the ground and garden levels. As well as having a private garden with a patio area and sheds, you'll have access to private Belgrave Crescent Gardens opposite. Period features include fireplaces, timber floors and window shutters, with ornate cornicing and ceiling decoration. The kitchen has a gas-fired Aga, with double doors that lead out to the garden.
Contact solicitor: Simpson & Marwick on 0131 253 2171, or visit espc.com with reference 354099



58 GRANGE LOAN, EDINBURGH, EH9 2EP

OFFERS OVER £695,000
This end terraced villa is in the exclusive Grange area of Edinburgh, around 20 minutes' walk through the Meadows to the city centre. With six bedrooms and two public rooms, it has plenty of space. The property has many of its original Victorian features including original fireplaces, mosaic tiled floor in the porch, balustrading, bay windows with shutters and detailed cornicing. Because it's a south facing property, the front garden and front rooms really catch the sun, while there's a more secluded back courtyard with a fully enclosed stone wall.
Contact solicitor: Davidsons on 0131 558 9999, or visit espc.com with reference 349167

5 WARRISTON CRESCENT, EDINBURGH, EH3 5LA

OFFERS OVER £920,000
Looking out over the Water of Leith, near to Cannonmills and Inverleith, this five-bedroom townhouse is an A-listed Georgian building which has been tastefully refurbished. Period features include astragal windows, bow ended rooms, decorative cornice, and open fireplace with mantelpiece. The house is arranged over three floors, and a great feature is that the ground level has its own main door entrance, so could serve as a separate flat. The back garden, which is fully enclosed, has the Water of Leith running behind it, and is a tranquil space for enjoying fresh air or for children to play.
Contact solicitor: Hadden Rankin on 0131 253 2410, or visit espc.com with reference 347832





James Longworth's converted Edinburgh warehouse



NEW YORK STYLE

*Anyone can bite a chunk out of the Big Apple
when it comes to decorating their own home*

THE minimal open plan space of a classic New York loft apartment is the antithesis to Manhattan's frantic pace of life, offering an oasis of calm from the vibrant activity on the streets.

New York style can be recreated whichever city you live in, using exposed brick walls and metal pipes to reflect an industrial, urban scape, as if the living space organically grew from the building.

"New York is a thriving, non-stop 24 hour city which leaves its inhabitants wanting something visibly calm and serene when they walk through their front door," says Susanne Barnes from Ampersand Interiors, who spent time in New York as an interior architect.

"New York is not steeped in tradition the same way that Edinburgh or London are. The city is much newer and therefore there are no set rules. Also, most New Yorkers investing in interior design are not born and bred there. They have moved to New York to further their careers and the result of these influences is an interior that is fresh, pared back, and expensively subdued."

New York style is about getting rid of the opulent cushions and damask wallpapers. Instead it's minimalist, with clean white walls, simple window treatments, concrete or steel finishes on work surfaces, and fearlessness when cutting into walls

and ceilings to open up the space.

Interior designer Anne Hunter describes the industrial look of a Manhattan loft with "big open plan spaces with high ceilings, floor to ceiling windows, exposed brick work, exposed pipes and metal beams, and pillars with steel."

She adds: "We can't all live in 1500sqft warehouse lofts, sadly, but the main thing is simple, uncluttered, open plan with the kitchen and living room combined. With limited space, furniture is cleverly used to divide areas up, such as a two-sided bookcase or floor standing units."

Investing in art is also a key feature

Continued on page 34



ampersand

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New York at home

ART
New York City has always thrived on creative artists and talent. Roy Lichtenstein’s masterpieces reflect the pop art vibrancy of the city and you can see his works for yourself at the National Gallery of Modern Art until 10 January 2016 at Modern One, where his radical, witty works could serve as inspiration for your interiors.

