


espc.com

Spring/Summer
2015

Premier Living

EXPLORE
BOUTIQUES
BY THE
BEACH

ENJOY
GLORIOUS
GARDENS



SERENE SPACES

Discover luxury homes where you can relax and unwind

TRINITY PARK

EDINBURGH

STUNNING FAMILY HOMES OR AMAZING CALA INCENTIVES?

ENJOY THE BEST OF BOTH AT TRINITY PARK



A SELECTION OF FAMILY HOMES
FROM £530,000 - £1,015,000

Available with 100% part exchange*

BY INVERLEITH ROW
CALL 0131 341 2684. TRINITY-PARK.CO.UK

★★★★★ 5 star customer service 5 years running



ESPC_MAR15 CALA will obtain 2 independent valuations based on achieving a sale in a 4-6 week period, part exchange considered subject to CALA's purchasing criteria, terms and conditions. Up to 100% part exchange available on selected plots, subject to terms and conditions and not in conjunction with any other offer. Please consult a Sales Advisor for further details. Please note that the image shown is taken from the Cumberland showhome which is priced at £1,015,000 and features fittings, décor, flooring and soft furnishings which are not fitted as standard in a CALA home. These are used to suggest possible finishes you could adopt in your own home and would be an additional cost. Local photography's is courtesy of Scottish viewpoint. 5 stars awarded for customers' willingness to 'Recommend to a Friend' in findings of the 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 surveys, undertaken by the Home Builders Federation (HBF).

PREMIER NEWS

- 04** Welcome to your new Premier Living

PREMIER SHOPPING

- 12** Tools for the task
30 From beach to boutique

PREMIER LIVING

- 08** Premier trend setter
10 Built to last
20 Far East foliage
24 The Orient, close to home
28 Take to the floor
34 Fonts of wellbeing
36 Bags of ambition
38 Back to a golden age
40 Balance of power
42 The sky's no limit
44 You deserve a pedal
48 Botanical delights
50 My Edinburgh: Chris West

ESPC PREMIER PROPERTY

- 06** Must view
14 Kitchen appeal
16 Uncommon classic
22 Glorious gardens
33 Go east
46 Bedroom envy



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

COVER 1 Rutherford Garden, West Linton EH46 7AP. See pages 16-18
MAIN OFFICE ESPC, 90a George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DF T: 0131 603 6216
EDITORIAL & DESIGN Editor: Amy Walker, Design and production: Abby Schmidt, Gary Atkinson, Richard Croasdale
ADVERTISING ESPC Media Sales: Claire Boulton, Moyra Vivian T: 0131 624 8872
E: premierliving@espc.com

CONNECT
Innovation in communication

The views expressed in Premier Living are those of invited contributors and not necessarily those of ESPC. The information contained in Premier Living is of a general nature and is not to be taken as advice on any individual situation. ESPC accepts no liability to any person for loss or damage suffered as a consequence of their responding to, or placing reliance upon, any claim or representation made in any advertisement appearing in Premier Living. Readers should make appropriate enquiries and satisfy themselves before responding to any such claim or representation. By so responding, or placing reliance, readers accept that they do so at their own risk. All prices correct at time of going to press.
© ESPC 2015. ISSN: 1469-3054. Printed on paper produced from fully sustainable forestry in accordance with FSC legislation.



Welcome

COME ON IN

A PREMIER PACKAGE

ESPC's Premier offering ensures that property at the higher end of the market gets the promotion that it needs.

ESPC's strong local presence, established reputation and unrivalled marketing helps you gain maximum exposure for your high-end property. ESPC solicitor estate agents account for £2.3 billion of sales per annum, dealing with almost 12,000 properties a year and commanding nearly 90 per cent of the residential market in Edinburgh alone.

Premier clients have the opportunity to feature in our monthly *Premier Property* digital publication and this bi-annual *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



YOU are reading ESPC's *Premier Living* magazine, a publication that brings you the latest news and offerings as well as fabulous premier properties currently on the market with us here at ESPC.

This is the ultimate go-to magazine to have on your coffee table this Spring/Summer 2015. We have a new look and feel to this issue and while we have dived into a contemporary new design we still retain the classic take on how we bring you the latest properties on the market.

This issue is full of interior styling tips, top products and a guide to shopping in the picturesque coastal town of North Berwick. We also take a look at turning your garden into a relaxing oriental paradise, and explore the links between Edinburgh and the Far East. On the subject of relaxation we pick out three top spas in the city and take a look at the magical train journeys aboard the Royal Scotsman. If you want to get a bit more active, we pick out high-end bikes to get your legs pumping. When it comes to your tastebuds, we take a look at the artisanal gins coming out of Edinburgh.

In addition to our Must View and stunning main property feature, there are properties throughout this magazine that will give you a flavour of what is on the market this season.

Amy Walker, ESPC Marketing Manager



ABOUT OUR MAGAZINE...

Premier Living is your indispensable guide to luxury in and around Edinburgh. Indulge in beautiful homes, design trends and luxurious shopping ideas as well as the latest news on local bars and restaurants. It really has something for everyone. It is published twice a year – in spring/summer and autumn/winter and to celebrate our tenth

issue, we have increased the circulation to 25,000. Eighty five per cent of copies are delivered to areas in Edinburgh and East Lothian where you find higher-value properties, based on ESPC's extensive property archive.

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, contact *Premier Living* on 0131 624 8872.





PROPERTY, DONE PROPERLY

ESPC offers a comprehensive and effective way to market homes for sale in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife, providing an exclusive property advertising package. Moving home can be one of life's most stressful experiences. ESPC's services are designed to make your move as hassle-free as possible.

The ESPC service combines the strength of marketing opportunities with access to our network of around 140 solicitor estate agents (all of whom are regulated by the Law Society of Scotland). Only through an ESPC solicitor

estate agent can you take advantage of ESPC's No.1 marketing channels.

We can provide independent financial advice through ESPC Mortgages and a property matching service, as well as our Ask the Expert service offering advice on all property-related matters and finding a new home. We are also proud to host a series of events on all topics of buying and maintaining a home.

Whether you are already a landlord or thinking about taking your first steps into property investment in Edinburgh, ESPC

Lettings can help. Our fully managed letting service can help landlords in Edinburgh maximise their property investment, expand their current property portfolio, offer exceptional property management and essential information.

At ESPC, whatever your property needs, we do it the way it should be done. Properly.

 **To find out more about ESPC's range of services, visit espc.com, give us a call on 0131 624 8000 or pop into one of our showrooms in Edinburgh or Dunfermline.**



ALSO...

HERE IS OUR LUCKY COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to **AMANDA MCCONNELL**, who won the competition in our last *Premier Living* magazine competition.

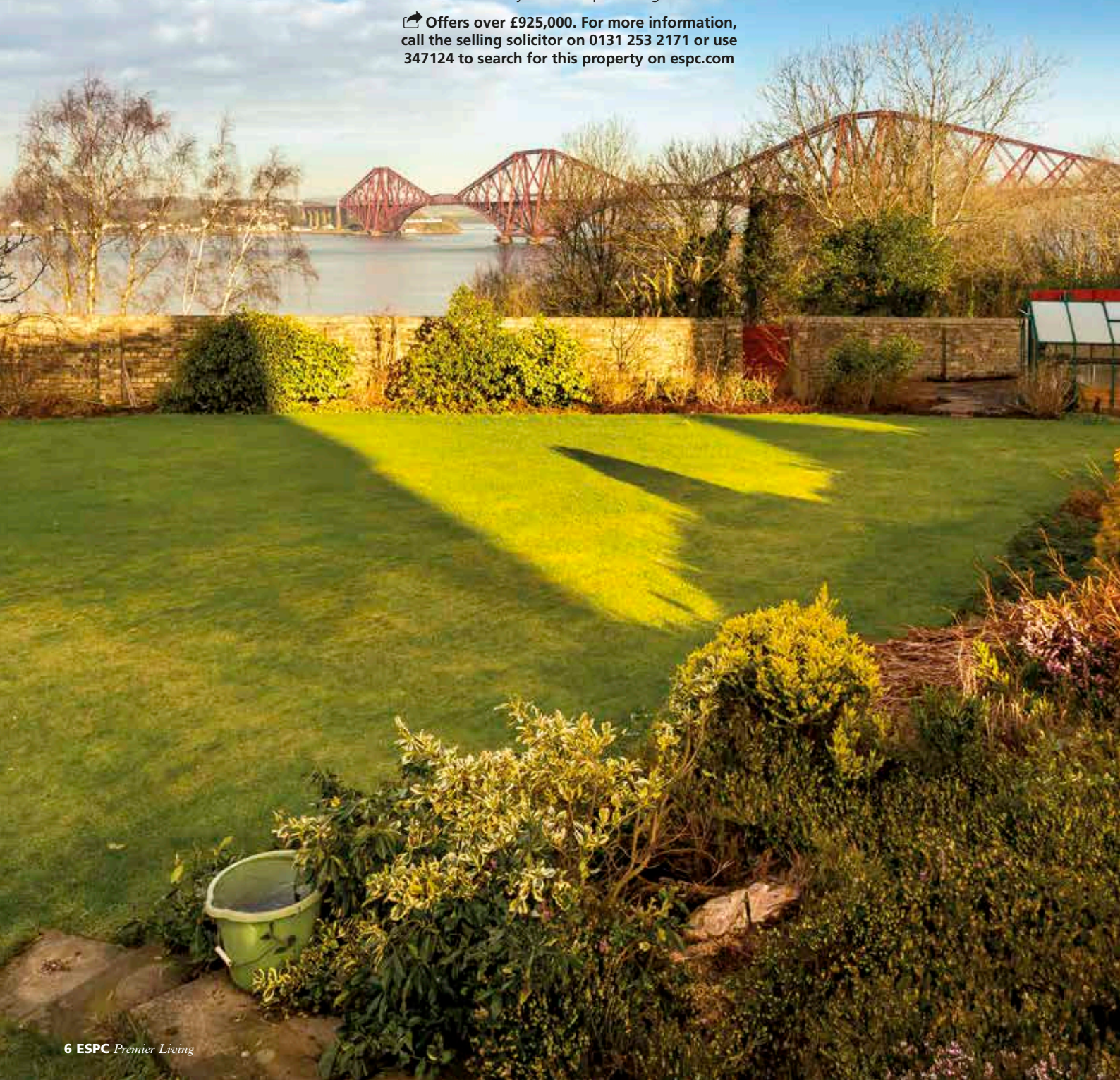
The prize was a spa day for two at Stobo Castle. We hope you enjoyed the three-course lunch, spa facilities and treatments Amanda.

MUST VIEW

*Family home with a view
of the Forth and its bridges*

A traditional detached six-bedroom house in South Queensferry offers breathtaking views of the Firth of Forth and its iconic bridges. Enjoy the vista from the conservatory or the expansive garden.

👉 **Offers over £925,000. For more information, call the selling solicitor on 0131 253 2171 or use 347124 to search for this property on [espc.com](https://www.espc.com)**



The homes we
all aspire to.

Polofields

millar

Five bedroom luxury homes in Colinton,
Edinburgh, EH13 0DB. Visit our
marketing suite or call 0808 163 9685.

Prices and availability correct at time of going to print.