FOOD AND DRINK
The vibrancy of New York, with its melting pot of different cultures is reflected in the food – inch thick burgers packed with toppings, a hot dog from a street seller or Chinese take-away in those cardboard cartons. You can take a bite of the Big Apple in bar restaurants like Black Fox and The Other Place, the open kitchens allow the smells and sounds of meaty burgers being cooked to drift through the pub, and the brick walls and exposed metal pipes add to this stripped back, raw vibe.
You can also try some of the trends coming from the States. New York excels in steak restaurants, and you can find this at Kyloe on Rutland Place, where the different cuts and ages of steak are presented before cooking, and in true New York style, you custom-make your dish with options for sauce and side. It also serves a charcuterie



Famous New York pretzels

menu – a big food trend in New York. Look out for a rise in pickling and fermenting, which is part of the rise in hand-crafted, artisanal foods. Pickles on Broughton Street has many pickled dishes on the menu as part of a range of platters and nibbles, in this basement establishment that is a cross between a wine bar and an evening café.
New Yorkers love coffee and there is always new innovation coming from their baristas and coffee houses. Draft coffee is the next big thing, creating a creamy, Guinness-like glass of iced coffee, while a draft latte, where the milk is frothed up with the coffee, is being served up at certain locations in Philadelphia and New York.

You can get this draught brew at Brew Lab in Edinburgh. The pioneering coffee

bar has a nitro cold brew, infused with nitrous oxide to create a similar Irish stout texture.

- **National Gallery of Modern Art, 75 Belford Road, EH4 3DR, nationalgalleries.org**
- **Black Fox, 17 Albert Place, EH7 5HN, blackfoxleith.com**
- **The Other Place, 2-4 Broughton Road, EH7 4EB, theotherplaceedinburgh.com**
- **Kyloe, 1-3 Rutland Street, EH1 2AE, kyloerestaurant.com**
- **Pickles, 56A Broughton Street, EH1 3SA, getpickled.co.uk**
- **Brew Lab, 6-8 S College Street, EH8 9AA, brewlabcoffee.co.uk**



New York style living

Continued from page 32

of New York living. Susanne says: “The clients I worked with were also all avid art collectors and how their art was displayed took precedence in the design. Far from being an afterthought, or cramming in as many pieces as

possible, the clients wanted the art to be at the forefront of the design.”
Finally, New Yorkers love an antique. “They can never have the same amount of history as Europe but that sure doesn’t stop them from trying,” says Susanne. You can pick up a one of a kind chair or sideboard, even something quirky from a flea market.

Continued on page 36



New York’s ultra-luxurious Gramercy Park Hotel

The source of style...

THE STYLE CONCIERGE TEAM AT HARVEY NICHOLS ON NEW YORK FASHION

Currently ranked at the top of the fashion capital leader board, New York is a city synonymous with style. Teaming with flagship fashion stores and with residents renowned for being intrinsically stylish, us Brits just can’t get enough of the Big Apple style and nothing gets us more excited than New York Fashion Week. The autumn/winter 2015 shows saw some of the world’s best designers parade their uber luxe garments down the catwalk to rapturous applause from leading fashionistas. Luckily, the Harvey Nichols team were there to cherry pick the all the best bits and bring them straight from the runway to the Edinburgh.
This season, collections from Victoria Beckham, Donna Karan, Diane Von Furstenberg, Marc Jacobs,



Helmut Lang, Eileen Fisher and Alice + Olivia are taking centre stage in the store. Following recent Fashion Week trends, such as opulent brocade patterns, sharp tailoring and 70s cuts, the ranges are individually amazing and scream New York City chic.
This autumn/winter we’ll see large amounts of wool, cashmere and shearling – a great thing for us based in Scotland. Roll necks are also in every guise, capes are back in a big way and most importantly, so is the winter coat. This year you can definitely make a statement. Think faux fur, shearling collars, brushed wool and embroidery, you can wear it with everything from the reinvented 70s flared pant to a barely there cocktail dress. Haberdashery details like



contrast top stitching, beadwork and buttons are a must, along with classic winter whites and super luxe fabrics. Seventies-inspired silhouettes and, of course, layered knits will keep you on trend and warm when the weather turns.
For a New York inspired capsule wardrobe that’s bang on trend this season, go for an Eileen Fisher oversized woollen knit teamed with a pair of Helmut Lang crepe trousers. Add in some Adidas x Pharrell sneakers for the perfect causal outfit. Or mix a Marc by Marc Jacobs pinafore dress with an Alice and Olivia cape for work wear with a difference. Come evening, vamp it up with Donna Karan’s reinvented “little black dress” to channel your inner Samantha Jones.





Cycle in Central Park



The view from Top of the Rock

LOOK OUT!
From the Empire State Building to the Statue of Liberty, the New York skyline is instantly recognisable from countless hit TV shows and classic films

Continued from page 34

TRAVEL TO NEW YORK

“One belongs to New York instantly, one belongs to it as much in five minutes as in five years,” wrote Tom Wolfe, and with direct flights from Edinburgh, it’s incredibly easy to find your place in the Big Apple for a weekend away.

There’s so much to do in New York, and everyone will have an idea of their own priorities, but here are five ideas for a slightly different take on the city:

The High Line – this walk along an elevated railway track gives a unique view of the Meatpacking District and Chelsea.

Eataly – this gourmet market and Italian food court at 5th Avenue and 23rd Street, is an inspiring idea from Mario Batali where you can taste a mouth-watering range of Italian delicacies.

Top of the Rock – the viewing platform from the Rockefeller Center gives you a panoramic view of the city, as well as being able to see The Empire State Building.

Frida Kahlo at the New York Botanical Gardens – the Mexican artist’s famous Blue House has been

reimagined as part of an exhibition of her works, on display in the botanical gardens until 1 November, 2015.

Central Park by bicycle – covering 843 acres, the best way to see the park is by hiring a bike, which will allow you to take in the vista, from the Alice in Wonderland sculpture, to Strawberry Fields and the Bow Bridge.

WHERE TO STAY

Hudson Hotel is an incredibly stylish boutique hotel designed by Phillippe Starke, and in a great location close to Central Park. As well as modernist rooms, from around £200 per night, there is a billiards room, outdoor area with seating amongst an urban backdrop, and a beer hall selling craft brews and cocktails. morganshotelgroup.com/hudson/hudson-new-york

Gramercy Park Hotel at 2 Lexington Avenue has an illustrious history as a home away from home for John F Kennedy, a favourite haunt of rockstars and writers, and was once owned by Studio 54’s Ian Schrager. The rooms are stately and grand, and start from around £350 per night. gramercyparkhotel.com **PL**

Out of the city

If you need a break from the noise and bustle of the city, then New York state has many offerings for day trips or longer breaks.

ADIRONDACKS

The Adirondacks in Northern New York State spans six million acres of mountains, lakes and coastline. You can stay in cabins, hunting lodges, and hotels to explore the wilderness, or you can explore in luxury with Amtrak’s Great Dome, which takes you from New York to Montreal, through one of the most scenic trails in the world.



Adirondacks

SLEEPY HOLLOW

If you are in the region for Halloween, then the little town of Sleepy Hollow could be a magical destination for families. The town, which was the setting for Washington Irving’s 1820 story, which Tim Burton’s film is based on, is a charming place to visit. You could take a lantern tour through the cemetery where Irving is laid to rest, while colonial Philipsburg Manor turns into a haunted mansion with spooky trails.

THE CATSKILLS

The town of Catskill is 2 ½ hours drive from New York City. Winter in the Catskills can be spent at Hunter and Windham Mountain Resorts while in fall the Catskills come alive with vibrant orange and red foliage.



The Catskills

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James MacDonald, Big Jam Piece II. Courtesy of The Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Stand C7



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Seeing more of the world is now easier than ever before. With direct flights from Edinburgh Airport to destinations near and far, now is the time to broaden your horizons



EDINBURGH Airport is no longer simply a jumping-off point for Europe's air travel hubs; with top-end facilities for business and holiday passengers, and more than 298 flights every day, to 120 locations around the globe, it has become a gateway to adventure and opportunity. More than £260 million has been invested in the airport over the past 10 years, much of which has gone directly into improving customer facilities. The results speak for themselves.

Arriving for your flight has never been faster or more convenient, with self-service check-in points and baggage drop, and an expanded security hall to reduce queueing.

Once past security, airside facilities now feature many excellent food and drink options, including YO! Sushi, Eat, Thermidors Seafood Bar, and The Gathering restaurant. In addition to the World Duty Free shop, travellers can now browse retailers including Hugo Boss, Jo Malone, Kurt Geiger and Mac Cosmetics while waiting for their flights.

But of course the real draw for any airport is travel itself, and Edinburgh Airport has in recent years greatly expanded the number of carriers and destinations it serves. *Premier Living* has picked five of the best direct flights to cities across Europe, and the world...