Showhome now open

Prices from £635,000

www.polofields.co.uk

PREMIER TREND SETTER

An array of botanical greens and floral pops of quirky colour will see you through Spring/Summer 2015



1 Colour Strokes Wall Mural by PIXERS for £304. This custom-sized wall mural of colourful strokes will make any living room look fresh and captivating. It is perfect for people who are looking for an affordable, stylish and tasteful wall décor. Available to order at pixersize.com

2 Reproduction Chinese elm chair (Rhc-lime) by Orchard Furniture for £490. This reproduction Chinese elm chair has an inset brown lacquered, rattan seat, and is lacquered to a lime green finish. Available at orchidfurniture.co.uk

3 Feature cushions from INSPACES. Pictured from left: Tropicana Shingle Cushion (£72), Peony Fuchsia Cushion (£60) and Babbling Brook Blue Cushion (£47). All available from in-spaces.com

4 1958 Armchair (Green) from Oliver Bonas for £585. Get something to make friends green with envy with this chair from Oliver Bonas. The chairs are handcrafted in Beeston, Nottinghamshire, by upholsterers who personally sign each one. Available at oliverbonas.com

5 Zoffany Flowering Tree Wallpaper, Mulberry/Olive (TRA05005) for £81. The exotic flowers on this beautiful wallpaper appear almost as if hand painted. With a 76.5cm pattern repeat. Available from johnlewis.com

MARTIN & FROST

Martin & Frost is a centre of excellence for classic and contemporary furniture. You'll find sofas, dining and bedroom ranges from many leading brands. To create your own sophisticated look call in to Martin & Frost at Fort Kinnaird.



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Call **0131 657 0820** or visit **martinandfrost.co.uk**

4 Whitehill Road, Fort Kinnaird, Edinburgh EH15 3HR

BUILT TO LAST

The styling and functionality of kitchens are now focused on standing the test of time, alongside modern technology

FOUR-HOB ovens and high-gloss doors are things of the past when it comes to contemporary kitchen design, as homeowners demand more in a bid to boost the functionality of the 'most important room in the home'.

Traditionally a small room in the basement where no one wanted to frequent, the kitchen is now the centre of any home, used daily for dining, socialising and open-plan living.

So great consideration is needed, particularly when it comes to the style, as David Harrison of Clive Christian Scotland points out: "It's got to work. By this I mean it needs usable workspaces, and make sure you have an idea of how you want to use the space. It has also got to last, be

timeless, as you don't want to feel your kitchen is out of date in five years."

Alison Howard of Christopher Howard Cabinet Makers agrees: "A traditionally made kitchen with contemporary styling is a good investment because they don't go out of fashion. Bespoke furniture will last 20 years, and you can easily paint it and fit new handles to give it a new lease of life."

A kitchen should be a relaxing, luxurious and versatile space, built to last, with an 'in frame' design and rigid wooden doors, like Clive Christian and Christopher Howard offer.

Alison points out: "People are opting for banks of tall cabinets rather than filling spaces up with wall cabinets, this allows art to go up in the living space."

Of course, the primary function of the

kitchen is cooking and the rise in popularity of TV cook shows has meant people now seek a higher spec of kitchen technology, such as large range cookers, char grills and teppan yaki, explains David: "A really keen cook won't be happy with an oven and four hobs, they now need a serious amount of appliances."

Current trends also include wine coolers, glass-fronted storage units, and modern down-draught ventilation systems – which extract fumes downwards and solve an age-old kitchen design problem of where to locate the often-unsightly overhead extractor fan.

It is worth bearing in mind the key colour trend, Alison laughs: "Twelve years ago everything was cream, but grey is the new cream." **PL**





CLIVE CHRISTIAN LIBRARY



CLIVE CHRISTIAN KITCHEN

97-99 Great Western Road, Glasgow, Scotland. G4 9AH • Telephone 0141 332 8989 • e-mail scotland@clivechristianinteriors.com

scotland.clivechristianinteriors.com

THE TOOLS FOR THE TASK

The sheer range of tools, gadgets and gizmos available to the aspiring home chef is truly dizzying. But how many of the purchases promising to revolutionise your kitchen experience will, in reality, end up languishing at the back of a cupboard? We called on the help of two experts to give us their essential cookware lists

FIONA BURRELL, PRINCIPAL, EDINBURGH NEW TOWN COOKERY SCHOOL

A carefully chosen, flexible stick blender can be your best friend in the kitchen. For example, the Kenwood 'Triblade' has two different sizes of blades that can be attached to process small and large pots of soup. It also has a little balloon whisk that will whip up cream and egg whites quickly and a little processor that is fantastic for making things like pesto or salsa verde.

You don't need really expensive knives, but it is important to keep them sharp. For our students, we suggest a basic set which consists of one 8" cook's knife, one fish filleting knife, one paring knife, one serrated (tomato) knife and one palette knife. As you get better with your knife skills you can add to that and go for more expensive ones.

To keep a great edge on your knives, we also recommend investing in a diamond steel. Avoid the cheaper ones, as they won't last long; you should be able to buy a mid range steel for approximately £40-£50.

Digital scales that measure both metric and imperial, and that you can also measure liquids on, are a must-have. They will make your measuring so much more accurate and create less washing up.

JOE TAGGART, HEAD CHEF, RESTAURANT MARTIN WISHART

Invest in a good food processor. The Robot Coupe Blixer is an excellent hybrid cutter and mixer, and is very good for breaking down meats, as well as making mousses and farces.

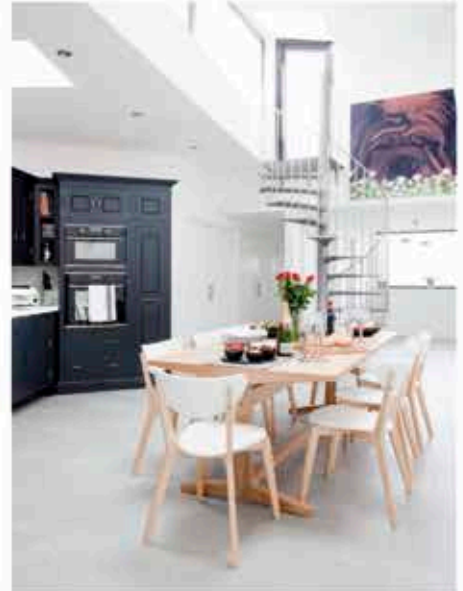
Nothing beats a fresh homemade pasta – it's fun to make and has a texture that you just can't achieve with dried, store-bought pasta. Counter-top pasta makers come with a variety of settings and attachments, from spaghettini to pappardelle, or even ravioli parcels.

The Thermomix is a real bag of tricks, combining weighing, mixing, chopping, milling, kneading, blending, steaming, cooking, whisking, precise heating, stirring and emulsifying in a compact package perfect for making soups and purées with a smooth finish.

- 1 Kenwood Triblade hand mixer set, £80 from debenhams.com
- 2 Thermomix from Vorwerk, around £850 from thermomix.vorwerk.co.uk
- 3 Robot Coupe Blixer, around £1,000 from robot-coupe.com
- 4 Imperia pasta machine, £80 from johnlewis.com



CHRISTOPHERHOWARD



DESIGNERS & MAKERS OF FINE FURNITURE ~ FITTED & FREESTANDING

Call us or visit us at 9 Roseberry Place, Gullane, EH31 2AN | 01620 842741

www.christopherhoward.com | info@christopherhoward.com



Vailima



Royal Terrace



St Adrians

KITCHEN APPEAL

Here are three properties with a stunning kitchen which is at the heart of the home

**VAILIMA, 15 HOPE PLACE,
MUSSELBURGH, EAST
LOTHIAN EH21 7QD**

OFFERS OVER £489,000

Exposed wooden beams, wooden worktops and a Belfast sink all help to give this dining kitchen a comfortable, contemporary farmhouse feel.

There are plenty of work surfaces and space for storage, and the kitchen area leads through to a pantry at the rear of the property which could also be used for dining.

This five bedroom semi-detached family home in Musselburgh also features plenty of original period features throughout.

Storage in the property is plentiful as well, in the light-bathed hallway and partially floored loft.

In addition to front and rear gardens, there is also a summer house.

📞 **Contact solicitor: DJ Alexander Legal**
on 0131 253 2260, or visit espc.com
and search with reference 333820.

**7 ROYAL TERRACE,
LINLITHGOW EH49 6HQ**

OFFERS OVER £530,000

This modern breakfasting kitchen features gloss wall and base units with circular sink and co-ordinating black granite work surfaces. It opens to a utility kitchen with matching units and surfaces.

The B-listed property which dates from 1860 has been upgraded by the current owners, but retains many period features, including wood panelling and fine plasterwork. There are gardens to the front and rear with a share of a stone-built stable block used as a garaging and storage area.

The accommodation on the ground floor comprises a reception hall, drawing room, dining room, breakfasting kitchen, utility kitchen, rear hall, two double bedrooms, a bathroom and a shower room. On the second floor there are three further bedrooms, one with sitting room and a WC.

📞 **Contact solicitor: Peterkin & Kidd**
on 01506 802830, or visit espc.com
and search with reference 347708.

**ST ADRIANS, 43 VIEWFORTH PLACE,
PITTENWEEM, ANSTRUTHER KY10 2PZ**

OFFERS OVER £995,000

This classically styled kitchen from Clive Christian features a central island breakfast bar, granite worktops and a two-oven AGA.

The side conservatory floods this room with natural light, and adjacent to the kitchen is the formal dining room, the utility room and a cloakroom/WC, making this main area flow in an ergonomic way.

This is a circa-1904 detached Edwardian home which has retained many period features, such as wood-panelled reception hall, original fireplaces and ornate cornice work.

In addition to the five bedrooms, the property also boasts a family room, ample storage and landscaped gardens which includes formal box hedging, a fountain and feature folly. **PL**

📞 **Contact solicitor: Pagan Osborne**
on 01333 252853, or visit espc.com
and search with reference 346498.

Enjoy the Mactaggart & Mickel Experience

Coming
Soon
Spring/
Summer
2015!



Lockhart Woods, Craiglockhart, Edinburgh

An exclusive development of only nine 4 and 5 bed detached and 3 bed semi detached homes. The homes range from 2 to 3 storeys, to complement and fit the local area.

New house styles, contemporary design.

Prices from £500,000

Future development at

Barnton Park Wood 3, 4 and 5 bed detached villas

To register your interest, call or visit

0845 600 1925

www.macmic.co.uk





UNCOMMON CLASSIC

*Nestled in a secluded hamlet outside West Linton is
a rare wonder of modern German architecture*

THE Scottish countryside can often be the place to discover rare species. On the outskirts of West Linton, in the midst of some extremely attractive surroundings, you can find an example of modern architecture that is one of only seven that exists in the country.

It is a 'Huf Haus' – the distinctive, energy-efficient homes created in Germany and constructed of timber and glass.

According to the company, the modular design is intended to meet the needs of everyday life as well as the environment that surrounds each home. There is an emphasis on high-quality materials and construction, and fittings exceed design standards. Each home is unique, created to specifications set by the original owners.

These are homes that make an impression. Notably, when Huf Haus was featured in Channel 4's *Grand Designs*, the company's server crashed within 10 minutes of the show finishing, thanks to the interest

that was generated. Huf Haus builds only 200 homes every year across the world and there is currently a waiting list of up to two years for a project to begin.

Sympathy to the environment and nature is an essential aspect of the Huf Haus philosophy. The extensive use of glass helps to make sure that sunlight and the natural world are brought directly into the living space.

Energy efficiency measures are integrated throughout, and each home is carefully conceived so that it complements its setting.