NEW YORK (UNITED AIRLINES, AMERICAN AIRLINES FROM MAY 2016)



Fly direct to the Big Apple, and experience one of the world's most iconic and culturally vibrant cities. From the people to the buildings, high culture to low, anyone and everyone will find something to fascinate and surprise in this utterly unique metropolis. (Also see page 32).

MUST SEE:

- Times Square
- Coney Island
- The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
- Central Park.

GENEVA (EASYJET)



A city whose global influence far outstrips its population of just 200,000, Geneva is home to around 20 major international bodies, and hosts one of the world's most important financial and business centres. It is also rich in culture, with many excellent museums, music venues, art galleries and festivals. Above all though, it is a beautiful city; framed by Lake Geneva and the Swiss Alps, Geneva is a living picture postcard whatever time of year you choose to visit.

MUST SEE:

- The Jet d'Eau
- St Peter's Cathedral
- The watchmakers of the Rue du Rhône
- CERN.

ISTANBUL (TURKISH AIRLINES)



The ancient city of Istanbul hums with thousands of years of civilisation, but it is no museum. From the sound of the muezzins calling the faithful to prayer, to the sizzle and aroma of food wafting around every street corner, Istanbul is alive with excitement and culture – a riot of activity for all the senses.

MUST SEE:

- Aya Sofya
- Topkapi Palace
- Ayasofya Hürrem Sultan
- Hamam bathhouse.

COPENHAGEN (NORWEGIAN)



Boasting some of Europe's most beautiful architecture, Copenhagen is one city where you will never struggle for entertainment. From the 100 year-old Tivoli Gardens amusement park to the quirky freetown Christiania, Copenhagen's many attractions are all within walking distance of one another (or cycling distance, using the city's comprehensive network of cycle routes).

MUST SEE:

- Tivoli Gardens
- Freetown Christiania
- Amalienborg Palace
- Strøget shopping street.

THE SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL LETTING

Orlaith Brogan, ESPC Lettings Manager, talks about managing a rental portfolio

INVESTMENT in the private rented sector has always been popular, but over the last few years we've seen it gain considerable momentum. More and more landlords are looking to grow their portfolio and take advantage of the improving market, helped by an increasing number of tenants who are looking to the private rental market for a long-term home.

A buy-to-let mortgage can prove to be a great investment, with average rents in Edinburgh for a two bedroom flat at £850 a month in the second quarter of 2015.

ESPC Lettings manages a diverse range of properties throughout the Edinburgh area. All tenants' needs are catered for, from smaller properties for single occupants to family homes and high spec professional properties. We often get asked what the best type of buy-to-let property is and that would depend on the reasons for investing in Edinburgh. Many people wish to invest in high end properties and appeal to a professional market.

It's therefore important to attract the right client for your property, to ensure your property investment is a success. When looking to attract high end clients, there are a few things to consider in order to maximise your investment:

FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

If we expect tenants to pay a premium for rental accommodation, we must make sure the condition of the property matches their expectations. Modern kitchen and bathrooms are a must. Properties in central locations can cost a considerable amount of money but it is essential that the interior is of the condition expected by your target market.

A PROFESSIONAL FINISH

The décor in your property should be light and neutral. Do not waste money decorating the property to your own personal taste; instead ensure that the neutral paintwork is finished to a high standard. The same applies for any furniture provided. Mismatched cheap furniture will not create the look your



tenants are looking for. We recommend that you provide a certain level of high quality furniture and allow tenants to provide any extra items such as pictures on the walls and extra kitchen appliances.

THE CORRECT MARKETING OF YOUR PROPERTY

You are appealing to a niche market so your property should be marketed where your target market will be looking for properties – Stockbridge, the New Town and Morningside are all good investment areas. Any photographs you use should be professional. You are

selling a lifestyle and the photos should reflect this with made-up beds and spotless kitchens and bathrooms. **PL**

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New Release



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Glen Shira - £182,500
3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow



Loch View, Kinnesswood - last plot remaining

Glen Garry £445,000



4 Bedroom, 8 Apartment Home

Glen Fruin



5 Bedroom, 8 Apartment Home

View to Kinnesswood



Loch Leven

The Beeches, Carnock Showhome open every Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun and Mon 1pm – 5pm. Sat Nav. KY12 9HJ
Kinnesswood viewhome is available to view by appointment. Contact us on 01738 620721 or visit: www.stephen.co.uk

PROUD HISTORY

Specialist caterer Heritage Portfolio has built its reputation on providing food fit to grace stunning period properties. We chat to Executive Director Mark Miller, about his winning recipe



EDINBURGH-BASED Heritage Portfolio describes itself as a specialist caterer, though this description scarcely does justice to its work at the spectacular events, restaurants and heritage venues for which it is responsible across the capital. The business essentially breaks down into two sections. The first encompasses the cafes and restaurants which Heritage runs all year round, including cafes at the National Galleries and the newly opened Colonnades tea rooms at the Signet Library. The second is its events catering arm, which creates bespoke events in some of the city's grandest heritage properties. From lavish weddings to corporate functions, the team at Heritage have a well-earned reputation for making the impossible possible, in settings

such as The Mansfield Traquair Centre, Hopetoun House and Scone Palace. But, aside from the high-profile venues in which it operates, executive director Mark Miller argues it is actually the focus on food which separates Heritage from its competitors. "There are a lot of very capable businesses in this space, so we always need to make sure we have the edge on food," he says. "We've always had a focus on cooking from scratch, so everything, from the bread to the stock in our soups, is made by us. "We're also fortunate enough to have some great chefs. Our head chef, Brian Canale, only recently stepped



up to the post, but he has been with the business for some time. He combines a really innovative approach with great leadership. It's a 28-strong kitchen team and he inspires genuine passion and creativity from every person there." Last year, Heritage Portfolio was acquired by the American caterer Centerplate, which specialises in large sporting events and arenas. While the deal has handed additional resources to the business, Miller says the new parent company has essentially encouraged the Heritage management to keep up the good work. "Centerplate wanted to get into the heritage catering marketplace and

recognised we're good at what we do. They've been hugely supportive, and want us to keep running the business our way, growing in the directions we believe will be most successful." A good example of recent growth is The Colonnades tea room, in the Royal Mile's Signet Library, which opened earlier this year. The new enterprise is the result of several years' experimentation, which saw Heritage run a pop-up champagne bar in the space during August. "The Signet Library is obviously a very high-profile venue, so we wanted to take our time and make sure we had it right. Once again, food is at the heart of The Colonnades, and we're very proud of what we've put together there." This principle – that growth has to be based on a strong core business – is applicable in any industry, argues Miller. "My advice to any growing business would be to never lose sight of what you're good at. That's not to say you shouldn't look to move into new growth markets – we've never been afraid to do that, but we've always made sure that growth is sustainable and won't compromise our core strength: creating excellent food." **PL**



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GAME ON

Popularity of game grows as consumers are increasingly looking for a wider diversity of flavour and textures

NOT so long ago, the thought of eating game may have conjured up images of tweedy, possibly florid, chaps in gentlemen's clubs toasting the first grouse of the season as it arrived on the table on the Glorious Twelfth. That cliché may still hold a shotgun pellet of truth but, these days, wild meats such as venison, pheasant, pigeon and rabbit are in growing demand from Generations X and Y.

As well as buying in game from other local estates, Johnny Rutherford has been shooting, preparing and selling game from Burnside Farm Foods at his Borders estate on the banks of the Tweed for almost

thirty years. He has seen fundamental changes in his customer base in that time.

"We do Edinburgh Farmers' Market at the back of the Merlin pub in Morningside," he explains. "There is no doubt that roe deer, pheasant, partridge and grouse are becoming more widely eaten. We are now seeing twenty-somethings, students and young married couples who are going for game far more than they used to. The younger customers are aware of game's qualities as a healthy option. Most game is leaner than other meats and venison, for example, is high in omega 3 and 6."

Johnny's experience is echoed by Phil

Purvis, manager at the well-established George Bower Butcher and Game Dealer in Stockbridge. One of the few Edinburgh butchers licensed to sell game, Bowers is enjoying a surge in customers who follow Paleo and other diets:

"Over the last three or four years, we're seeing a lot more younger people who are getting into game, particularly those who are interested in keeping fit and training. They are buying game like pheasant and venison as they are low in cholesterol but high in protein."

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 Home to great cooking

GETTING
HUNGRY?
TRY THIS
TASTY RECIPE
FROM AGA...