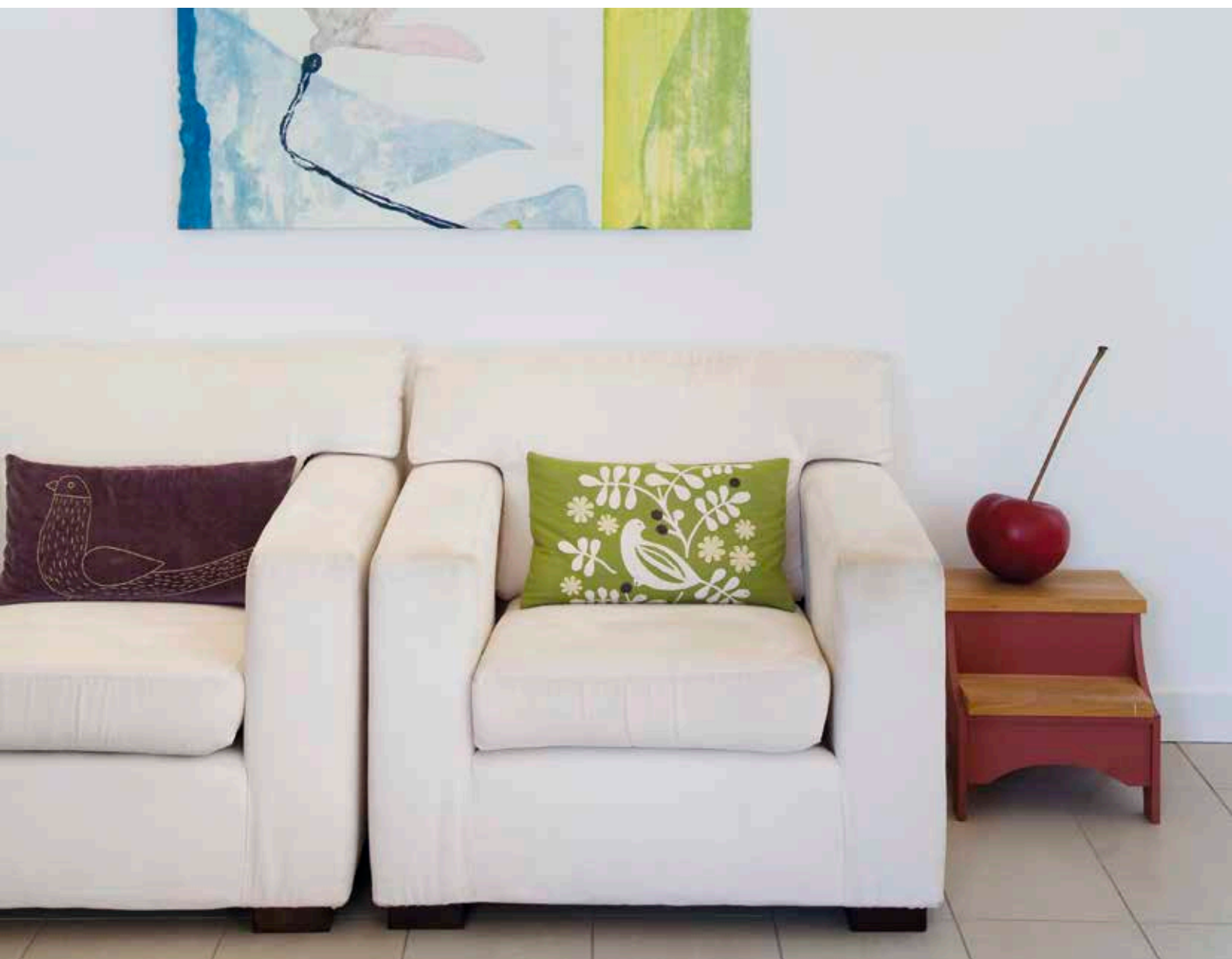
In West Linton, among other ways, this has been achieved by incorporating an existing farmhouse standing into the overall design, creating a traditional counterpoint to the modern Huf Haus aesthetic.

The home, situated in a small, private and secluded hamlet on the edge of the village,

Continued on page 18



The extensive use of glass helps to make sure that sunlight and the natural world are brought directly into the living space



Continued from page 16

has three levels. The basement has two double bedrooms, a shower room and utility room, which includes an energy-efficient ground source heat pump.

The ground floor incorporates an expansive sitting room and separate study. It also links to the modernised steading. This area makes for a perfect open-plan living space – double height, it includes a wonderfully comfortable farmhouse style kitchen and dining space, along with a further seating area.

Upstairs, there is the master bedroom, which has an en suite bathroom, and a second bedroom, which includes an en suite shower room.

To take full advantage of the inspiring countryside which envelopes the site, on this level there is a balcony that links both bedrooms and provides panoramic views on three sides of the home.

Outside there is a double car port, secure heated storage area and a substantial garden.

Should you be concerned that the expanse of glass means a lack of privacy, there's no need to worry – built-in electrically operated shutters provide peaceful seclusion whenever you need it.

As if the home is not attraction enough in itself, the other significant plus point for the property is its location. West Linton is in almost perfect commuter territory.

Its proximity to Edinburgh (18 miles) means that travel to work in the city is barely greater than having a home in the suburbs. However, the peace of the village makes the rat race seem a million miles away.

The area does not want for services. Penicuik is close by, as is the large retail park at Straiton. There's a local nursery and primary schools, two golf courses, a tennis club, bowling club and countryside aplenty to explore, including the nearby



Pentland Hills. Looking south, there are all the attractions of the Scottish Borders, which offer everything from cycle trails to regular Reivers festivals.

This property might be rare, but it's not rarefied. On the contrary: it's an uncommon example of pioneering architecture nestling comfortably in classic rural Scotland. [PL](#)

PROPERTY DETAILS

1 Rutherford Garden, West Linton EH46 7AP. Call selling solicitors HBJ Property on 0131 253 2889 for more information or visit espc.com and search with reference 349011.

Or you might like...

West Mill is an exclusive new development by Westpoint Homes tucked away in Colinton Village, overlooking Spylaw Park and the Water of Leith.

A collection of two and three-bedroom apartments, with prices from £420,000 it's one of the city's hidden gems. A show apartment is open daily from 11am until 5.30pm. Call 0131 629 2626 for more details.



Sometimes it's hard to believe you're only 5 miles from Princes Street.



THE CAER AMON APARTMENTS

Brighthouse Park Cross Cramond Edinburgh EH4 6GU



When Quality Matters

Set within an established development in Cramond, the 32 luxury apartments and duplexes offer spacious two and three bedroom homes and benefit from secure underground parking with lift access to all floors. With easy access to Edinburgh's city centre, airport and the motorway network, Caer Amon offers the perfect balance for 21st century living.

For information on our Shared Equity incentive options, contact Behnam Afshar on 0131 226 1780 or email behnama@amahomes.co.uk

75% of Phase One occupied – final 16 apartments now released.

Prices from £379,000

Showhome Open

Thursday to Monday, 11am and 5pm.

For further information phone

0131 336 1979 or 0131 226 1780

www.ama-caeramon-apartments.co.uk





FAR EAST FOLIAGE

Bring exotic greenery from the Orient into your garden

A WELL-KEPT, traditional Scottish garden is a beautiful thing to behold. But the Edinburgh climate does not limit the gardener's choices so much that indigenous plants are the only option available. Many plants and gardening styles from the Far East can greatly enhance gardens of all shapes and sizes, giving colour, fragrance and shape.

To find out more, we spoke to David Knott, Curator of the Living Collections at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and one of the experts behind the garden's famous Chinese and Japanese collections.

"Bamboo is a mainstay of any Chinese garden, and really thrives in Scotland," he says. "You can go for black stem, green stem or golden stem and they do add a definite oriental feel, both visually and through the constant, distinctive rustling of the leaves.

"Peonies are also becoming increasingly popular, from the very traditional ones to the more modern cultivars with big flowers. Depending on the scale of the garden, you can get herbaceous plants with lovely

big leaves – things such as hostas, or some of the irises – which give you seasonal interest, too."

From a design perspective, oriental varieties are useful for creating a beautiful year-round display, by contrasting hard surfaces with evergreen foliage – perfect for Edinburgh's many oddly shaped or constrained garden spaces.

"Some of the really useful evergreens, things like the Christmas boxes, give you some fragrance as well as attractive glossy green foliage. As the name suggests, these beautiful plants give you foliage right through until February or March. You also get that nice pungent aroma – a reminder that life goes on, even during the long Scottish winter.

"The key thing is making sure the garden can be enjoyed within that oriental theme. I really don't think there's any shortage of plants or inspiration – come down to the Botanic Garden to see what we've done in terms of planting and landscaping." **PL**



1. BAMBOO

Klondyke Garden Centre, Mortonhall, EH16 6TJ,
0131 664 8698, mortonhall@klondyke.co.uk

2. PEONY

Pentland Plants, Loanhead, EH20 9QG,
0131 440 0895, pentlandplantsgardencentre.co.uk

3. HOSTA

Dobbies Edinburgh, Lasswade, EH18 1AZ,
0131 663 1941, dobbies.com



Old Golf House



11 Corrennie Gardens

GLORIOUS GARDENS

*Enjoy the great outdoors
in the grounds of these
impressive properties*

OLD GOLF HOUSE, NEWBATTLE, MIDLOTHIAN EH22 3LX

OFFERS OVER £850,000

You would expect the former club house of Newbattle Golf Club to have an impressive garden, and this property doesn't disappoint. The expansive 0.7-acre grounds surround the house, with the sunny south-facing garden being flanked by the River South Esk.

To the side of the property there is a coal and log store. A long driveway provides off-street parking for a number of cars, which in turn leads to a single car garage. There is also a separate driveway to the rear. Inside, the stone-built detached house, which dates from around 1680, has considerable character with fine period features. It has a drawing room, dining room, sitting room, study, fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en suite shower room, guest bedroom with en suite shower room, three further bedrooms and two bathrooms.

There is also annex accommodation with a double bedroom, which would be ideal as a granny flat.

📞 **Contact solicitor: McEwan Fraser**
Legal on 0131 253 2263, or visit espc.com
and search with reference 337693.

11 CORRENNIE GARDENS, EDINBURGH EH10 6DG

IN THE REGION OF £1,500,000

There is plenty of space to roam in this property's sunny rear garden, which is enclosed by a stone wall.

There is also a patio with veranda, trees and mature herbaceous borders. At the end of the garden is a summer house and garden sheds, while the front garden boasts a variety of shrubs, trees and a fine mature hedge.

The detached four-bedroom stone-built Victorian villa also has charming period features, as well as a vestibule, hall, cloakroom with separate WC, drawing room with bay window, dining room, kitchen with separate larder, utility room with separate WC and two storage rooms.

There is also a study/family room with access to the back garden, a master bedroom with bay window and en suite shower room, as well as four other double bedrooms, family-sized bathroom and floored attic.

📞 **Contact solicitor: Murray Beith Murray**
on 0131 253 2202, or visit espc.com
and search with reference 347718.

ABBEY PARK, St Andrews

Stylish homes in one of the world's most attractive locations

We are delighted to offer three-storey townhouses in the historic town of St Andrews.

The development is set within the peaceful, lush grounds of Abbey Park; only a few minutes' walk from the town centre and with a woodland path leading to the smooth expanse of East Sands Beach.

The Abbey Park townhouses have large, bright and spacious rooms in a layout that flows seamlessly through the three floors. Each home has five bedrooms; a private, landscaped back garden; and its own double garage mews. Into this beautiful setting, we have also launched an attractive collection of two- and three-bedroom apartments.



For further information, please call 0845 890 9440 or visit our Sales & Marketing Suite, Abbey Walk, St Andrews KY16 9LB.

Our new showhome will be opening soon. You can also download our Abbey Park brochure at robertsonhomes.co.uk

Robertson
Homes

We're also offering elegant homes in Auchterarder, Chateaufort, Torrance, Inverness, Dumfries, New Stevenston, Elgin and, coming soon, Newton Mearns and Bothwell

The external images of the development are computer generated and are intended to give a fair description of the properties available. However, their accuracy cannot be guaranteed.



The only
similarity in
the **interiors**
we **design** is
a **delighted**
client



ampersand

20 years of inspired interiors:
fashion changes, style endures

Tel: 0131 557 6634
www.ampersandinteriors.co.uk



Oriental rugs are a sound investment

THE ORIENT, CLOSE TO HOME

From ancient crafts to mouthwatering cuisine, you can get a flavour of the cultures of the Far East and bring them into your own home

THE civilisations of the Far East are some of the most ancient in the world, whose influence in design, language, art, science and culture has been felt through the ages and across continents.

In Edinburgh, we feel this influence as strongly as anywhere, with vibrant communities and strong cultural links. In fact, 2015 is a good time to celebrate this very fact – on a big stage. The theme of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which runs from 7-29 August, is 'East meets West', showcasing talent from the Orient, and more.

And there are plenty of other opportunities in the city to bring some of the best of these cultures into your home.