VENISON AND ORANGE CASSEROLE
SERVES 6

- 3 tbsp oil
- 675g (1½ lb) stewing venison, cut into 2.5cm (1 inch) cubes
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 2 tbsp wholemeal flour
- 300ml (½ pint) beef stock
- 2 oranges, grated zest and juice
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 5 tbsp brandy
- 1 tbsp black treacle
- Salt and black pepper
- 175g (6 oz) mushrooms, thickly sliced

GARNISH:
Orange wedges
Chopped parsley

METHOD:
Heat 2 tbsp of the oil in an AGA cast iron casserole and fry the meat in batches until browned, place to one side. Add the remaining oil to the casserole and sauté the onion and garlic for 2-3 minutes. Stir in the flour and cook for 1 minute. Gradually blend in the stock, orange zest and juice, tomato purée, brandy and treacle, stir well. Return the meat and juices to the casserole and season. Bring the contents to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes, cover with the lid.

2, 3 AND 4 OVEN AGA:
Transfer to the Simmering Oven for 2 hours or until the meat is tender. Then stir in the mushrooms and return to the Simmering Oven for a further 30 minutes. Check seasoning and garnish with orange and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

CONVENTIONAL COOKING:
Cook on the hotplate then transfer to the oven at 140°C (275°F), fan oven 120°C, Gas Mark 1 for 2 hours or until the meat is tender. Then stir in the mushrooms and simmer for a further 30 minutes.



Venison & mushroom © Nichola Fletcher

People aren’t using the
supermarkets as much
and they are using smaller
butchers more

It is not just health and fitness fans who are driving game’s newfound popularity. The successive food scandals of the last few years have eroded much of the public’s trust in the supermarkets and their supply chains. Game is seen to be cleaner, closer to nature and raised on a diet of wild berries, seeds and grasses rather than growth hormones and antibiotics. Many game species are only available fresh during certain times of year or seasons. This adds to their allure and the sense that game is aligned with nature’s cycle.

This is all good news for Bowers. “People aren’t using the supermarkets as much and they are using smaller butchers more,” says Phil. “With that they are becoming more open to game and the new tastes it offers. They are realising how much flavour they can get from a well-aged pheasant and we can tell them how best to cook it. They like that the game is wild and has had a natural diet.”

That more natural diet leads to more interesting meat. Not all, but much of the chicken and pork sold in supermarkets is bland-tasting protein which is simply a plain carrier for a sauce. Game offers a much wider diversity of flavour and textures. During the summer, Borders roe deer eat wild raspberries and herbs from the hedgerows which gives them their own unique, some say nutty, flavour. That flavour is distinct from, say, red deer in the Highlands which have fed on heather and blaeberrries. Fresh pheasant provides a pale, subtle meat which is very different from gamey, well hung grouse or a rich, purple pigeon breast.

If the general public are now more open to exploring the variety that game

can offer this is due in large part to the influence of leading chefs, whether these be celebrity television chefs or respected restaurant chefs. Johnny works with top Scottish chefs such as Martin Wishart, Tom Kitchin, Andrew Fairlie and Brian Grigor at The Balmoral.

He cites them as chefs who know how to prepare and present Scottish game to its best advantage.

That knowledge is then passed on: “When the commis or sous chefs who have worked for these big names set up their own places, they export that game know-how. Andrew Macdonald, formerly of Restaurant Martin Wishart, and now running his own Blackfriars restaurant, is a prime example.”

While chefs have recently been boosting the popularity of game in restaurants, Nichola Fletcher has spent many a year encouraging the public to use more game in their own kitchens. As well as starting the UK’s first deer farm with her husband John, in Fife in 1973, she has written several acclaimed books on game and venison.

Her latest, The Venison Bible, was published earlier this year.

As game is most often lean, some people find it tricky to cook it in a way which ensures it remains tender and juicy. Nichola has the solution: “Although the many varieties of game are all so different in terms of texture, colour and flavour, the basic cooking techniques come down to two. You can brown it, part cook it, rest it and then have it pink.