THE WRITING ON YOUR WALL

Linked with the University of Edinburgh, the Confucius Institute for Scotland (Abden House, 1 Marchhall Crescent, EH16 5HP, 0131 662 2180, confuciusinstitute.ac.uk) provides a focal point for Chinese culture in the capital, organising arts events, courses, encouraging business links and generally advocating a closer



Chi Zhang

relationship between China and Scotland.

One of the more popular courses at the Institute concerns perhaps the most identifiable Chinese artistic tradition – calligraphy and brush art. The course, taught by the affable Chi Zhang, sets out the fundamental techniques of Chinese calligraphy which form the basis of much of the country's illustrative art.

To demonstrate, Zhang deftly inks the forms for "good luck" in four different brush styles, then points to the corresponding strokes in several traditional Chinese landscape paintings, where they make up the form of mountains, rivers and birds.

Zhang says: "The people taking the class are a real mix of ages, background and experience. It's a great way into learning more about Chinese language and culture in general, and a skill you can continue to develop your whole life."

BRING THE FAR EAST TO YOUR FLOOR

Among a clutch of retailers specialising in oriental goods, RL Rose is Scotland's longest-established trader and repairer of

oriental and Persian rugs. Its stock runs from very small rugs and runners up to very large carpets, including unusual sizes.

"Genuine oriental and Persian rugs have been famous and sought-after for centuries," explains Lizzie Rose of RL Rose. "With the dyes on the carpets all flower and vegetable-based, they are easy to furnish around. As well as being beautiful pieces, they're also exceptionally hard-wearing. With proper cleaning, repair and maintenance, these carpets will last a lifetime."

REFRESH YOUR CLOSET WITH JAPANESE BRANDS

In fashion, the oriental influence can be felt in the work of designers such as Kenzo, whose blend of Japanese sensibilities with Parisian couture is so instantly recognisable. You can pick up the latest season from the brand at Harvey Nichols (harveynichols.com).

However, the range of Japanese clothing brands extends much further, and you can find them at independent clothing store Corniche (corniche.org.uk). Among its menswear stock are Japanese brands Comme Des Garcon at the high end of the fashion spectrum,

and PEDAL ED, which specialises in producing stylish garb for cycling.

And when it comes to picking up the latest kicks, you could do worse than a pair of Onitsuka Tigers, available from Schuh. While the trainer maker has been going since 1949, its latest products are certainly not old news – they are as likely to adorn the feet of young trend-setters as older professionals.

BRING A NEW AROMA TO YOUR KITCHEN

Edinburgh is certainly well-served when it comes to restaurants that can give you a flavour of the Far East. While Chinese restaurants have, for decades, been fuelling Friday and Saturday night treats across the city, tastes have moved also to Japanese, Thai and Malaysian cuisines.

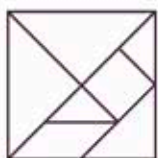
Named after the trendy district in Tokyo, Harajuku Kitchen (harajukukitchen.co.uk) offers everything from tempura to sushi and tonkatsu curry.

And you can sample Thai cooking at the Edinburgh outpost of the chain Chaophraya (chaophraya.co.uk), or at



Kenzo striped
intarsia jumper,
£295, 0131 524
8388, harveynichols.com

Continued on page 26



TANGRAM

lighting
spijiq
bedrooms
rugs homes
interior
design
wardrobes



Interior Design

Upholstered furniture

Lights

Wardrobes

Rugs

Chairs

Dining tables

Blinds

Curtains

Storage

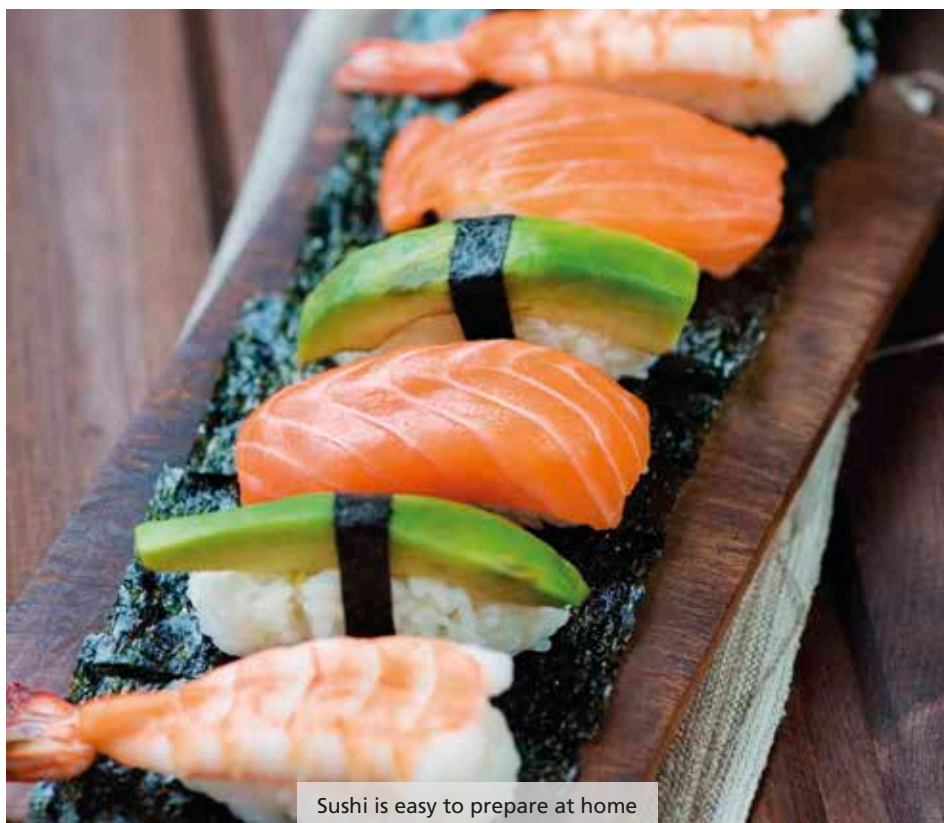
33/37 Jeffrey St. Edinburgh EH1 1DH | T: 0131 556 6551 | www.tangramfurnishers.co.uk

Continued from page 25

Thai Orchid (thaiorchid.uk.com). While the usual Thai curries are in attendance, it's worth also trying Thailand's popular spicy papaya salad Som Tum.

And the lesser well-known of the cuisines in the Far East, Malaysian food, also gets attention in the form of the informal dining experience at Kampung Ali (kampungali.com). Here, you can try the national dish Nasi Lemak that includes coconut rice, deep fried chicken, pickled vegetables and a spicy sweet sauce. It's so good that it is often eaten as breakfast, lunch or dinner in Malaysia.

And after filling up on inspiration at these eateries, your culinary exploration can continue in your own kitchen. For example, Krua Thai Cookery School (kruathai.co.uk) offers classes on authentic Thai cooking. And you can pick up all you need to knock up an authentic Chinese, Japanese, Thai or Malaysian meal from a range of specialist food retailers in the city, including the oriental supermarket Matthew's Foods (matthewsfoods.co.uk). **PL**



Sushi is easy to prepare at home

ASK THE EXPERT

The great designers of our time – from the East

Designers from Japan and China are having an increasing impact in the market for contemporary furniture. Julian Darwell-Stone continues his series on great designers with a brief review of Far Eastern designers, all of whom have looked to bring their design heritage to a global market...

Isamu Noguchi and George Nakashima were born in the USA, worked in Japan during their early years, but followed very different life and design paths. Isamu Noguchi was trained as a sculptor, but he is best known for the iconic Noguchi table. Designed in 1948 for Hermann Miller, it remains in production to this day.

George Nakashima was an architect and furniture

maker who has left a legacy of legendary craftsmanship based on simplicity, juxtaposing natural wood and traditional Japanese joinery. Commercially, his designs came to recognition through the Splay Leg table (1946) and Straight chair, both still in production.

Naoto Fukasawa was born in Japan in 1956. After an early career designing microelectronic devices (including watches and mobile phones), Fukasawa founded a multidisciplinary practice in Tokyo in 2003. He is

focused on 'simplicity in design' and 'outline', principles clearly evident in the Papilio range of seating he designed for B&B Italia.

An iconic furniture product of the early 21st century is the LEM stool, designed by Azumi for LaPalma. Shin Azumi was born in Japan in 1965, but has established a design studio in London, designing products for furniture and lifestyle companies such as Magis, Desalto, Muji and Guzzini.

Finally, the internationalisation of design is typified by Lyndon Neri and Rosanna



Papilio by Naoto Fukasawa

Hu. Educated as architects in California, Neri & Hu founded a practice in Shanghai that symbolises the growth of contemporary design in China. Their work spans architecture, interiors, industrial products and their own Neri & Hu furniture brand, a 'modern interpretation of Chinese heritage and craftsmanship'.



Solo chair by Lyndon Neri and Rosanna Hu

Julian Darwell-Stone is Managing Director of Tangram, the leading experts in contemporary furniture and interiors. Further information at tangramfurnishers.co.uk



Where contemporary meets heritage.

SHOW HOME OPEN



**WEST
MILL**
COLINTON VILLAGE

In a secluded, quiet spot on the banks of the Water of Leith, Westpoint Homes presents a rare opportunity to acquire an exceptional property. Designed with imagination, showcasing fine materials and built with timeless craftsmanship, West Mill at Colinton Village comprises only fourteen sophisticated apartments.

2 and 3 bedroom apartments from £420,000.

**Sales Centre located at
Flat 3, 10 West Mill Road, Edinburgh EH13 ONX.
Open Daily from 11am to 5.30pm.**

0131 629 2626
www.westpointhomes.net

Westpoint
HOMES.



360° of happiness

TAKE TO THE FLOOR

Whether it's a classic Persian design or a contemporary Scandinavian-inspired pattern, a new rug is the simplest way of transforming a room, says Jacqueline Fiskén



IT IS easy to overlook the contribution made by a well-chosen rug and yet it is often the spine of a design, pulling together otherwise potentially disparate colours into a cohesive interior.

Persian rugs are the beginning and end for many people, and they can indeed be the ideal starting point for more traditional, formal rooms. They introduce pattern and colour that easily feeds into the soft furnishings and décor. There are now so many innovative designers that the right rug can be found for any type of room, from cool Scandinavian-inspired to sleek contemporary. It is also worth remembering that one of the simplest ways to transform a room without any refurbishment at all is to incorporate a new rug. You can warm up a cold room with a burst of colour or some luxurious toe-caressing texture, or rev up a neutral palette with a vibrant Kilim.

Don't shy away from the idea of a bespoke rug either. Getting a rug with exactly the right pattern, weave, colour and – crucially – size can be well worth the extra cost. I frequently work on bespoke designs and these are three of my own favourite suppliers:

- The Rug Company has blazed a trail in handmade rugs since 1997. Combining traditional rug-making with some of the most innovative designs it has also led the way in collaboration, working with the likes of Paul Smith and Vivienne Westwood to ensure its products retain a real cutting edge alongside top-notch quality.
- Fisk & Co is new on the scene and proving to be hugely popular with designs that deftly integrate iconic Scottish elements as varied as Playfair railing details and Edinburgh's New Town street plan. They are beautifully

subtle with a wonderfully thought-through colour choice ensuring that they complement any room.

- Jacaranda has a fabulous range of rugs, including leather from real hides with wool felt backing, and its Himalayan hand-knotted range offers real creativity with each individually knotted rug made to order, to any design, and with a colour matching service.

Finally, as with most aspects of interior design, it pays huge dividends to get expert advice on finding the perfect rug for you. **PL**

Jacqueline Fiskén is Design Director of Ampersand Interiors at 73 Dublin Street, Edinburgh. Contact: 0131 557 6634 and www.ampersandinteriors.co.uk



THE STORY HOMES DIFFERENCE

Idyllic locations, superb quality and high specification.

Pentland Reach, Biggar offers a stunning collection of

2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes. Prices from **£177,950**

Pentland Reach is open Thursday - Monday, 10.30am - 4.30pm.
Tel: 01899 229356 / 07841 764712 www.storyhomes.co.uk



Rock and Bird

FROM BEACH TO BOUTIQUE

The fresh smell of the sea, the sound of lapping waves and the sight of seabirds swooping across the glittering water – North Berwick has the coastal experience in spades, but there is much more to this picturesque town in East Lothian. As well as clearing your head by the sea, you can also indulge in a day of retail therapy...

COFFEE, TO GO

Enjoy a hot cup of goodness al fresco, at the Steam Punk cafe, or during a walk on the beach or the town



Bostock Bakery



Steampunk Coffee

START OFF WITH A CAFFEINE KICK

Africa and South America have come to North Berwick – in the form of coffee beans. Coffee roaster Steampunk Coffee sources its beans from Tanzania to Peru. As well as selling you the raw ingredients for the great hot beverage, it also stocks equipment such as the Aeropress, drippers, grinders and reusable cups. While supplying coffee shops in Edinburgh and the surrounding area, the company also opened up a café last year

on site, in an old joinery workshop.

**Steam Punk Coffee, 49a Kirk Ports,
01620 893030, steampunkcoffee.co.uk**

GET CREATIVE

Whether it's a beautiful beach scene or the quaint historic streets, you'd be forgiven if you wanted to capture it all in a picture or piece of craftiness. So it's just as well Rock and Bird on the High Street, a short walk

Continued on page 32



Scottish
Seabird
Centre

Wildlife wonders

Zoom in on the amazing wildlife in the Firth of Forth with our interactive live cameras.

www.seabird.org

The Harbour, North Berwick EH39 4SS



Image © Rob McDougall / Scottish Charity no SC025837



OPEN ALL YEAR DISCOVERY CENTRE · BOAT TRIPS · CAFÉ · GIFT SHOP

Continued from page 31

from the North Berwick waterfront, has the supplies to help you get creative. As well as selling art supplies, this funky little shop has bright wools and other haberdashery as well as classic stationery. The kids aren't forgotten either with a selection of toys.

Rock and Bird, 64 High Street, 01620 890411, rockandbird.com

BAKED GOODNESS AT LUNCHTIME

There are loaves galore at Bostock Bakery. This is the way bread should be made – slow fermented for a great flavour and with that satisfying lovely crust. That's not the only thing on display however. You can feast your eyes on a cabinet of glistening patisseries, and the range of puffy crisp pastries, not least great big fat croissants. A visit is an adventure in carbohydrates.

Bostock Bakery, 42 High Street, 01620 895515, facebook.com/RossBaxterPatisserie

GET GIFTS FOR TAKING HOME

If you're ever stuck for a present idea, then Westgate Galleries may just provide some inspiration. It stocks everything from baby toys and home furnishings to jewellery and handbags. As its name suggests, there's also an art gallery featuring a range of work from limited edition prints to original sculptures. If you need some sustenance to fuel your browsing, there's also a café.

Westgate Galleries, 41 Westgate, 01620 894976, westgategalleries.co.uk


GET WILD

If you have a soft spot for birdlife, then pick up some gifts at the Scottish Seabird Centre's gift shop. While you're there you can also zoom in on the wildlife using live cameras on the Firth of Forth Islands in the Discovery Centre. The cameras coverage includes the Isle of May National Nature Reserve and Bass Rock – the world's largest Northern gannet colony and winner of the BBC *Countryfile Magazine's* Nature Reserve of the Year. There is different wildlife to see throughout the year and at different stages of the breeding season. For example, Puffin Fest takes place from 15-25 May, when the centre celebrates the return of the puffins to the islands. You can also take seasonal boat trips.

Scottish Seabird Centre, 01620 890202, seabird.org

PICK UP ARTISAN ALCOHOL FOR THE EVENING

Did you know that one of the new breeds of craft gin – NB Gin – is made in North Berwick? You can get your hands on a bottle at Lockett Bros. In fact, you can choose from almost 20 of small batch artisan gins at the shop, as well as from about 100 malt whiskies. The shop also specialises in wine from small vineyards around the world. The shop gives you the chance to sample from a wide range of bottles, to make sure that new discovery really does hit the spot.

Lockett Bros, 133 High Street, 01620 890799, lockettbros.co.uk 



Westgate Galleries

Start your property journey in East Lothian with these local ESPC solicitors...

Alex Mitchell & Sons

21 Eskside West, Musselburgh EH21 6PW, 0131 253 2667

Anderson Strathern

14 Court Street, Haddington EH41 3NP, 01620 532667

Drummond Miller LLP

151/155 High Street, Musselburgh EH21 7DD, 0131 253 2239

Forsyth Solicitors

46 High Street, Haddington EH41 3EE, 01620 532662

GSB

39 High Street, Dunbar EH42 1EW, 01368 962792

22 Hardgate, Haddington EH41 3JS, 01620 532825

18 Hardgate, Haddington EH41 3JS, 01620 532580

121 High Street, Tranent EH33 1LW, 01875 482861

Lindsays

33a Westgate, North Berwick EH39 4AG, 01620 532610

McKinnon Forbes

131 High Street, Prestonpans EH32 9AX, 01875 482978

54 High Street, Tranent EH33 1HH, 01875 482984

Paris Steele

116 High Street, Dunbar EH42 1JJ, 01368 962602


35 Westgate, North Berwick EH39 4AG, 01620 532420

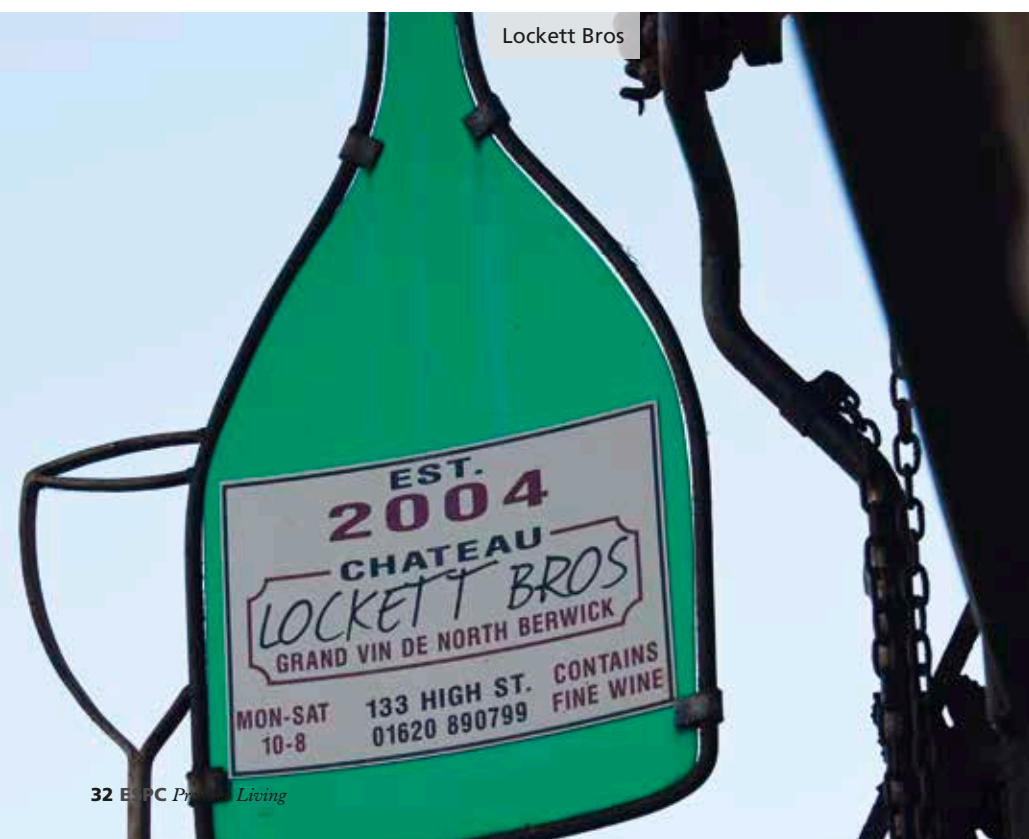
Simpson & Marwick

88 High Street, North Berwick EH39 4HE, 01620 532654

Somerville & Russell

39 Bridge Street, Musselburgh EH21 6AA, 0131 253 2932

 For more information on property or solicitors in your area, visit espc.com



Lockett Bros

GO EAST

It's all about location with these properties in stunning settings

208 NEW STREET, MUSSELBURGH EH21 6DQ

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £590,000

The seafront location of this property gives views of Fisherrow Harbour and beach at Musselburgh.

The detached stone-built family house was built in the mid-19th century and includes a formal drawing room, a dining room with space for a large table, a kitchen with a larder, a cloakroom and a family room. Upstairs are four bedrooms, the master with an en suite shower room and the family bathroom. The house retains many original period features such as the Victorian plaster corning and ceiling roses, panel doors, Edinburgh presses, skirting boards and the banister rail and spindles. To the rear is an attractive walled garden and, to the front, parking for three cars.

📞 **Contact solicitor: Forsyth Solicitors on 01620 532662, or visit espc.com with reference 342570.**



EAST GARTH, HILL ROAD, GULLANE EH31 2BE

OFFERS OVER £635,000

Easy walking distance to the local beach, golf course and centre of the seaside town of Gullane, this property has a fantastic location.

It forms part of an early 1900s Arts and Crafts building, with a high stone wall surrounding a large, private garden. The front door leads to a vestibule with period features, a cloakroom and separate WC, while the drawing room is light and spacious. The master bedroom and second bedroom have bespoke, integral wardrobes. The dining room has French windows which open onto the secluded courtyard. The kitchen also has access to the courtyard. From the dining room a small staircase leads up to a third bedroom.

📞 **Contact solicitor: Lindsays on 01620 532610, or visit espc.com with reference 346398.**

THE RAMPARTS, COCKBURNSPATH TD13 5XE

OFFERS AROUND £500,000

Not only is this property surrounded by stunning countryside, it is also situated on a cliff, with breathtaking views across the North Sea.

It is close to the small village of Cockburnspath on the East Lothian and Scottish Borders boundary, 36 miles from Edinburgh. The ground floor has a kitchen, lounge with access to the decking area, dining room (which could be used as a bedroom), a double bedroom with en suite shower room, family bathroom, WC, study and utility room. On the upper level there is a landing, triple aspect master bedroom with en suite bathroom, a further double bedroom and living room with access to a balcony. Outside is substantial garden grounds, a five-car driveway, two-car garage, decking, balcony and patio.

📞 **Contact solicitor: mov8 Real Estate, 0131 253 2982, or visit espc.com with reference 335269.**





Fletcher's Cottage at Archerfield

FONTS OF WELLBEING

There can be few things in life that match the indulgence and relaxation of a good spa day, and fortunately Edinburgh and its surrounding area boasts more than its fair share. Here are three of the best...

FLETCHER'S COTTAGE AT ARCHERFIELD

Fletcher's Cottage is a stunning new spa at Archerfield golf course, boasting a distinctly different atmosphere to its city counterparts. A haven of rustic luxury right at the heart of the Archerfield Estate, the Fletcher's cottage was created by international spa guru Sian Parry Jones (formerly of Urban Spa, Harrods), and exudes relaxation.

With 12 treatment rooms and a large lounge strewn with sheepskin rugs and plump sofas, the atmosphere is a delightfully unconventional blend of Scottish hunting lodge and alpine chalet. It also delivers on the treatments side of the equation. Products including South Africa's Frazer Parfum, Ireland's Voya and Spezia from Cornwall are all deployed in the various massages on offer, while a marine steam room, the aroma sauna, and rasul mud cure are guaranteed to relax you into happy oblivion.