“Or you cook it very gently by poaching, casseroles or barding and roasting it. Essentially, you cook it very quick to retain the natural moisture and pinkness or cook it very slow and keep it moist. Once you have grasped that, it is easy to cook them all whether you are cooking a piece of venison, a grouse or a hare.” **PL**
burnsidefarmfoods.co.uk
georgebowerbutchers.co.uk
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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Forth Floor Brasserie
at Harvey Nichols



JONATHAN TREW DISCOVERS THE
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The glamour of the Forth Floor Brasserie at Harvey Nichols comes as much from its clientele as from its décor and general ambiance. There is the spectacular skyline view to Edinburgh Castle; balcony tables for the warmer evenings and a colourful cocktail list. Factor in a three course seasonal menu – all for £20 including a cocktail – and it’s a handsome offer.

The summer menu was running during our visit so we started with a flavoursome pork terrine and a well-composed Niçoise salad. The latter featured crisp green beans, salty black olives and segments of eggs with rich, just set, orangey-yellow yolks.

If the starters were ladylike, the main courses were more man-size. A chunky chicken

croquette had a good meat to potato ratio and was accompanied by creamed peas. A thick slice of Scottish salmon had good, crispy skin. It came with a mini-tower of crushed potatoes and black olives.

Dessert was a splendidly chewy, gooey meringue topped with ripe strawberries and creamy but not too sweet ice cream. A tangy cheddar from St Andrews was the star of the cheese board.

The food, views and smartly turned out waiting staff mean that there is a touch of swish to the evening. At the same time, the £20 three course menu means that your night out need not curb your ambitions.

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~MY EDINBURGH~ ZOJA BAZARNIC

The US diplomat delights in the Tattoo, the Scottish Highlands, attractions for her young children and haggis

ZOJA Bazarnic is the Principal Officer at Edinburgh's US Consulate, first beginning the role in August 2012. She acts as an ambassador for the United States in Scotland, forging business ties and outreach programmes, as well as looking after US citizens in Scotland.

Edinburgh impressions

When I first got here in July 2012, it was a beautiful sunny day. I was walking with my husband and young daughter, and I just thought it's such a nice scale to the city. You can walk to so many places, Arthur's Seat is visible in so many directions. It has a really nice balance to it.

Athens of the North

Before I arrived here, I knew of Edinburgh as the Athens of the North, with smart, influential people. An intellectual power house. I wondered what it is about Edinburgh that sparked the imagination of the enlightenment. I was also eager to see the Tattoo and I've now been to three of them. It's a truly unique, world-class event.

Home

People often think I stay at the consulate, but our home is in Murrayfield – very close to the stadium. It's a great place to be as it's nice and green.

Regent Terrace

Part of the Consulate's role is to keep the building running. We are based in this beautiful, historic building, and have to take care of it. When we had to get the windows replaced, we worked with Historic Scotland to ensure they were right.

Haggis

I thought haggis was something that would be eaten once a year at a Burn's supper, so I was surprised when I got here that it is available everywhere; on restaurant menus, or served up at the chippie, which was something I was not expecting. I had my first haggis at Stac Polly, I found I liked its pepperiness. I've been to a Burn's supper and did the toast to the lassie, although it's a real challenge with



an American accent. Burns often falls flat on Americans as I don't think they convey the passion of the language.

For children

With two young children, there's a wealth of things to do in Edinburgh. There's no shortage of places to take kids, depending on how quickly we get ready in the morning – East Links Family Park, Almondvale, Gorgie City Farm, or the zoo, which we are members of. The National Museum is great for a rainy day.

The Highlands

I did a tour of the Highlands where we drove up to Skye, and to Fort William, and I had the best mussels of my life on the way there. We drove through Glencoe, which is one of the most inspired and majestic places.

Schools

Part of my role is to organise youth exchanges where we talk to secondary

and primary school pupils to give them the chance to interact with the face of the US government. They read about it in the press or hear through other perspectives, so it's nice to have that discussion and hear about their thoughts.

Dinner

Howie's is really close to the US Consulate and it took me a while to appreciate that it's a real gem. It has great, fresh Scottish produce and they cook it simply. Any place that does that, I'm a fan. With Scottish ingredients there's a lot of variation – you never know what you're going to get.

Business support

As well as assisting American companies, we provide support to Scottish companies with interests in the United States and who may want to open a sales office there. I think the direct flights to New York are a big factor in helping Scottish businesses set up there. **PL**

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