**Archerfield House, East Lothian, EH39 5HU,
01620 897050, archerfieldhouse.com**

THE AVEDA LIFESTYLE SPA AT THE SCOTSMAN SPA & HEALTH CLUB

Once home to the cacophony of the *Scotsman* newspaper's printing presses, The Aveda Lifestyle Spa now offers a very different experience, with

a smorgasbord of relaxing and rejuvenating spa treatments across seven treatment rooms. Its 30 treatments for men and women range from massages and manicures to facials, hydrotherapy and scrubs. With a stainless steel pool, you can splash around in surroundings that has a distinctly contemporary vibe.

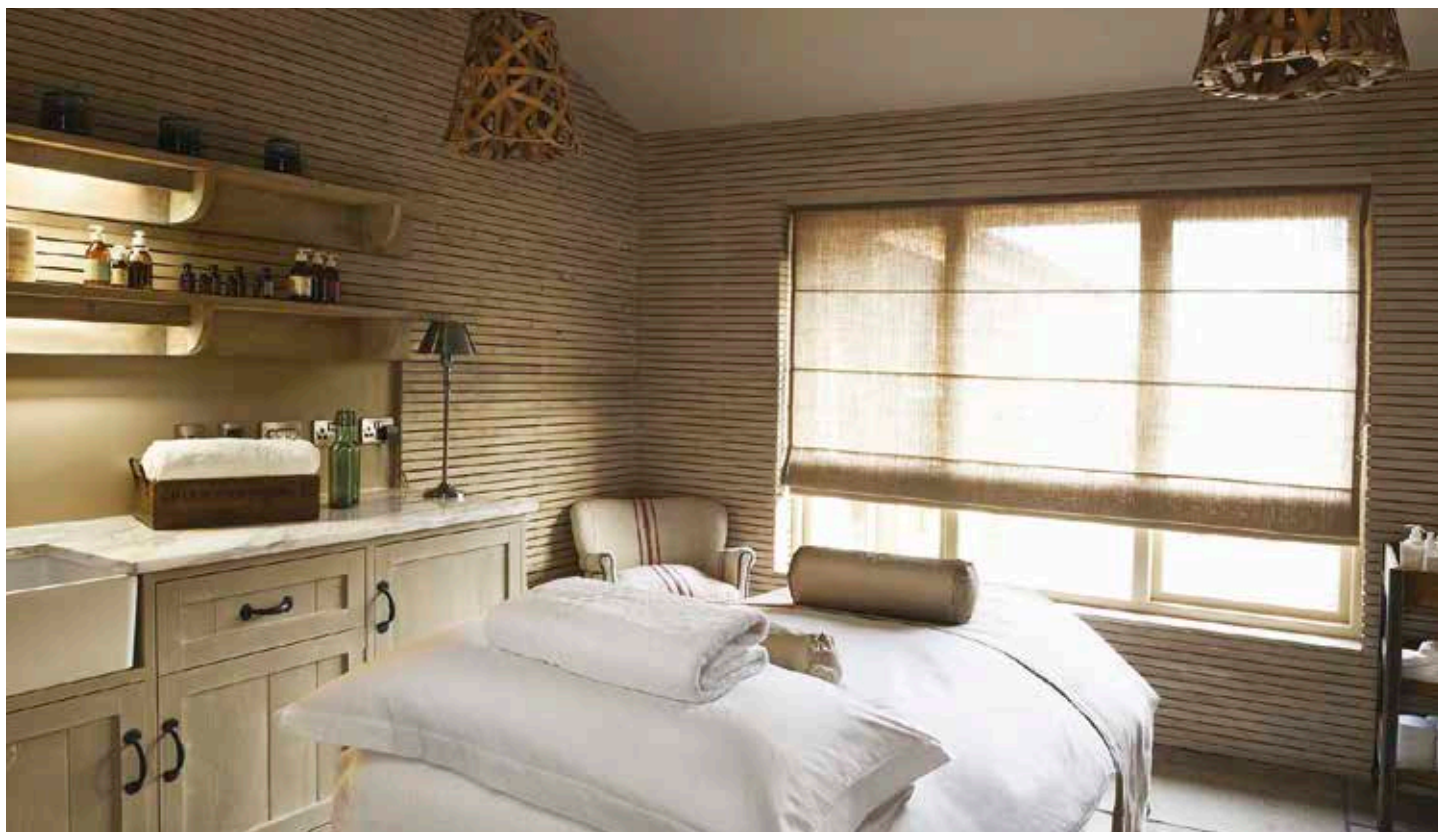
**1 Market Street, EH1 1TR,
0131 622 3800, scotsmanspa.com**

ONE SPA

Rightly considered one of the city's best, One Spa is a beautiful spot for some serious unwinding. It's also got scale, boasting 17 rooms offering a bewildering array of treatments, among which is the spa's signature offering – "one of a kind", which includes Aboriginal therapy techniques.

You can also enjoy 11 experiences in the rejuvenating Thermal Suite, ranging from Hammam and aroma grotto to tropical rain showers. The wow factor, though, is at the top-floor infinity pool giving you views of the castle, and the rooftop hydropools, which have outdoor and indoor areas. Before too long, you will have forgotten all about the world below.

**8 Conference Square, EH3 8AN,
0131 221 7777, onespa.com** PL



ARCHERFIELD SPA INDULGENCE

**Treat yourself to a spa break
at one of Britain's leading Spas
for just £130pp***

Unwind at Fletcher's Cottage in our Marine Steam, Aroma Sauna and relax area before a 60 minute massage or facial which is tailored especially to your needs.

Kick back in your luxurious pavilion suite, complete with complimentary bottle of wine and snacks before the perfect night's sleep.

Before you leave, enjoy a hearty Scottish breakfast in our Clubhouse.

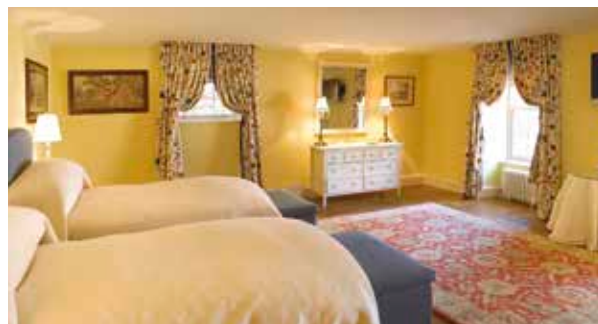
To book your spa break please call us on **01620 897 050** or email **res@archerfieldhouse.com**
Quoting Premier Living

SPENDING TIME HERE FEELS NOTHING BUT EASY.

www.archerfieldhouse.com

**Based on two people sharing a double or twin pavilion suite, £60 per room supplement for a Friday or Saturday Night.
Valid for bookings until April 30th 2015.*

**Fletcher's Cottage Spa,
Archerfield House,
Dirleton, East Lothian, EH39 5HU**



BAGS OF AMBITION

Edinburgh-based accessories business Strathberry of Scotland has its sights on competing with the big brands

SCOTS businessman Guy Hundleby's luxury accessories business Strathberry of Scotland is fit for a (future) Queen.

In less than two years since launching, Guy and the Strathberry team have attracted a number of celebrity clients including Camilla, HRH Duchess of Cornwall. The wife of Prince Charles is now carrying one of Strathberry's unique blue salmon skin purses, after a chance meeting with Guy last year.

The Managing Director and founder of Strathberry explained: "We were exhibiting at the Edinburgh International Fashion Festival, which was organised by Anna Freemantle, and the Duchess of Cornwall walked around. She was keen to speak to everyone and when she spoke to me she seemed really interested in our salmon skin collection of products.

"The following week I received a call from Clarence House and we sent her a blue salmon skin clutch."

Strathberry is the first fashion brand in Scotland to use salmon skin instead of leather to produce its purses and handbags. The luxury brand previously worked with snakeskin before creatively using the by-product of the fishing industry. Stronger than ordinary leathers, salmon skin has a beautiful iridescent look and is an eco-friendly product.

It's not just royalty this relatively new brand has caught the eyes of; many literary greats, actors and celebrities are also customers – including US actor and director Andy Garcia, supermodel Helena

Christensen, Garbage lead singer Shirley Manson, film star Ashley Jensen, Victoria Beckham's Creative Director Susanne Tide-Frater and Scottish playwright and artist John Byrne – which Guy is "chuffed to bits" about. They are impressed with Strathberry's craftsmanship and quality that goes into creating its leather bags, laptop cases, golf bags and purses.

Guy launched Strathberry of Scotland in July 2013. Within four months, the brand had secured a contract in China and now has its products stocked in shops in Beijing and Shanghai as well as Harvey Nichols and the Trump Turnberry and Gleneagles hotels back home.

The swift procurement of the China contract was perhaps not a huge surprise,

as Edinburgh-born Guy knew the market having ran his previous company out there.

The entrepreneur began trading from his bedroom in his early 20s before launching an ethical manufacturing business in China. It grew to a company with a £4 million turnover and was manufacturing 150 million products each year, before Guy sold in 2007.


Then he had an idea: "I thought, 'England has the likes of Anya Hindmarch, LK Bennett and Aspinall, but there is no stand-out luxury brand in Scotland.' So we set out to develop this space.

"It's a huge ambition to compete with Prada and Gucci. We are a fledgling brand with a long way to go, but we have had a really positive response both at home and abroad and are excited at the next stage of development ahead of us."

With a head designer who worked for Louis Vuitton and other staff members who have been on the payroll at exclusive European brands including Givenchy, Chloe and Loewe, Guy has a skilled team of craftsmen in workshops meticulously creating the next handbag with the brand's trademark metal bar.

He added: "They have a look and finish more often associated with Italian or French brands."

Now working on a North American development, the founder has a message for designer label-lovers back home: "It's a big ask, but we'd love it if people in Scotland could support us in these early stages of our brand's growth – please don't overlook us when you're next in the market for a bag." **PL**

 For more information on Strathberry of Scotland, visit strathberryofscotland.com



FOR PEACE OF MIND, OPT FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE

If you own higher value property, draw on specialist advice and high-net-worth insurance products to strike the right balance between price and protection.



The rise of 'price comparison' websites has arguably created a false impression that all home insurance policies are basically the same, and that 'getting good value' equates to getting the best price.

The reality is very different, particularly if you own a higher value property – usually defined as subject to a rebuild cost of more than £500,000. Price is only part of the picture, and getting good value means finding a balance between price, protection and personalised service. That is, while the cheapest standard policy may be adequate for the average three-bedroom home, it may be a false economy for higher value homes.

In particular, the risks to your home and contents may be more

diverse, the potential losses more significant and the process of replacement or repair more involved – especially if you own expensive jewellery, fine art, antique or bespoke furniture. As a result, you will almost certainly need the kind of tailored protection that standard household policies simply do not offer. You also need to be sure that you have adequate insurance cover in place to protect the full value of your property and its contents.

Unfortunately, if you fail to get adequate cover, you may not find out until you come to make a claim, by which time it is already too late.

About Marsh

As a global leader in insurance broking and risk management, Marsh is ideally placed to help you find a bespoke insurance solution designed with you in mind.

Working with a specialist broker helps overcome the issue of under-insurance. Marsh can help you ensure that your home and possessions are valued correctly and insured for the right amount, so you have peace of mind from the outset knowing exactly what is covered and for how much.

To arrange your tailor-made insurance solution, Marsh works with specialist insurers who have the flexibility to adapt to even the most complex risk scenario.

📞 0845 600 9039 ✉️ premier.solutions@marsh.com 🌐 www.MarshPremierSolutions.com/ESPC Please quote ref: ES1



Premier Solutions



WHATEVER YOUR STYLE, OUR INSURANCE SOLUTIONS ARE INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED FOR YOU

If you invest a great deal of time and energy to create your ideal home and lifestyle, then you deserve to be rewarded with the protection and peace of mind that our insurance solutions offer you.

Contact us now to see how we can help you, quoting reference ES1:

📞 0845 600 9039
 ✉️ premier.solutions@marsh.com
 🌐 www.MarshPremierSolutions.com/ESPC



BACK TO A GOLDEN AGE

In an age of speed, there is something magical about taking your time to travel the rails, particularly in the classic comfort of the Belmond Royal Scotsman

THE cabin gently rocks and wheels against steel give a comforting rhythmic bass rumble as you glide through city and country. Rail may not be the fastest, nor the cheapest or the most direct form of transport, yet it has an indefinable magic that keeps drawing us back. A great train journey is not about reaching your destination, but taking pleasure in the act of travel itself. There can be few trains for which this is truer than the iconic Belmond Royal Scotsman.

Stepping aboard Belmond Royal Scotsman at Edinburgh Waverley, it is immediately clear that

this is a train quite unlike any other. Decked out in dark wood, elaborate fixtures and antique furniture, the Edwardian-style interior is clearly built for comfort and style, rather than huge numbers. Indeed, the restaurant, viewing car, various lounges and luxuriously appointed cabins comprising the train can host no more than 36 guests.

While undeniably grand, it would be easy to dismiss the experience offered by Belmond Royal Scotsman as a nostalgic glimpse of a bygone age of travel. Not so, says Michael



JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

The excursions, all departing from Edinburgh, range from exploring the Highlands to taking a scenic trip to London. Durations are from two to seven nights.

Andrews, General Manager of Belmond Royal Scotsman at Belmond, the company that operates the train.

"What we offer really isn't just for rail lovers, and it's certainly not a novelty holiday," he says. "There's really no comparable way to experience Scotland's most beautiful countryside, cities and historic sites – it really is unique."

Guests can choose between two and seven-night itineraries departing from and returning to Edinburgh Waverley. As the train weaves its way across the spectacular Scottish Highlands, guests can admire the dramatic change in scenery from the comfort of their luxury cabin. Throughout the journey, the train passes through a continuing vista of gorgeous countryside and passengers are treated to a variety of private off-

the-train excursions, gala meals and experiences that illuminate their journey.

"We pride ourselves on providing a really personal experience," says Michael Andrews. "We get to know each of our guests by name and offer a range of itineraries to suit all interests, from exploring Scotland's majestic castles to attending Highland Games and taking in its best-loved whisky distilleries."

Sitting in the observation carriage on plump couches, the train has more of the feel of a sumptuous hotel. The difference is that here, the artwork is an ever-evolving picture as the Scottish countryside flows past. It's a gallery that, for many, is worth the trip alone. **PL**

For more information on the Belmond Royal Scotsman, visit www.belmond.com/royal-scotsman-train

THE BALANCE OF POWER

Orlaith Brogan, ESPC Lettings Manager, talks about what's happening in the market and the viability of buying in Edinburgh as an investment opportunity



IT'S NO secret that 2014 saw a substantial improvement in the UK property market. The economy has largely outperformed expectations, with GDP growth higher and unemployment lower than was projected.

In some areas of the country – most notably London – this has led to a situation where demand is once again outstripping supply, leading to house prices rising at a level which is simply unsustainable over the longer term. Thankfully, this is not something we have seen in the Edinburgh market where inflation has remained modest throughout the past 18 months at around four per cent, compared to London in the region of 20 per cent.

The reason is predominantly that while buyer activity in Edinburgh has risen substantially, the number of homes coming onto the market has also increased, helping to maintain a healthier balance between supply and demand. Across last year as a whole the number of sales recorded by ESPC in Scotland's capital was 20.5 per cent higher than in 2013. Over the same period, the number of homes coming onto the market rose by a very similar level – 19.2 per cent annually.

This isn't to say that market conditions haven't improved for sellers, however. The balance of power in the market, having favoured buyers for a number of years, has started to swing back towards those looking to sell and this is reflected in a shortening in selling times across the capital.

It's encouraging that a proportion of the increase in sales has been seen towards the lower end of the property ladder. In fact, sales of one bedroom flats in Edinburgh rose by almost 40 per cent annually as first time buyers and buy-to-let investors returned to the market. It goes without saying that activity in this area is particularly important for the long-term



health of the market, as those selling smaller homes are typically looking to move up the ladder, meaning there is a positive knock-on effect for the wider market.

The level of affordability combined with a continued high level of demand for rented accommodation in the city has inevitably proven attractive to buy-to-let investors who also returned to the market to take advantage of favourable rental yields.

Turning our attention to this year, the expectation is that activity will continue to pick up throughout the market. While it would not be realistic to expect another 20 per cent increase in the number of homes being bought and sold, the likelihood is that as the economy travels further along the road to recovery and

consumer confidence improves, buyer activity will rise again. Inevitably as people see 'for sale' boards going up and coming down again in short order this will attract more sellers back to the market which should help to maintain the balance between supply and demand. **PL**

For the latest market information in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife, visit espc.com/news

Find out more about investing in Edinburgh through ESPC's unique insight into the property market, to ensure your investment works for you. Contact Orlaith on 0131 253 2847 or email landlord@espc.com





THE STEPHEN FAMILY OF HOMES OVER 80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Clathymore



Prices From £480,000 - £1,250,000

An exquisite development in one of Scotland's most stunning locations, just 10 minutes drive to Gleneagles Hotel Golf & Spa Resort, comprising 4 & 5 bedroom bungalows and detached country homes.

The Control Tower, Clathymore



Guide Price £1,250,000

An architectural masterpiece within one of Perthshire's most prestigious addresses. The Control Tower comprises in excess of 4,000 sq ft of living accommodation - split over three floors, with roof terrace and sun room.

Lagreach, Pitlochry



Guide Price £470,000

A unique opportunity to purchase our luxurious 5 bedroom showhome. Only 500 yards from the centre of Pitlochry, Lagreach sits within its own mature woodland setting.

Chapelton, near Aberdeen



Prices From £225,000 - £455,000

Only a short commute to Aberdeen, Chapelton offers a wide selection of homes including 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 bedroom terrace, semi and detached villas and townhouses.

Bearehill, Brechin



Prices From £182,500 - £394,500

A superb development of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes. Bearehill is well placed to enjoy the many local amenities and yet only 40 miles from Aberdeen and 30 from Dundee.

West Churchfields, Errol



Prices From £149,000 - £325,000

The fruits of our labours have produced this superb housing development of 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes in the idyllic village of Errol, only 10 miles from Perth and 15 from Dundee.

Balgavie, Scone



Prices From £155,000 - £455,000

Lying within a stone's throw of the bustling city of Perth these 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom bungalows, villas and apartments set within one of the most delightful villages in Perthshire.

Loch View, Kinnesswood



Prices From £395,000 - £445,000

Set in a stunning location overlooking Loch Leven, Loch View comprises only 9 detached 4 and 5 bedroom bungalow and villa style homes.

The Beeches, Carnock



Prices From £182,500 - £295,000

The Beeches lies just two and a half miles from Dunfermline offering 2, 3, 4 & 5 bedroom bungalows and villas located in a pleasant conveniently located village.

If you would like more information about any of our stunning homes just call **01738 620721** or visit: www.stephen.co.uk
For Clathymore and Lagreach developments go to www.stephencountryhomes.com



THE SKY'S NO LIMIT

Gareth Williams explains how he took a brilliant idea and turned it into one of the UK's most successful tech companies – flight comparison site Skyscanner

FLIGHT comparison website Skyscanner, headquartered in Edinburgh's luxurious Quartermile district, is one of the capital's most successful and best known high-tech companies. With more than 60 million visitors to its website each month and nine global offices, including those in the UK, Singapore, Beijing, Shenzhen, Miami and Barcelona, it is hard to believe the business only opened its doors in 2003.

Like many of the most successful businesses, Skyscanner's origins lay in providing a straightforward solution to a common problem. Having recently graduated in mathematics and computer programming, founder Gareth Williams found himself growing increasingly frustrated with the long and tedious task of finding the cheapest flights to visit his brother in France. Starting

with just an Excel spreadsheet, Williams began to imagine a single website capable of collecting, collating and comparing fares for every commercial flight in the world.

By 2011, Skyscanner had become the number one flight search engine in Europe, and began expanding its business first into Asia, then across the world. The site now offers travel searches in more than 30 different languages, including Thai, Japanese and Russian.

Skyscanner is the quintessential example of a business based on one brilliant solution to a common problem. At what point did you realise your frustration held the seeds of a multi-million pound business?

When we started, we wanted to be

the best and the most popular website for European low-cost airlines. And we concentrated on that all the way through 2006 to the beginning of 2007 and succeeded at that. After that we then said: "Okay, it needs to be the world's airlines and it needs to be all airlines, not just budget airlines." So that took us a year to change our systems to be able to work like that. From that point, I remember we figured that success to me would be if we could get 400,000 visits to our website every day. We reached that level a couple of years ago, and now we enjoy more than 30 million unique visitors to our website every month.

Describe the challenges of going from a small high-tech start-up to a global

household name. Does the experience of running Skyscanner now bear any relation to those early days?

When Skyscanner was first created, my co-founders and I worked from my spare room, often at the weekends and in the evenings, as we had full-time day jobs. When I took on the CEO role a few years later, we were still a small team, and communication was easy – everyone was in one room, and our focus was solely on flights.

Now we have more than 500 employees in nine offices across the world, so communication between offices requires careful planning over time zones. While previously we showed flight comparisons, we now offer hotel and car hire too, and we're available worldwide in more than 30 languages. However, our key aim, and my daily focus, is still the same: to make travel search as easy as possible. That's something we'll continue to strive towards.

What are the key lessons you've learned along the way?

As an early stage start-up, it's easy to fall into the trap of solely focusing on the execution of your idea, but it's hugely important too to ensure you still see the

To borrow from the entrepreneur Derek Sivers, ideas are just a multiplier of execution. Ideas on their own are almost worthless and rarely very unique. Instead, it's what you do with them that gives them value

bigger picture. I also now understand the importance of management and leadership in a way I didn't before – as a small team, it's easy to have everyone working in the same direction, but as you increase in scale that becomes a little more difficult, and the amount of communication required to create a shared vision is increased.

A great idea isn't always enough to ensure success. What personal qualities does a great entrepreneur need?

Perseverance and passion are key. To borrow from the entrepreneur Derek Sivers, ideas are just a multiplier of execution. Ideas on their own are almost worthless and rarely very unique. Instead, it's what you do with them that gives them value.

You seem to be constantly growing into new markets and acquiring local competitors. What does the future hold for Skyscanner?

We've grown at a phenomenal rate over the past few years – almost 100 per cent each year from 2010-2013. I believe we'll continue to grow at pace, as we've only just scratched the surface of travel planning. We'll continue to drive growth through our mobile strategy and our multiple travel streams – from flights to car hire and hotel. Ultimately, we want to be the world's number one travel search site, and I believe we'll achieve this. It's an exciting time for Skyscanner. [PL](#)

For more information on Skyscanner, visit skyscanner.net

ARE YOUR LOVED ONES, PROPERTY AND ASSETS FULLY PROTECTED?

GET PEACE OF MIND THAT THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE ARE TAKEN CARE OF. BOOK A FREE, IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF YOUR AFFAIRS WITH AN EXPERT ADVISOR TODAY



To take advantage of this free service, email paganosborne@pagan.co.uk or call **0131 226 4081** and ask for a **360 Lifestage Review**



legal | financial | property



YOU DESERVE A PEDAL

A new generation of sleek lightweight bikes are tapping into the growth of cycling. Here's three of the best...

IN RECENT years, getting about on two wheels has become increasingly popular, whether for commuting, leisure, fitness or sport. There is much to recommend it, particularly in Edinburgh; it's an environmentally friendly way to beat the traffic and explore this beautiful city and its surroundings, by road and a network of dedicated cycle paths.

Improving technology has also played a part in the bike's increasing popularity. Yesteryear's heavy, unreliable bone-shakers have been replaced by an astonishing array of sleek, lightweight models, tailored for everyone from the casual leisure rider to the committed road warrior.

THE BIKES

1. The mountain bike: Shand Bahookie

Hand-made in Scotland with a high-tech steel hardtail frame, it is the ultimate adventure bike. From £2,590. (Shand Cycles, 3B Naysmith Court, Livingston, EH54 5EG, 01506 435 400, shandcycles.com)

2. The road bike: Canondale Synapse

A trusted name brings a huge selection of options to its award-winning road design. £599-£6,499. (Evans Cycles, 1A Exchange Place, EH3 8BL, 0131 255 0500, evanscycles.com)

3. The hybrid: Trek 7.4

This flexible, popular bike brings the casual cyclist all the features they could want on the road or trail, at a price that's hard to fault. £675 (Alpine Bikes, 48 Hamilton Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5AX, 0131 225 3286, alpinebikes.com) [PL](#)



WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU

Deciding roughly how you intend to use your new bike will determine the design that's best for you.

Commuting: People use a range of bikes to get to work, though many opt for a tourer, featuring drop handlebars with mudguards, racks and medium-width tyres which give good traction.

Road sport: With skinny tyres, drop handlebars and an aerodynamic riding position, road bikes are built for speed. Closely related 'sportive' road bikes usually have a more upright riding position and a wider range of gears.

Trail riding: If you want to get serious about the trail though, a mountain bike is the way to go. With thick tyres for traction, powerful brakes and a wide, upright position for control, mountain bikes are a highly specialised (and fun) breed of their own.

Casual, flexible: Hybrid bikes offer a more upright riding position, with flat handlebars. While still lightweight, hybrid frames share some characteristics with fat-tyre mountain bikes, and are a great option for those looking to switch regularly between road, cycle path and country trail.

Timeless luxury in a historic setting.

LAST FEW REMAINING



Corstorphine Gate
EDINBURGH

Corstorphine Gate, a stunning new development of 24 luxury 1,2 & 3 Bed Apartments with either balcony or terrace space. These well appointed properties offer a unique opportunity to put down fresh roots in Corstorphine, one of Edinburgh's most desirable and sought after suburbs. Combining the easy ambience of village life with all the attractions and amenities of Scotland's capital city only a short distance away.

Prices from £289,950. Entry dates from Spring 2015.

**Our Sales Centre is located at 27 Station Road,
Edinburgh, EH12 7AF.**

Open Thursday to Monday from 11am to 5.30pm



360° of happiness

0800 587 0333
www.westpointhomes.net

Westpoint
HOMES.



BEDROOM ENVY

Looking for a luxurious place to get rested?

**4 EGLINTON CRESCENT, WEST
END, EDINBURGH, EH12 5DH**

OFFERS OVER £715,000

Nestled at the back of this property is a bedroom to savour – a spacious and airy place where you can enjoy zen-like tranquillity. This master bedroom boasts an en suite WC and tiled shower room.

Alongside a second bedroom on the ground floor, it has a view over the private walled back garden, which you can access

from the basement level, where there is also a kitchen, dining room, utility room, bathroom and third bedroom.

Another showpiece of the property is the drawing room at the front on the ground floor with high ceilings, bow-fronted bay window, panelling to dado level, fireplace and detailed ceiling cornice work.

📞 **Contact solicitor: Simpson & Marwick**
on 0131 253 2171, or visit espc.com
and search with reference 346807.



Restoration | Draught-proofing | Double & Secondary glazing | New windows



Arrange your FREE, no obligation
survey and quotation today.

Call 0800 243 126
www.ventrolla.co.uk



Daffy's Gin



Edinburgh Gin



Pickering's Gin



NB Gin

BOTANICAL DELIGHTS

Lately, there's been an explosion of gin makers in the capital, alongside specialist bars to explore the growing variety on offer

SCOTLAND'S most famous export may well be whisky, but Edinburgh is making waves in the spirits world thanks to its growing number of independent, artisan gin producers.

Until last year, there had been no gin made in the city for 150 years. That changed last March when Pickering's Gin started distilling in 'Gert', its 500-litre still, at Summerhall on the south side. They were swiftly joined by Edinburgh Gin last summer when the more established brand moved its production from a site in England to Heads and Tales Bar in Edinburgh's West End.

Edinburgh is also home to the recently launched Daffy's Gin while NB Gin has been hand bottled just outside the city in North Berwick since 2013.

The arrival of these new brands has been mirrored by the growing number of bars where gin is the main focus on the gentry and staff will happily

recommend a specific tonic to match each gin. One Square at The Sheraton (see panel) and 56 North on the south side are well established gin bars, while more recent arrivals include Mother's Gin Bar in Stockbridge and the just-opened Jolly Botanist on Morrison Street.

Switched-on bars such as Panda and Sons and the Devil's Advocate would not describe themselves as gin bars, but they are enthusiastic users of the spirit in their innovative cocktails. Both stock Daffy's Gin. Chris Molyneux, the Managing Director of Daffy's, has several theories as to why gin is popular with mixologists.

He said: "Vodka does not have as much to give while whisky can be too harsh and grate too much," he says. "Gin sits well in so many cocktails as it is not overpowering. However, it can have many different attributes that will inspire and define the personality of that drink. The many layers of flavours in Daffy's inspire different

approaches from different mixologists."

As well as gin's popularity with influential cocktail shakers, further proof that it is riding high comes with the news that NB Gin was served at this year's Sony Music BRIT Awards after party.

"Gin is definitely fashionable," says Viv Muir, who co-owns NB Gin with her husband, Steve. "People are seeking variety, quality and something which has a different story to the mainstream brands."

Provenance plays a large part in the story of all the gins mentioned. Drinkers like to know where their drink comes from and who makes it. At Heads and Tales on Rutland Place, Edinburgh Gin fans can take tours of the distillery with one of three Heriot Watt-trained distillers. Pickering's Gin also offer tours around their facilities.

The Scottish provenance of the brands mentioned is a selling point for all of them to a different degree. As well as the name, Edinburgh Gin reinforces its Scottish identity

through using botanicals grown in Scotland, such as juniper berries, pine and milk thistle. The Managing Director of Edinburgh Gin, Alex Nicol is well aware of the commercial appeal of his gin's provenance.

"Scotland is in a fantastic place in the minds of Europeans, Japanese, North Americans and Edinburgh is the icing on the cake," is how he puts it.

When Daffy's launched late last year, it was the fourth gin to come out of Edinburgh and its surrounds in as many years. Will the city's gin boom continue?

If history is any indicator then the answer is yes. When they launched in 2010, Edinburgh Gin commissioned research into the city's distilling past. They discovered that in 1777, at the height of the 18th century gin craze, there were eight licensed distilleries and reputedly almost 400 illegal stills in Edinburgh and the Port of Leith. There may well be room for more now. **PL**



Gin squared

One Square at the Sheraton Grand Hotel has launched its very own small batch premium gin with help from Pickering's at Summerhall Distillery.

The recipe for One Square Gin was devised by the bar's team of gin experts working with Matthew Gammell and Marcus Pickering, the founders of Pickering's Gin.

The London dry gin contains 15 botanicals, including juniper, bog myrtle, pink grapefruit, Scottish heather, Mediterranean liquorice and orris root. Notes of lemon, lime and anise also help make this a citrusy easy-drinking spirit.

You can sample a glass

or even buy a bottle at the bar, but if you want a more immersive gin experience, The Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa has launched a Gin Package (from £230 per night based on two sharing).

It includes a bed and breakfast, gin on arrival, a guided tour of Summerhall Distillery and a chance to soak up some expert gin knowledge from the Gin Concierge team at One Square.

For more information, visit www.OneSquareEdinburgh.co.uk/one-square-gin To book the Gin Package, call 0131 229 9131 or email grandenedinburgh@sheraton.com



WIN...



...a Gin Tasting at One Square for four people

One Square has just launched its own brand of small batch premium gin in collaboration with Pickering's Gin at Summerhall Distillery.

One Square was one of the city's original bars to develop its team with an expert knowledge of gin, ahead of the current gin renaissance.

The bar offers more than 60 premium varieties of gin and hosts tutored tastings – the ideal way to learn everything you need to know about gin.

THE PRIZE: To celebrate the launch of One Square Gin, the winner - plus three guests - will enjoy an exclusive gin tasting at One Square (based on three premium gins with matched tonics per person).

TO ENTER: For a chance to win, visit espc.com/premiercompetition by 31st May 2015 for the online entry form. The winner will be notified by email and announced in the Autumn/Winter issue of Premier Living magazine.

This prize is valid Sunday to Thursday only until 02 July 2015 and is subject to availability.

One Square | 1 Festival Square | Edinburgh | EH3 9SR
www.onesquareedinburgh.co.uk Tel: 0131 221 6422

~ MY EDINBURGH ~

CHRIS WEST

The CEO of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland enjoys spending free time in and around the city



LEFT: Chris West joined RZSS in 2012 and loves living in Edinburgh after years spent in Nigeria and Australia

CHRIS West settled in Edinburgh in 2012 to head up the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), which manages not only Edinburgh Zoo, but also Highland Wildlife Park, as well as a wide range of conservation programmes in Scotland and around the world.

What has been your impression of the city since you settled here?

I was born in Wales, spent my childhood in Nigeria and most of the last 10 years in Australia. My first impression of Edinburgh when I arrived was the sense that there is such a rich history here,

particularly having come from Australia where any building over 100 years old is considered an ancient monument.

Which part of the city is home and what do you think about it?

I love Georgian architecture, so I had my heart set on living in a building from the period in the New Town, which is where I now live. It's a basement flat, with its own garden, which is precious. It's like a little oasis in the city. Where I live is quiet and secluded, but if I take a short walk from my front gate, I'm in the middle of a cosmopolitan city with everything you need.

Any favourite spots in the city?

The list runs quite long, but at the top of it is the Botanic Gardens and the city's museums, particularly the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. When friends visit from Australia I'll take them to Holyrood House, the Scottish Parliament and the Real Mary King's Close.

What about eating out?

My favourite is Earthy on Canonmills, which is good for my wife who is vegetarian because of food allergies.

What are your favourite things to do during the weekend in the city and surrounding areas?

It's good to get out to the Pentland Hills and visit Whitmuir Organic Farm, south of Edinburgh. Another favourite trip is to Jupiter Artland, a stretch of woodland that showcases outdoor art, including sculptures from Charlie Jenks as well as Antony Gormley. It's a great place for contemplation, to eat and to relax.

What drew you to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and Edinburgh Zoo?

Many people may not realise this but RZSS is one of the most prestigious conservation zoo organisations in the world. It has a lot of science-based conservation programmes overseas and in Scotland and it has a pioneering education programme. The Zoo also has a real sense of pride among people in Edinburgh. Those are just some of the reasons I was drawn to RZSS.

Any exciting plans for the Zoo?

From spring until the end of summer we will have a special exhibit called *Dinosaurs Return!* with moving animatronic dinosaurs. The idea is to draw the link between their extinction and the threatened extinction of modern day species. It's also a fantastic chance for kids to get up close and hear the roar of lifelike dinosaurs. **PL**

 **For more information on the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, visit www.rzss.org.uk**

With you and your family every step of the way



Whatever situations you and your family face in life, Allan McDougall Solicitors' award-winning approachable experts are on hand to provide proactive and practical legal advice you can trust.

Whether it's guiding you through a divorce or separation, helping you handle matters related to your children, or putting your affairs in order by making a Will, arranging a Power of Attorney or dealing with various later life issues – we're here for you, throughout your life.

Contact us today on 0500 600 872 or email info@allanmcdougall.co.uk to see how we can help you.

**Complimentary
Will with each new
Power of
Attorney***

Wills
Powers of attorney
Executries
Guardianship and intervention orders
Later life issues and arrangements
Divorce and dissolution of civil partnership
Prenuptial and cohabitation agreements
Separation agreements
Child residence and contact arrangements
Adoption

0500 600 872
info@allanmcdougall.co.uk
www.allanmcdougall.co.uk

* Limited offer. Terms & conditions apply



Allan McDougall
SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS

OYSTER PERPETUAL SUBMARINER DATE



LAING
EDINBURGH

29 FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH EH2 2ND
WWW.LAINGEDINBURGH.COM

WATCH FEATURED SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY