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Autumn/Winter 2017

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LIVING**

*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 designed and published by Connect Publications (Scotland) Ltd on behalf of ESPC. [www.connectcommunications.co.uk](http://www.connectcommunications.co.uk)

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# Welcome

## COME ON IN

### A PREMIER PACKAGE

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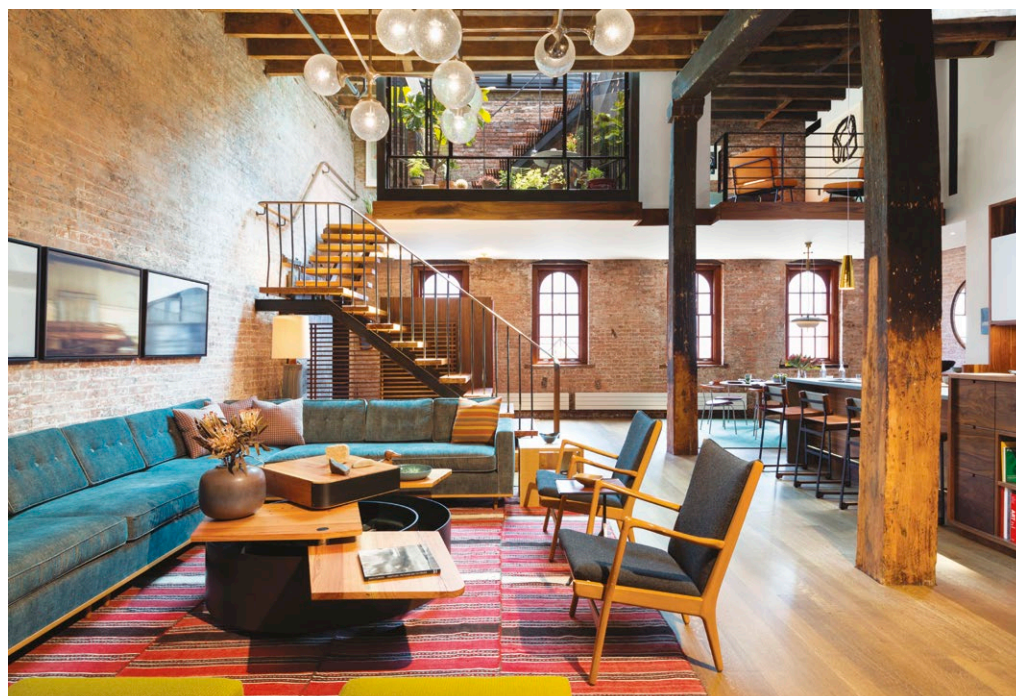
**OUR** autumn/winter edition of *Premier Living* has arrived, and I hope that these pages offer some inspiration to help create a warm, inviting space in your home. If you love the après-ski feel of an alpine chalet, then we have great ideas for creating your own boutique-chalet look, with a Scottish twist. And forget pale walls for enhancing your rooms, because dark and dramatic interiors are making their way into some of the more fashionable homes.

Also in this issue, we explore some of the new Edinburgh gins, with tasty cocktails to try mixing in the comfort of your own home. We also speak with Barry Bryson, owner of Cater Edinburgh, about

hiring a chef for a full-service dinner party in your home.

And make sure you enter our competitions to win an overnight stay at Stobo Castle and for a romantic dinner for two at The Stockbridge Restaurant.

**Caroline Young, Premier Living Editor, ESPC**



## 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 from ESPC. It really has something for everyone. It is published twice a year – in spring/summer and autumn/winter and to celebrate our 15th 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.







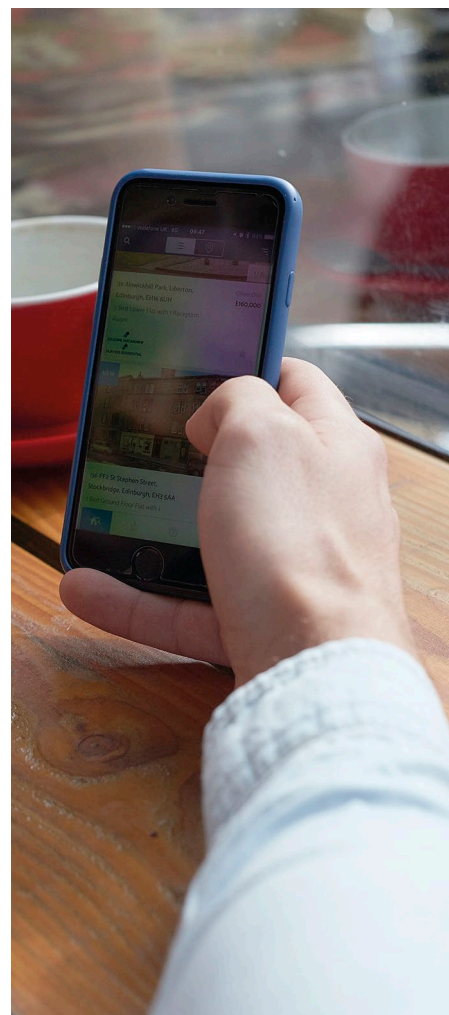
# SEE NEW HOMES FIRST ON ESPC

**WHEN** hunting for a new home, everyone hopes that they will be the first to see new properties as they come on the market. You might want to make sure you have a head start in finding your dream home before it is widely distributed on other property portals. Our latest market research certainly shows this, with 85% of the buyers and sellers that we surveyed saying that being able to find new properties before they are marketed elsewhere was important to them.

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You can easily see if one of the homes that you are interested in is exclusive – there is an eye-catching bright blue sticker on the picture on the search results on our website and app. This means that you can get in there first and view your dream property seven days before it hits other sites. You'll be able to see all the properties that aren't listed anywhere else by simply searching 'exclusive properties only' on the website and app.

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# MUST VIEW

*A rambling river view*

The Water of Leith is one of the most picturesque, tranquil spots in Edinburgh, and from the balcony terrace of this luxury flat in Dean Village, you can take in the views of the river and its foliage. It's hard to believe the city centre is only 10 minutes' walk away from this haven of peace and quiet.

🏠 Flat 5, 2 Bells Mills, Edinburgh, EH4 3DG.  
Priced at offers over £635,000 through ESPC.  
For more information contact Gilson Gray on  
0131 253 2993, or search for this property with  
reference 378848 on [espc.com](https://www.espc.com). EPC rating: C





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# LA DOLCE VITA

*Add bursts of bright colour, pinky golds and ice cream pastels to your living space to create an Italian meets Miami interior*

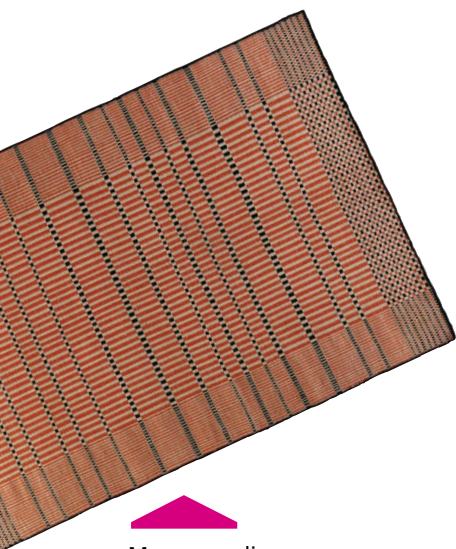


Mogg Ritratti cabinet,  
Go Modern Furniture,  
£3,240, gomodern.co.uk



Lyna cabinet in orange,  
Noxu Home, £1,550, noxuhome.com

Percy armchair  
in fuchsia,  
prices vary,  
Sofa.com



Murray medium  
orange and grey  
woven jute rug,  
Habitat, £120,  
habitat.co.uk

Large multi-coloured footstool,  
A Little Furniture Shop, £395,  
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Malachite stripe urn,  
Jonathan Adler, £448,  
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# INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The Pickle factory, Philadelphia,  
Bright Common architecture and design,  
photograph by Jaime Alvarez

*Once-derelict factories and warehouses have become much sought after by those with lofty ambitions to an open-plan style of urban living*

**THE** industrial look of converted warehouses, from New York factories to former distilleries in Scotland, has become a phenomenon, with open-plan, stripped-back spaces becoming one of the most sought-after styles of living.

After doing up and living in a Grade II listed granary in south-east London, writer Sophie Bush has shared her own experience in her new book *Warehouse Home: Industrial Inspiration for Twenty-First Century Living*.

Sophie traces warehouse living back to 1950s New York, when artists moved into derelict industrial buildings in lower Manhattan, regenerating the area that became known as Soho. These bohemian homes became hugely fashionable in the 80s and 90s, and spread globally to other urban areas.

Sophie explores striking warehouse

*Continued on page 12*



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*Continued from page 10*

homes around the world, from a biscuit factory in Florence to a clog factory in London, and the images and information offer inspiration.

She explores the distinctive characteristics of these buildings – original wood, steel and concrete pillars, trusses, brickwork and exposed beams, and showcases how you can enhance them to create a liveable space.

Sophie also provides tips on how to recreate the warehouse aesthetic by repurposing pallets and breeze blocks to create furniture, using retired aeroplane machinery to make lights, vintage rulers for homeware and decorative prints, and galvanised piping for bed frames.

Here are a selection of warehouses explored in the book.

#### PRINTWORKS, LONDON

The Factory takes its name from Andy Warhol's infamous New York studio, and was converted from an Edwardian printworks in 1999. Interior designer and salvage expert Mark Rochester sourced reclaimed material and antique panels from a church, to help create separate living areas, while retaining the flow of light.

#### CAVIAR WAREHOUSE, NEW YORK

This Tribeca loft on the top floor of a

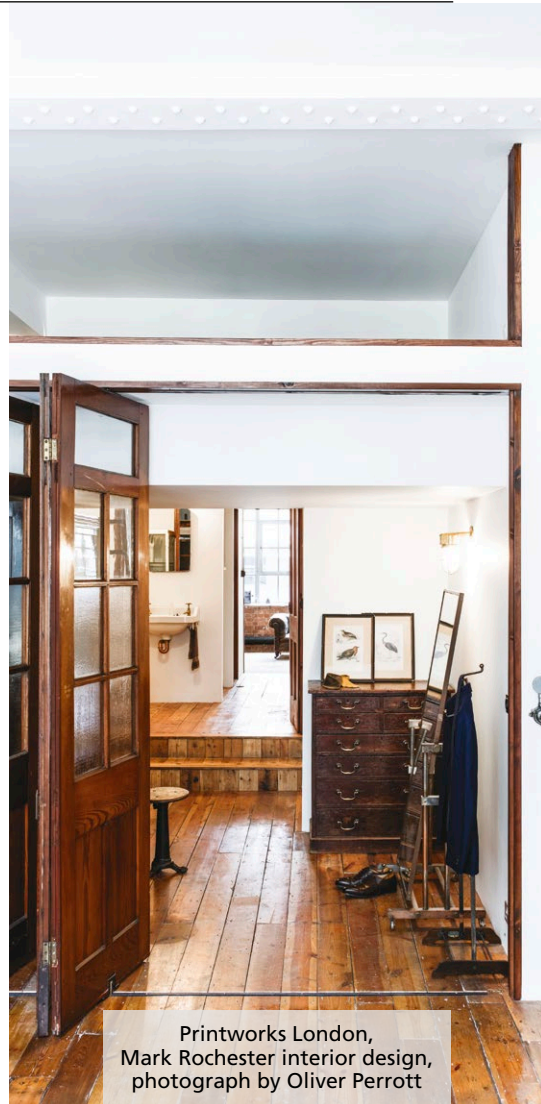
**“Sophie also provides tips on how to recreate the warehouse aesthetic by repurposing pallets to create furniture”**

19th century caviar warehouse was conceived as a space for entertaining, using vintage pieces to complement the arched windows, brick walls and timber beams. The steel staircase was specially commissioned, using ceiling joists from the roof, which leads to a mezzanine, and beyond it, a sunken garden with views to the Hudson.

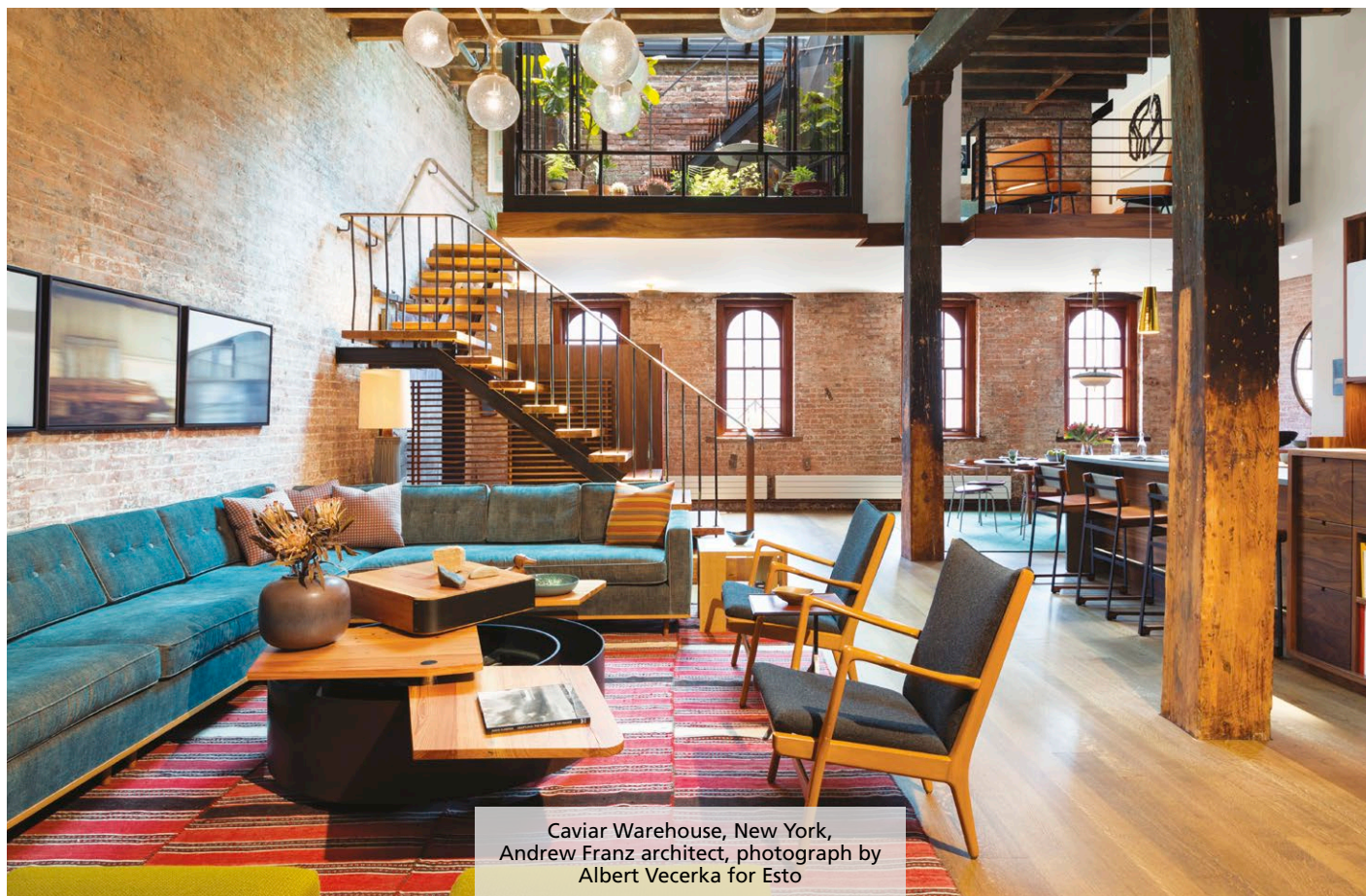
#### PICKLE FACTORY, PHILADELPHIA

In this converted pickle factory, (pictured p10) in Philadelphia's Fishtown neighbourhood, the motor from the original service elevator of the building is fixed to exposed ceiling beams. It creates an eye-catching feature for a sleek white kitchen and tiled backdrop.

**WAREHOUSE HOME: INDUSTRIAL INSPIRATION FOR TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LIVING BY SOPHIE BUSH, IS PUBLISHED BY THAMES AND HUDSON, PRICED AT £24.95.**



Printworks London, Mark Rochester interior design, photograph by Oliver Perrott



Caviar Warehouse, New York, Andrew Franz architect, photograph by Albert Vecerka for Esto



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# HEART OF THE HOME

**THE** kitchen is not only where we cook and eat. It's often where we socialise and entertain, play games, watch television and help with the homework. You want this space to be as adaptable and functional as possible, as well as a space that wows those who are visiting your home. But what are the new trends for an ultra-modern, inspiring home? And how does your washing machine and dishwasher fit into this?

Over the last year, kitchen design answered the needs of customers with busy lives, who are after a flexible space for multi-tasking. A home-office space is a popular inclusion in many new kitchens, which would include a docking station for recharging phones, as more people enjoy doing work in the warmth and comfort of the kitchen. Many homeowners are also eschewing the traditional kitchen table in favour of a kitchen island or breakfast bar, which suits the need for flexibility and multi-purpose space.

If your kitchen needs updating, you may also want to consider it as an investment. Those looking to buy a new home often

*Kitchens that have a family focus can help you sell your property*

consider a new, stylish kitchen as a must-have and will certainly impress all those people who come to look at your property. "Well designed kitchens can make a big difference to the saleability of your property and hence the price you achieve," says Richard Loudon, partner at Simpson and Marwick. "My advice is always to keep it sleek and simple. Don't over-fit the kitchen. You obviously need plenty of work surface but often islands result in not enough space for a good size dining table to host friends for supper. A large fridge freezer and a wine cooler can often help too."

It may not increase the value by a huge amount, but it could mean that your home sells faster, says Mark Coulter, managing director of Coulters. "The key to a great kitchen is not necessarily to spend a fortune, but to design it to suit modern lifestyles," he says. "Kitchens are

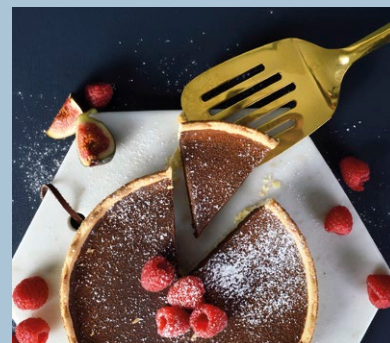
now multi-functional and less defined, as there is a lot more that happens in kitchens than when people used to have oversized kitchens and dining rooms. What people typically want now is a family-friendly area which is useable every day."







## Kitchens of distinction



### QUARTZ AND BRASS FINISHES

Along with granite and marble, quartz worktops are becoming more popular, for a natural and hardy finish which complements the vogue for brass detail on handles. Check out the gold spatula and marble chopping board by Mia Fleur, £20.95 and £32, [miafleur.com](http://miafleur.com)

### STONE SINKS

We have all seen how stylish butler's sinks can look in a kitchen, but some of the new styles include a long trough sink, which will add an industrial feel, and the use of stone, such as granite in a variety of colours, including, white, cream and grey.

### KITCHEN COLOURS

Instead of white and natural wood, blue and darker-coloured kitchens are found in the most fashionable homes. Dusky blues can offer a nice contrast to stripped or painted floorboards and pale walls, while midnight and charcoal can work in harmony with brass.



Above: kitchen painted in Bond Street matt emulsion paint, £44 for 2.5l, Mylands Paints, [mylands.com](http://mylands.com)

Left: island units can form a central hub in the kitchen, as with this one in Randolph Crescent, in the New Town



### GEOMETRIC TILING

White subway tiling has been the predominant trend over the last few years, but expect to see geometric tiles making an impact in 2018. Used as splashbacks and for floors, the hexagonal shapes can add interesting detail, with sparkling and coloured designs adding more texture.



# KITCHEN DESIGNS

*If you love cooking and need a home with a spacious, chic and comfortable kitchen, then these should fit the bill*



## **17 ERNGATH ROAD, BO'NESS EH51 9EN**

OFFERS OVER £595,000

The kitchen in this extensive five-bedroom detached Victorian villa in Bo'ness is spacious and incredibly elegant. The moss-green walls complement the white of the cornicing and intricate wood panelling, while the wooden flooring adds to the farmhouse kitchen feel. The kitchen itself is very well equipped, with lots of drawers and storage areas integrated into the lengthy kitchen worktop and island unit, which could also be used for casual family gatherings and breakfasts. The traditional bay window with comfy window seat is the perfect spot to enjoy a coffee in the morning while taking in the views of the garden.

📞 Contact solicitor estate agent **Coulters** on 0131 253 2215, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 377379. EPC rating: D

## **8 LARKFIELD GARDENS, TRINITY, EDINBURGH EH5 3QA**

OFFERS OVER £815,000

This modern, Georgian-inspired townhouse in a luxury development in Trinity has a bright and inspiring open-plan kitchen and dining area, and the funky feature wall really enhances this unique space. The sleek white units, central island and innovative built-in equipment provide the tools for relaxed cooking, while enjoying the views from the bi-fold doors to the garden. These can be opened right up to let the light and air into the room. It's the type of room that would draw in the whole family, whether it's for doing homework on the kitchen table or enjoying casual suppers with friends.

📞 Contact solicitor estate agent **Murray Beith Murray** on 0131 253 2202, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 379152. EPC rating: B



## **13 CLAREMONT CRESCENT, EDINBURGH EH7 4HX**

OFFERS OVER £925,000

Entering into this four-bedroom townhouse in Claremont Crescent is a delight, with its stylish, modern interior décor, combined with the traditional period features of an exclusive New Town property, including a cupola, Doric columns, wrought-iron balconies and window shutters.

The Colin Wong-designed kitchen is particularly inspiring, with its pale ice-cream tones that complement the stripped wooden floorboards, and a large, well-equipped kitchen island. It comes with integrated Neff appliances, some of which are the latest must-haves in kitchen-ware, including a warming plate, wine cooler and instant hot water tap.

📞 Contact solicitor estate agent: **Simpson and Marwick** on 0131 253 2171, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 382086. EPC rating: E







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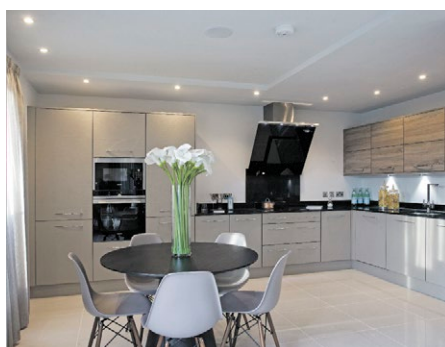


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When Quality Matters

[www.amahomes.co.uk](http://www.amahomes.co.uk)



# MODERN VICTORIAN

*The interior of this period home makes for a great contemporary living space*



**THIS** extensive eight-bedroom terraced home in Merchiston, one of Edinburgh's most desirable areas, offers a contemporary twist on a classic Victorian property.

Spread out over three floors, 57 Colinton Road has many wonderful period features that are complemented by its modern fittings in the bathrooms and kitchen, fresh and bright décor, and an open living space on the ground floor.

The period sitting room at the front of the house has a huge bay window and intricate cornicing, stripped floorboards and a dramatic mantelpiece. An open archway leads through to the kitchen and this in turn leads to the dining room, creating the sense of an open-plan space. The beautiful sunroom extension, leading from the kitchen, uses the building's original stone walls as a contrasting feature, while bi-fold doors take full advantage of its south-west facing back garden.

A curved staircase leads to the upper two floors where you will find the eight bedrooms and two bathrooms. The master bedroom, which sits above the living space, also has a huge bay window to allow in lots of light, and a dressing area.

From the ground floor hallway, stairs lead down to the house-length cellar, which could serve as storage space or could be adapted for further accommodation. With its large garden enclosed by a stone wall, and a patio area for relaxing outside, this home has all the comforts of quiet family living.

📍 **57 Colinton Road, Merchiston EH10 5EE. Offers over £850,000. Contact solicitor estate agent: Coulters on 0131 253 2215, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 383125. EPC rating: D**







“The period sitting room at the front of the house has a huge bay window and intricate cornicing”





*Make the most of your home by showing it at its best. We share our ideas for some of the best ways to lift the mood*

# LIGHT

**GOOD** lighting can really lift the mood and character of a room, and by using a variety of illumination points you can shape the atmosphere of your living space.

Lynne Connelly, an associate with Edinburgh lighting architects Lighting Design Partnership International (LDPI), says that lighting is intrinsic to how comfortable we feel in a space. "It affects how materials look, where our attention is focused, how we circulate an area and ultimately whether or not we wish to spend time there. Light can be used to create atmosphere – control of lighting levels via dimming is important to be able to change a space from a functional, productive environment to a more relaxed environment for evening entertainment."

Firstly, think about how you want to use the room, and what ambience you wish to create. If it's a study, then you need good task lighting for reading, while a dining or entertaining space may require a more dramatic mood, with downlighting or wall lights. "For lounge and dining areas we would recommend very limited downlights," says Lynne. "Most importantly not directly above seating areas as this can be uncomfortable to sit in. We would also advise against having downlights near the location of a

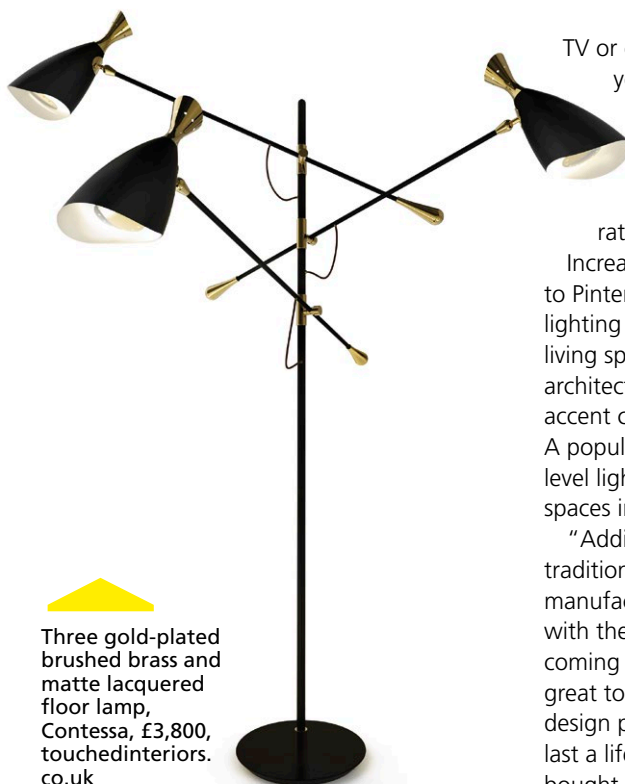
Loft floor lamp in hammered finish, Jieldé, £670, [pib-home.co.uk](http://pib-home.co.uk)



Circus black and white stripe floor lamp, The French Bedroom Co, £465, frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk



Three gold-plated brushed brass and matte lacquered floor lamp, Contessa, £3,800, touchedinteriors.co.uk



TV or computer, as the glare will detract your attention when looking at the screen. Pendants over a dining table always look better in multiples so we would advise selecting two smaller pendants rather than one large one."

Increasingly, homeowners are turning to Pinterest for inspiration when using lighting as a design feature in their living space. Spotlights can highlight architectural details and features, or accent corners of rooms and bookcases. A popular trend is also to add low-level lighting to stairs and circulation spaces in order to lift the area.

"Additionally, some of the more traditional decorative lighting manufacturers are becoming popular, with the contemporary industrial aesthetic coming to the fore," says Lynne. "This is great to see, as the products are classic design pieces, and in some cases will last a lifetime. While many can only be bought through websites such as Made.com and Swoon Editions they are still making contemporary product design more accessible for the home consumer."

Traditional Edinburgh properties,

*Continued on page 22*

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*Continued from page 21*

with their high ceilings, are particularly flexible when it comes to lighting. "Downlights at the edges of rooms direct light on to walls and vertical surfaces – this will enhance the generously proportioned spaces at night.

Additionally, where there are traditional details such as columns or fireplaces, it would be great to add directional light to enhance these features. Ceiling roses look great with a feature pendant and the scale of some living areas tend to allow for larger feature pendants."



Cyrus F Cemento floor lamp, Babatude Boutique, £495, [babatude.com](http://babatude.com)



Diva sculptural light, Northern Lighting, £1,922, [moletamunro.com](http://moletamunro.com)



Bell floor light, Tom Dixon, £845, [rume.co.uk](http://rume.co.uk)



Pine Cone lamp, Bo Concept, £459, [boconcept.com](http://boconcept.com)



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Typical Arran exterior

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# DRAMA CLASS

*Add a touch of theatre to your home with bold acts of colour*



Splashes of strong colour add interest and drama to any interior scheme



**THERE** is definitely a trend for darker colours in decoration, which takes me back to my roots in interior design. Recent years have seen a vogue for a sleeker look with varying shades of pale grey dominating – and there certainly remains a place for this, but my heart has always been in bolder, warmer schemes.

You can engage with stronger colour palettes either by leaping in, going the whole hog and immersing yourself in a wrap-around of rich colours to create a luxurious cocoon, or you can mix a strong main colour with a second lighter colour, or pops of brighter colours, elsewhere in the scheme.

Approach your project by creating a strong backdrop to your room – try painting the walls with one of the fabulous paint colours currently available. Two of my own current favourites are Ink, from Zoffany (a rich, warm grey) and Squid Ink, from Paint and Paper Library (a charcoal-blue – conjuring up a squirt of ink from a beautiful old fountain pen). A bedroom with Squid Ink walls and matching rich velvet curtains would create the perfect canvas for a selection

of jewel-coloured accessories – perhaps a bold, red geometric headboard with co-ordinating cushions and throw. The dark walls really encourage the brighter colours to sing, and it is no coincidence that some of the more opulent galleries paint their walls in deep dark colours that allow the brilliance of their art to hold centre stage. This creates a real sense of drama in a space, allowing individual elements to stand out without jarring.

Alternatively, why not pick out the woodwork in a strong colour? It is hard to be enthusiastic about white woodwork that can drain a room of warmth and personality, and I am a huge fan of dark woodwork in any room – for example, charcoal looks fabulous and accentuates architectural features. But you can choose any colour by selecting a paint a few shades darker than the tone of your walls or the background colour of your wallpaper. To totally transform your room, take the wall colour up and over the ceiling.

If this sounds a little overwhelming, take the plunge with deep-coloured walls, but perhaps lighten the scheme with

paler woodwork (a soft white or one of the 95 graduated shades of Paint and Paper Libraries' wonderful Architectural Colours). Combined with a light, painted floor, white ceramic lamps and shot through with some bright cushions and throws for oomph, you will still have created a warm, characterful room.

Even if your preference is for a more neutral scheme, you can still combine this with darker colours. That fabulous Ink shade I mentioned will work just as well with natural fabrics such as raw linens, tan leathers, rattan and sisal, giving you a more urban but no less rich environment.

The vital point is not to be scared of colour but to embrace it – with the right lighting, strong colours will not make your room dark. After all, if all the world is a stage, a dash of theatre is just what you need to add some drama and character to your home.

 **Jacqueline Fiskien is design director of Ampersand Interiors at 73 Dublin Street, Edinburgh. Contact: 0131 557 6634 and [www.ampersandinteriors.co.uk](http://www.ampersandinteriors.co.uk)**







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# THE DARK SIDE



**WHEN** it comes to adding colour to our homes, often it is thought that lighter walls are more adaptable. However, we've recently seen a resurgence in dramatic, dark colours – from slate greys to deep greens and navy blue, and even almost black, to create dramatic, impactful interiors.

Despite the common assertion that dark colours make a room feel smaller, moody tones can in fact help open out a room. Farrow and Ball advise that using darker colours in a hallway can instantly make other lighter rooms off the hallway

*Far from being austere and cold, moody blues can help to open out a room*

seem brighter and bigger – by providing that contrast between light and dark. Similarly, a smaller room with limited natural light can also benefit from a darker palette. Rather than painting it white, why not try warmer, darker colours to create a cosy haven with a vintage feel?

We asked Sarah Foster, paint and

wallpaper manager at Fired Earth, for her tips on achieving dark interiors.

**WHEN IT COMES TO DARK INTERIORS, WHAT TRENDS ARE YOU SEEING?**

There's a noticeable move towards really dark and dramatic palettes. Far from being austere or foreboding, dark colours can actually be very restful, and Fired Earth's Top Hat is a good example. This crushed-velvet black has a lovely, soft finish and is amazingly versatile. Rich, botanical greens are surprisingly versatile too, and a colour such as Malachite works brilliantly with accents



“Rather than painting it white, why not try warmer, darker colours to create a cosy haven with a vintage feel”

of copper, wood and stone. Deep, jewel-like reds and purples such as Cochineal, Dragon's Blood and Amethyst are a glamorous choice for boudoir-style bedrooms and opulent bathrooms, and they also look set to be really popular this autumn and winter.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING DARK COLOURS AND WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE PEOPLE IN INCORPORATING THEM INTO THEIR INTERIOR DESIGN?**

Dark colours can be very calming and have the ability to really 'warm up' a scheme. As with lighter palettes, you can layer different shades and textures to ensure plenty of visual appeal, even if you're working with, say, a predominantly black palette. For example, Fired Earth's Vermont kitchen cabinetry in a Top Hat finish would look stunning against a backdrop of grey-black slate tiles or decorative tiling that contains black detailing. The main thing is to be bold, particularly when it comes to choosing paint colours – you can always repaint the room if you think the scheme looks too dark. The chances are, though, that you're more likely to be so pleased with the results that you'll want to experiment with darker palettes throughout your home.

**FOR DECORATING A SMALL ROOM, DO DARK COLOURS STILL WORK?**

Dark colours can definitely work in small spaces, emphasising the fact that a compact room can still be glamorous, sophisticated and inviting. A dark palette can really bring out the sense of warmth in a room, making it feel



like a haven or sanctuary, and ensuring that it's a relaxing place to unwind in.

**ARE THERE PARTICULAR COLOURS THAT CAN EVOKE CERTAIN MOODS?**

Deep, inky blues and forest greens are particularly soothing colours, while fiery reds and dark oranges can be very energising and uplifting.

Opposite page: Walls in Top Hat matt emulsion, Fired Earth, £39.50 for 2.5 litres. Babylon copper bath with matt charcoal enamel exterior and a polished nickel interior, £6,650. Marrakech tiles in Hammam, £19.94 per tile. Fired Earth, Edinburgh, 0131 220 2611, firedearth.com

Above: Mahogany State Emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow and Ball, 0131 226 2216, farrow-ball.com

## Popular pigments



As paint and colour experts in the local community, we have seen colour trends shift in 2017 towards light greys and deeper colours in general. This is quite a change from when creams and off-whites were popular for a lengthy period of time.

In addition, we have seen a shift in trends for the type of paint customers would like the colours to be made in. Those with larger homes or with



heritage properties are looking for more than just a colour choice. Therefore, we have seen that rather than choosing high street designer paints, they are more likely to invest in both specialist decorators and more durable paints that will last the test of time. We understand that it can be a minefield when choosing colours as well as the right type of paint. Hopefully our staff in store, online or through social media will help our customers navigate to the most informed choice to suit their tastes and their property.

**Michael Rolland, The Paint Shed**



# INTO THE DEEP

*If you are thinking of incorporating moodier interiors into your home, be inspired by these dramatic rooms in amazing properties*



## **CRAIGIEHALL TEMPLE, 66 CAMMO ROAD EH12 0AR**

OFFERS OVER £895,000

A circular stone temple dating from 1759 forms the focal point of this large property, which has been extended further with a contemporary modern house. The temple itself features an octagonal dining hall and a turret bedroom with en suite above it, and with their thick stone walls, deep-set windows and wood panels, they lend themselves to dramatic, dark décor. Craigiehall Temple features a splendid pillared portico by Sir William Bruce, the architect of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The portico was originally designed for the mansion of Craigiehall, by the River Almond. It was built for the second Earl of Annandale, and his arms are carved above the entrance.

📞 Contact solicitor Clancy Hendrie Legal on 0131 253 2998, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) and search with reference 382244. EPC rating: D

## **5 VINE STREET, CLOVENFORDS, GALASHIELS TD1 3LU**

OFFERS OVER £555,000

This Scottish Borders home is full of drama. The vaulted ceiling, exposed wooden beams and stone walls of the dining area in this Victorian country pile creates the sense of a gothic medieval banquet hall. Other rooms in the home offer a contrast with their light décor to suit the high ceilings, period fireplaces and skylight windows. The kitchen has a four-oven Aga, there is a utility room with Belfast sinks and appliances, modern bathroom suites, and plenty of storage. The home is surrounded by beautiful gardens, which are sheltered and secluded by tall trees and shrubbery. It also comes with a summer house, an orchard, a double garage and a large driveway and parking area.

📞 Contact solicitor Mov8 on 0131 253 2982, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) and search with reference 381382. EPC rating: G

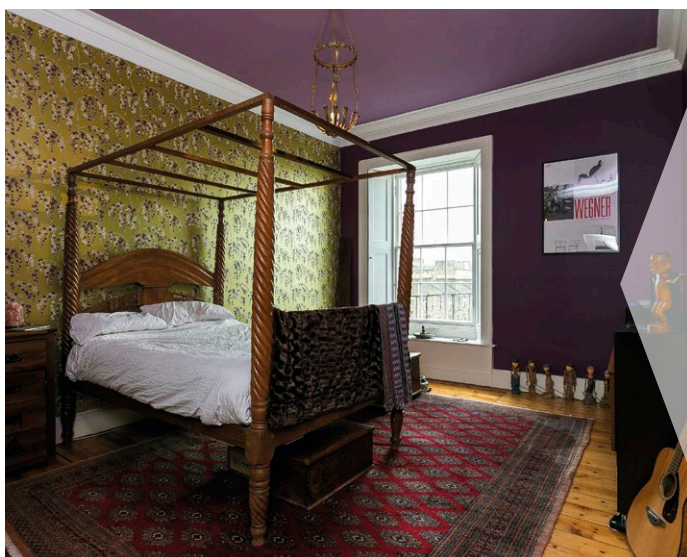


## **94/5 DUNDAS STREET, EDINBURGH EH3 6RQ**

OFFERS OVER £630,000

Every room in this New Town flat is to be lusted after, but the bedroom uses plum and gold tones to create a really opulent space. The colour of the walls really works with the stripped floorboards and the traditional window with shutters, while the white cornicing and skirting boards add a lightness and contrast to the dark tones. Some antique pieces, including the stunning four-poster bed, and ethnic patterned fabrics add to the overall exotic effect. This three-bedroom top-floor flat in a great position has many more stylish touches throughout, with a great colour palette that adds vibrancy and complements the high ceilings, archways and natural floors.

📞 Contact solicitor estate agent Mov8 on 0131 253 2982, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 381110. EPC rating: D





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Edinburgh EH3 6TD  
0131 247 8000



# HAPPY CHALET

*Bring the warmth and rustic charm  
of an Alpine retreat to your home*

**WHETHER** it's in Chamonix, Gstaad or beside Lake Geneva, escaping to a chalet in the Alps for a luxury winter holiday offers a warm and cosy environment among clean air and beautiful views. There's something heartening and relaxing about the way chalets combine natural wood and stone, with a roaring fire, faux fur throws and luxury blankets. And après ski wouldn't be complete without a 1970s retro vibe of rich, indulgent fondue and buckets of champagne.

Scottish homes lend themselves to chalet-style interiors because of the natural resources of the country, and the similarities of the landscape and climate with the Alps. For a Scottish twist, add tartan and tweed to wood interiors, and combine stag and antler motifs with metallic finishes, such as designs by Edinburgh silversmith Sheila Jardine, who handcrafts wall sculptures from copper wire.

Aveline Evans, owner of Halidon Home on Dundas Street, says that simplicity and nature are the key characteristics of the Alps. "Emulating

the cosiness of an Alpine chalet calls for the use of simple raw materials in an unfinished manner, including stone, cast iron and obviously wood.

"You can easily accessorise a room with leather, hides and sheepskin to keep the style simple, such as with a hand-finished butterfly chair or three-legged stool. It's having natural materials and a combination of textures that help create the warmth and rustic charm of the chalet style.

Photo frames in cow hide, candle holders in reclaimed wood, fur throws or cushions and antlers are key touches that add to the theme."

PHOTOGRAPH: ANGUS BREMINER



**Wychwood comb back  
settle**, The Real Wood  
Furniture Company,  
£2,495, [scrumpie.co.uk](http://scrumpie.co.uk)



**Sheepskin footstool**,  
Smithers of Stamford, £622,  
[smithersofstamford.com](http://smithersofstamford.com)

**Square cow  
hide stool**  
with wood  
legs in brown,  
black or grey,  
Halidon  
home  
interiors,  
£130,  
[halidonthome.co.uk](http://halidonthome.co.uk)





“Natural materials help  
create the warmth and  
charm of the chalet style”



**Rannoch Chaise**, Fisk,  
Amperand Interiors, £4,750,  
amperandinteriors.co.uk



**Griff Baa bar stool**,  
Lime Lace, £250,  
limelace.co.uk



**Cairngorm wool/cotton throw**,  
Anta, £180, anta.co.uk



**Iceland sheepskin pouffe**,  
Haledon Home Interiors, £260,  
halidohome.co.uk



# CHALET-STYLE HOMES

*If you are inspired by the après-ski interiors of Alpine chalets, then here are some homes that lend themselves to creating the look*



## THE RIG, HADDINGTON, ABERLADY, EAST LoTHIAN EH32 0RX

OFFERS OVER £550,000

This quaint period farmhouse in Aberlady has been adapted to create a comfortable, well-planned family home with plenty of country charm. The extensive wood panelling and underfloor heating on the ground floor really creates the sense of a cosy chalet. The kitchen, with its exposed beams, stone walls, tiled floor and Aga, create a rambling, relaxed feel, enhanced with the extended kitchen island and breakfasting bar. The home comes with a separate garden studio that provides extra living space, and with a wood burning stove, this space is available to use all year round.

📞 Contact Simpson and Marwick on 01620 532654, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 381748. EPC rating: E

## 8 ZETLAND PLACE, EDINBURGH EH5 3LY

OFFERS OVER £630,000

This double-upper flat in a grand Victorian villa in Trinity has some fantastic period features and warm interior décor. The welcoming hallway has a cupola that allows light to flood in, while a gallery with wooden bannisters looks down on the floor below. The wine-coloured lounge with intricate cornicing and marble mantelpiece is warm and inviting, and not only has a bay window, but also has two sets of high wood-panelled windows overlooking Stirling Road and Lomond Park. The dining area with mantelpiece has a country feel to it, as does the large, homely kitchen with tiled flooring.

📞 Contact solicitor estate agent Connor Malcolm on 0131 253 2331, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) and search for reference 382504. EPC rating: D



## GOSMOUNT HILL FARM, COLDINGHAM TD14 5QB

OFFERS AROUND £475,000

Originally a farmhouse and barn, Gosmount Hill Farm has been developed and extended in recent years to provide a unique combination of four-bedroom house with an annex that would be perfect as a granny suite or for letting out. The lounge is a unique space with vaulted, wood-paneled ceiling, full-height windows that look out over the extensive gardens and trees, stripped floorboards and a marble fireplace. The remodelled kitchen, with Indian slate flooring, has extensive dining space and a contemporary and stylish fitted kitchen designed by Countryside Kitchens. The chalet theme continues in one of the bedrooms with sloped roof, exposed beams and Velux window.

📞 Contact solicitor estate agent Hastings Legal on 01573 225999, or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 377449. EPC rating: F





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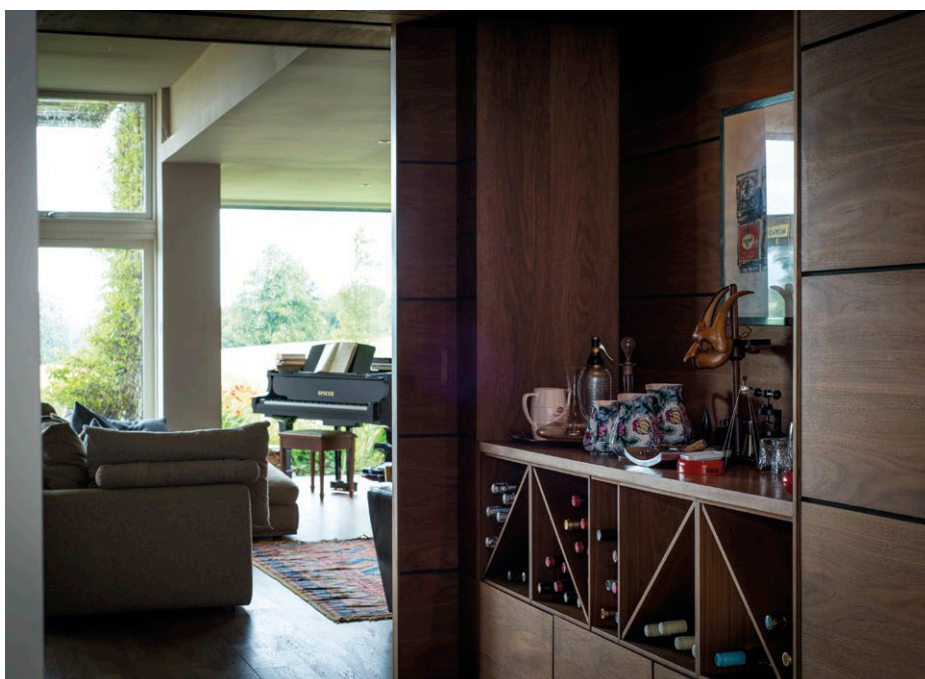
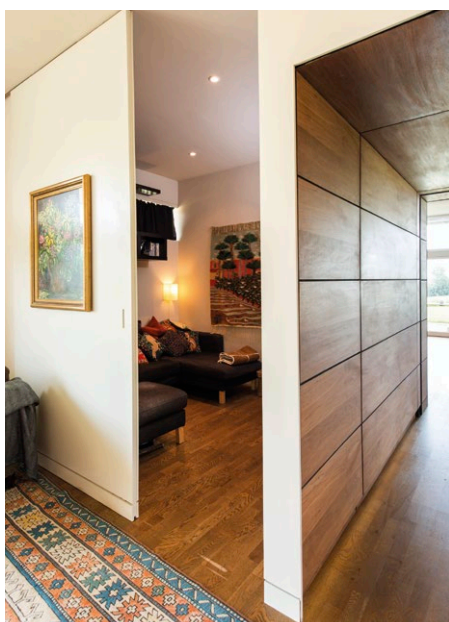


# HOPE AND GLORY

*Nestled in the Midlothian countryside, this masterpiece  
of modern architecture is a perfect family home*







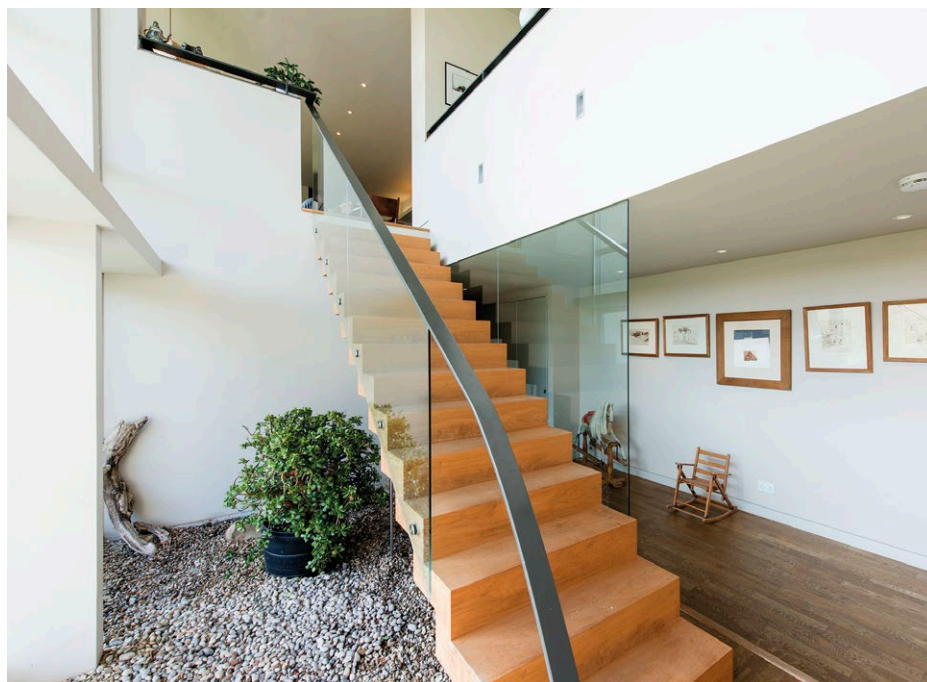
**HAVING** memorably been featured on TV's *Grand Designs*, Hope House is a sustainable modern home that blends with the beautiful Midlothian countryside, providing an extensive space that connects the indoors with the outside. No wonder it was named as an all-time favourite of the show's presenter Kevin McCloud.

Owners Pru and Richard Irvine completed their dream home in 2007, after having bought the land near Pathhead three years before. The area was a lime kiln up until the mid-1850s, and these unique and historic stone structures have been retained and used as a feature of the home. An original stone cottage, Little Hope, which had fallen into disrepair, was built up again by the Irvines, and they lived there while their new home was being constructed.

The building of Hope House took nine

*Continued on page 38*









*Continued from page 36*

months and this relatively quick time was because they were so prepared.

"We were so clear about what we wanted," says Pru. "We had already restored a lot of houses – Victorian and Georgian homes – and so we decided that we wanted to do this ourselves. We created a 17-page brief for architects, we interviewed 14 and chose Edinburgh architects Icosis in the end.

"The principle aim was to be sustainable and we wanted to use local materials and local builders. We wanted to use natural materials such as wood and glass, and we didn't want any steel and just a little concrete.

"Our home has a living sedum roof, the paint on the wall is clay paint and we used limestone to reflect the history of the lime kilns."

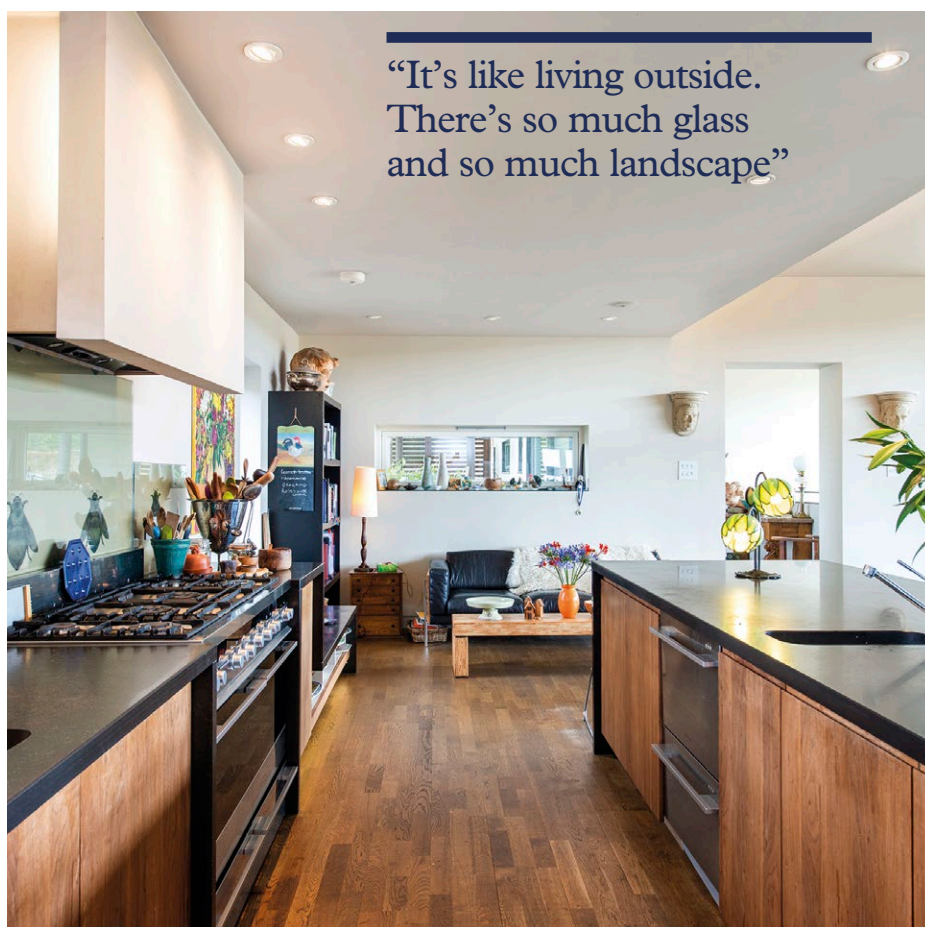
The south-facing seating area by the old kilns is truly idyllic – situated by the pond, with a pizza oven built into the stone, and guests can enjoy freshly made pizza and drinks looking out over the water, the meadows and orchard.

With extensive terraces, five bedrooms and four en suite bathrooms, a 'floating' staircase with double-height ceiling, the modern open-plan kitchen and dining room with full height glass windows looking out to the terrace and wildflower meadows, choosing a favourite feature proves difficult.

"It's such a beautiful place and the home has such a calm feel to it. It's sort of like living outside. There's so much glass and so much landscape, and because of how it's positioned, it can feel a million miles away, even though it's only 20 minutes away from Edinburgh. It's a very easy place to live," says Pru.

As well as featuring on *Grand Designs*, with the crew following the building

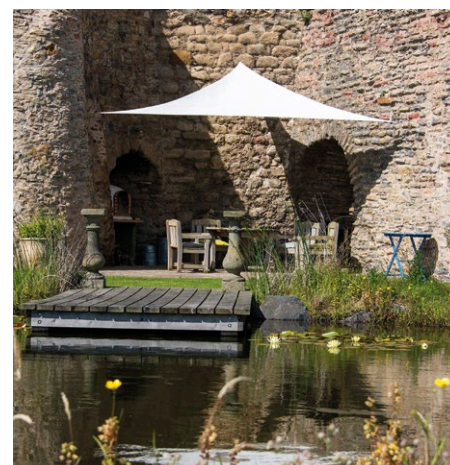
**"It's like living outside.  
There's so much glass  
and so much landscape"**



process and visiting more than 20 times to record the journey, Hope House has also been commended by the Saltire Society and Edinburgh Architectural Association.

For the Irvines, it has been a wonderful, life-changing 11 years and with their plans for moving to the Island of Colonsay to try Hebridean living, Hope House is now ready for a new family to experience it.

**📍 Hope House, by Pathhead, Midlothian EH37 5SJ. Offers over £925,000. Contact solicitor estate agent: Simpson and Marwick on 0131 253 2171 or visit [espc.com](http://espc.com) with reference 383208. EPC rating: C.**





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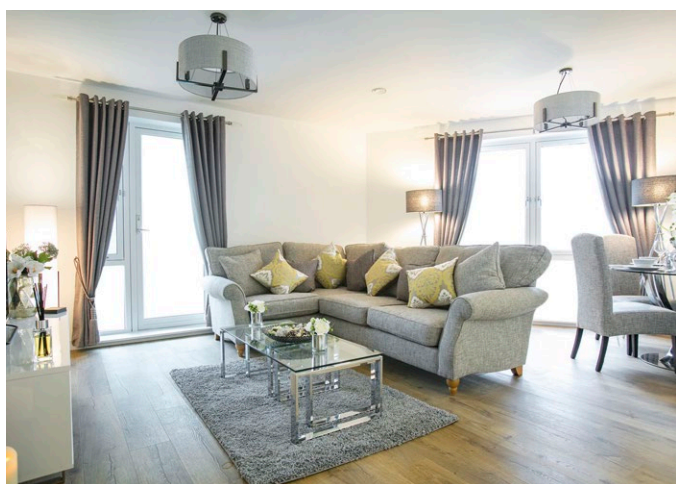
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# MOTHER'S RUIN REINVENTED

*There's been an explosion in the amount of gin distilleries opening recently, and many of them are in Edinburgh*

**THERE'S** no denying that, following in the wake of the craft beer craze, gin is now one of Scotland's most popular spirits with new distilleries and brands seeming to launch almost every month. With Scottish gins, from Solway Spirits in Dumfries and Galloway, to Kirkjuvagr in Orkney, offering a huge range of different botanicals, the spirit's appeal lies in its diversity and versatility.

Unlike whisky, which must mature for at least three years before it can be sold, gin can be produced relatively quickly, in easily constructed copper stills, allowing younger, independent distillers to move into the market, shifting public taste away from typical brands like Gordon's and Bombay Sapphire.

In 2016 the equivalent of 1.12 billion glasses of gin and tonic were consumed in the UK, according to the Wine and Spirit Trade Association. And Scotland now produces 70 per cent of this gin, as the spirit has reinvented its past image as "mother's ruin" to become the fashionable spirit of sophisticated bars.

David Wilkinson, head distiller at Edinburgh Gin, says that the increase in popularity of gin is down to a number of reasons. "There has been a rise in cocktail culture, and as gin is such an important base for so many cocktails it tends to mean an increase in gin consumption," he says.

"There also seems to be a push towards quality over quantity in terms of alcohol – people seem much more

willing to spend that little bit more on a special bottle. There is a move towards wanting to see where your food and drink comes from and much more interest in seeing the production, which is useful for the gin industry as we can make it quickly, and it doesn't need to be aged.

"Compared to whisky, the regulations around making gin are much less complicated. This breeds creativity because the combinations of botanicals are endless."

It's in the port of Leith where the spirit's

---

**"There seems to be a push towards quality over quantity in terms of alcohol – people seem much more willing to spend that little bit more on a special bottle"**

long history in Scotland can be traced, when in the 18th and 19th centuries vast amounts of 'genever', the Dutch version of gin, were brought in by the Dutch East India Company. Leith, as an area thriving with warehouses and glass making, began making its own gin in response to the huge popularity of the drink in Edinburgh and London,

using the juniper, sugar and grain being imported into the port.

In the 19th century, there were about 40 gin distilleries in Edinburgh and many more illegal distilleries, serving up the spirit to the masses of people who couldn't get enough of it. Scottish gin also had an impact on London shifting from the traditional Old Tom, a heavier, sweet gin, to what is known as London dry.

However, gin soon had competition from whisky, which became the predominant spirit manufactured in Leith through the 20th century. Melrose Drover, Edinburgh's last traditional gin distillery, closed down in 1974. The Scottish gin revolution was sparked when Hendrick's Gin launched with a marketing strategy in 1999 based on it being served with cucumber over lime.

Gin combines raw spirit with a mix of botanicals, beginning with juniper, and blending ingredients like coriander, rosehip, angelica root and citruses. It's these botanicals that make each brand and bottling unique.

"Gin has always been popular, but it's had a changing clientele, and people are more knowledgeable nowadays about what they want," argues Miran Chauhan, bar manager at Bon Vivant and brand ambassador for Elephant Gin, a spirit created by a small team to raise money for elephant sanctuaries in South Africa.

"We've actually reduced the size of our gin list at Bon Vivant, because there are now so many brands on the market."





“Gin has always been popular, but it’s had a changing clientele, and people are more knowledgeable nowadays about what they want”

He says that despite the new brands jostling for space, the traditional gins still have their place. “Tanqueray is full of botanicals, you can taste its flavour and it still retains its quality. Gordon’s tends to be looked down on, but it has a strong history, creating the popularity of being served with lime, to fit with the colour of their bottle.”



Left: the Bon Vivant was one of the first bars in Edinburgh to specialise in gin cocktails. Below: Marcus Pickering (standing), and Matt Gammell, founders of the quirky Pickering’s Gin in Edinburgh



## Gin’s the city thing



### EDINBURGH GIN

Edinburgh Gin produces about 250,000 bottles every year at its two distilleries, at the Biscuit Factory and Rutland Square. It has its own steam punk-styled bar and visitor centre, making an art form out of its huge copper stills. It has specialised in

flavour combinations, including a rhubarb and ginger liqueur, a seaside gin inspired by East Lothian beaches, and a frankincense and myrrh flavoured Christmas gin.

### PICKERING’S GIN

Created at the Summerhall distillery, Pickering’s was the first gin distillery to be established in Edinburgh for over 150 years. It says its unique taste is based on a secret original Bombay recipe, created in Gert and Emily, their two 500-litre copper stills. You can tour the distillery and see how the product is made, saving a sample until the end. Ginerosity is its social enterprise gin, with profits donated to the charity Challenges Worldwide.



### DAFFY’S

Specially created with Lebanese mint as a botanical, along with lemons, juniper, coriander seeds and cassia bark, Daffy’s gin is proudly distilled in a single batch copper pot still. It also has a distinctive

bottle design with the Goddess of Gin motif, created in 2014 by classic movie poster artist Robert McGinnis.

### ACHROOUS GIN

The first gin from Leith’s Electric Spirit Company, Achroous and its luminous orange bottle was created by product designer and distiller James Porteous. Its unique design, along with the gin’s beguiling combination of Sichuan pepper and fennel seed flavours ensures that it stands out from the crowd.





# GIN COCKTAILS

*We asked some of Edinburgh's top bars to share their ultimate gin cocktail. The results will leave you both shaken and stirred*


## The Dome's Pamplemousse cocktail

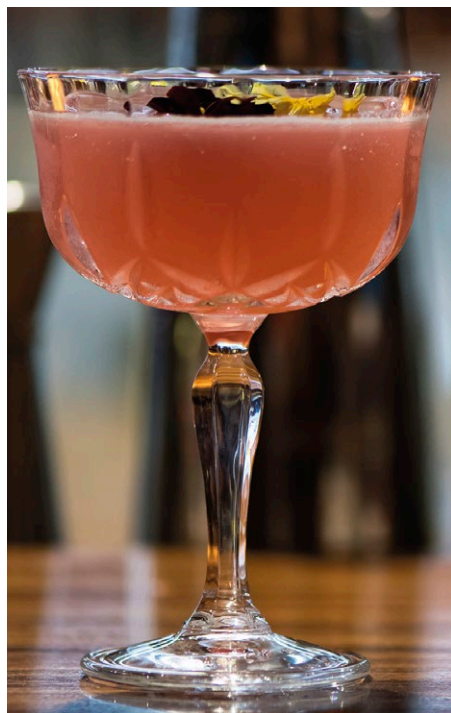
### INGREDIENTS

- 35ml Edinburgh Gin
- 15ml shot of elderflower liqueur
- 35ml grapefruit juice
- 15ml shot of lemon juice

### METHOD

- Shake vigorously with ice and strain into an old-fashioned glass filled with ice
- Garnish with wild flowers

 **The Dome**  
14 George Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 2PF  
[thedomeedinburgh.com](http://thedomeedinburgh.com)



## G&V Daffy's Terrace cocktail

### INGREDIENTS

- 50ml Daffy's Gin
- 25ml fresh lime juice
- 10ml elderflower cordial
- Franklin & Sons Strawberry and Raspberry juice
- 5 mint leaves

### METHOD

- Shake and strain over ice in a hi-ball glass
- Top up with Franklin & Sons Strawberry and Raspberry juice
- Garnish with a sprig of mint

 **G&V Hotel**  
1 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1AD  
[quorvuscollection.com](http://quorvuscollection.com)

## Juniper's signature cocktail

### INGREDIENTS

- 15ml Edinburgh Rhubarb and Ginger Gin
- 15ml Crème de Peche
- 20ml caramel syrup
- 25ml apple juice
- 15ml Galliano
- 30ml egg white

### METHOD

- Shake the ingredients together vigorously
- Strain and garnish with half a caramel wafer

 **Juniper Edinburgh**  
20 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2AN  
[juniperedinburgh.co.uk](http://juniperedinburgh.co.uk)



PHOTOGRAPH: GILL MURRAY PHOTOGRAPHY



## Edinburgh Gin's Sunny Intervals cocktail

Recreate the bliss of lazy summer afternoons with this refreshing blend of citrus and elderflower.

### INGREDIENTS

40ml Edinburgh Gin  
20ml Edinburgh Gin's Elderflower Liqueur  
20ml freshly squeezed orange juice  
20ml lemon juice  
10ml sugar syrup

### METHOD

- Add all the ingredients to a tall glass and stir
- Fill the glass with ice
- Add a splash of tonic water and garnish with an orange twist

 **Edinburgh Gin**  
1a Rutland Place, Edinburgh EH1 2AD  
[edinburghgin.com](http://edinburghgin.com)



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# CHEF DE PARTY

**THE** dinner party has seen a resurgence in recent years as food blogging, Instagram and celebrity chefs have all upped the game on exotic, attractive and inventive food. While many people love the idea of hosting a soirée for friends, or even inviting strangers into their home with the advent of supper clubs, they are not so keen on the stress of cooking and the washing up afterwards. However, more and more people are now opting to hire top chefs to do the work for them.

There are a number of deluxe catering companies where a chef will do all the cooking for you, prepare the canapés, serve your guests with beautifully designed courses, and even retreat to the kitchen to do the washing up afterwards. And for about £50 a head, it's an impressive way to ensure your party runs smoothly.

The concept of luxury home catering really evolved from the way the focus on food has become all-encompassing. It's not just the final product people are interested in. Celebrity chefs gain popularity through their lifestyle as well as their food, TV shows take you

*Enjoy the luxury of restaurant food without leaving the comfort of your own home. And there's no washing up*

behind the scenes of restaurants, while on Instagram there are millions of shared images of inventively-crafted plates of food, as if they are works of art. Many top restaurants, including One Square at the Sheraton, even allow guests to "dine at the pass", where you can watch the chefs at work while you enjoy a meal.

Chef Barry Bryson, who has cooked for celebrities such as Nicola Benedetti, Richard Branson and Burt Bacharach, is owner of Cater Edinburgh, one of the companies in the city that deliver a private dinner party service. "People are incredibly knowledgeable now about food and appreciate the time and effort that goes into good food," says Barry. "If you are short on time then it's a great

option, plus it's as much about being a 'beginning to end' experience for them as it is to go to a good restaurant."

Barry says his style of cooking is "seasonal, creative and pretty relaxed". You don't need to have a deluxe, roomy kitchen with all the latest appliances to take advantage of the service. Whether you have a large kitchen or a small one, Barry and his partner Robin can work to fit the space that you have.

"Because I follow a firm set of ground rules, that means it looks stress-free but it's not unstructured as I take a lot of time with what I do. Like most chefs your cooking and sense of individuality develops through experience so you try to stay very open-minded to new ideas so that you continue to develop."

Barry first got a taste for the food industry when at the age of 16 he took a Saturday job in a St Andrews coffee shop, where he peeled vegetables and washed salad. The following year he enrolled in a three-year professional cooking course at Elmwood College in Fife, and from there he worked





**“It’s as much about being a ‘beginning to end’ experience for [the guests] as it is to go to a good restaurant”**

with the Fruitmarket Gallery, the well-loved Circle cafe in Brandon Terrace, which he started in 2003, and Jupiter Artland, which has gone from strength to strength over the last few years.

It was from running these cafes, and after being asked to cater for prestigious businesses including Virgin Money, Louis Vuitton and Richard Murphy Architects, that the idea for Cater Edinburgh came about. “The response was so fantastic that pretty shortly we were being asked to cater in venues, offices, large corporate firms, high-profile brands and homes. I also wanted very much for Cater Edinburgh to be a chef-led company rather than the typical catering business model, so I knew it was a way for us to create a strong identity with a clear food ethos. I am lucky to have huge

support from my partner Robin who has been advising me and helping me since the beginning of Cater Edinburgh.”

In terms of food trends, Barry believes that the way food is served will simplify, perhaps marking the end of slates and wooden chopping boards, with a return to plates. “I think certainly plating techniques will simplify and return to a less-is-more attitude for something much purer. I also think the no-menu ‘eat with the seasons’ approach will be a lot more widespread.”

And as the dining experience becomes more integrated, Barry is planning to move into larger premises, which would include space for a dining table, so that guests can be fully immersed in the experience. “My plan is for there to be a large window at the table directly into the kitchen so we are the backdrop of their meal. No hiding!”

## On the menu

Here are some of the delectable dishes you could expect:

### CANAPES

- Pinhead oatmeal oatcakes topped with Scottish strawberry and black peppercorn puree and seared Highland venison
- Smoked salmon on beetroot blinis with a citrus crème fraîche
- Radish cup with seabass ceviche, avocado and micro coriander

### MAIN COURSE

- Roast lamb, artichoke puree, cauliflower and salsa verde

### DESSERT

- Rhubarb panna cotta with honeycomb





# FIND THE RIGHT TENANTS FOR YOUR PROPERTY

*Nicky Lloyd, Head of ESPC Lettings,  
offers her advice on managing high-end portfolios*



**MANAGING** a number of private rental properties 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 being £950 for the second quarter of 2017.

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 management 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 expectation. Modern kitchens 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 expecting.

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 tenants would like to live – Stockbridge, the New Town and Morningside are all very popular areas for professionals. 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.



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**THE** living room in this Georgian townhouse, located in one of Edinburgh's most desirable streets, certainly makes an impact with its vibrant design to complement a wealth of period features. Traditional windows, stone staircases, dadoes, cornice work and mantelpieces with open hearths are just some of the touches that make this home the height of elegance.



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# Win

## a meal for two at The Stockbridge Restaurant

We've teamed up with The Stockbridge Restaurant, one of Edinburgh's favourite neighbourhood restaurants, to offer a meal for two with wine to one lucky reader.

Situated on St Stephen Street in the heart of Edinburgh's stylish Stockbridge, the one AA rosette restaurant offers refined dining at purse-friendly prices. Chef Jason Gallagher serves a fresh, seasonal menu that's big on flavour and great Scottish ingredients such as seared scallops, spiced pigeon breast, halibut, crab and of course, Aberdeen Angus beef.

With a great selection of Scottish gins, a perfectly matched wine list and a chic candlelit interior The Stockbridge Restaurant is a firm favourite of Edinburgh foodies. The relaxed setting is perfect for anything from a spot of romance, a night out with friends to a family celebration or even impressing clients, and on Sundays you can BYO (making it a hit dining destination for restaurant professionals and chefs throughout the city) surely the best commendation a restaurant could get?

### To Enter:

For a chance to win, visit [espc.com/premiercompetition](http://espc.com/premiercompetition) by 31st December 2017. The winner will be announced in the 2018 Spring/Summer issue of Premier Living Magazine

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T&Cs: The prize is valid Tuesday to Thursday only, excludes December and is subject to availability.



## ~ MY EDINBURGH ~ STEVE HALL

*The manager of Edinburgh's The Dome tells us about celebrity meetings, his favourite place for fish 'n' chips, and where he goes for a tipple*



### **What are your earliest memories of Edinburgh?**

The wee house in Barnton where we lived on our return from Belfast, where I was born. We only lived there a short while but I remember my first experience of gardening was there, aged four. I managed to put a garden fork through my foot and so began our family's long relationship with the Sick Kids' Hospital. We went to high school in North Berwick, which I still love, but I think of Edinburgh as home.

### **What iconic Edinburgh venues have you worked in?**

Maxies, The Doric, The Atrium and Blue Bar café, The Tower, The Witchery, The Dome. All well-known to locals and all contributing to the promotion of Scottish produce and of Edinburgh as a world-class destination.

I have been fortunate to work in some terrific places and have met so many wonderful people. I will always be grateful to those who have trusted me with their businesses; Iain MacDonald, Rainer Voss, Andrew Radford, James

Thomson and Kevin Doyle. They all built famous businesses and it's been my pleasure to look after them.

### **Where's your favourite spot for a drink?**

The Dome of course! However, my 'local' is Joseph Pearce's, in Elm Row, with its wonderful staff and regulars. The City Café is pretty much unchanged since it opened in the 1980s and is a Friday favourite.

### **Where would you go to escape the city?**

My brother's house at Abernethy, in Perthshire, is always so welcoming and in a beautiful spot. One of the great things about Edinburgh is that it's quick and easy to escape, even by public transport. The diverse Scottish landscape has something for everyone – if you don't mind the weather.

### **Have you had any celebrity experiences at The Witchery or The Dome?**

It's not good to name drop, Sir Ian McKellen taught me that! Though we were all quite excited when Hollywood film star and producer Josh Hartnett stayed at

The Witchery. I've got a great photo of him with their very own celebrity, the housekeeper, Roxy Callaghan. Ronan and Storm Keating held their wedding celebration at The Dome and several events at The Tower were attended by Anne, The Princess Royal.

### **Favourite restaurant?**

The best restaurant in Edinburgh is still Number One at the Balmoral. It's faultless. For me, the Tailend on Leith Walk makes the best fish 'n' chips.

### **How would you describe your home?**

I live in a modern, city centre flat, but I've decorated it with bold colours, antiques and loads of pictures picked up from auctions. It's surprisingly homely. Though I don't spend much time in it, it's always good to get home.

### **If you didn't live in Edinburgh, where in the world would you choose?**

Sydney. In a heartbeat. It's a dynamic, buzzing city with amazing nightlife and a wonderful climate. **PL**



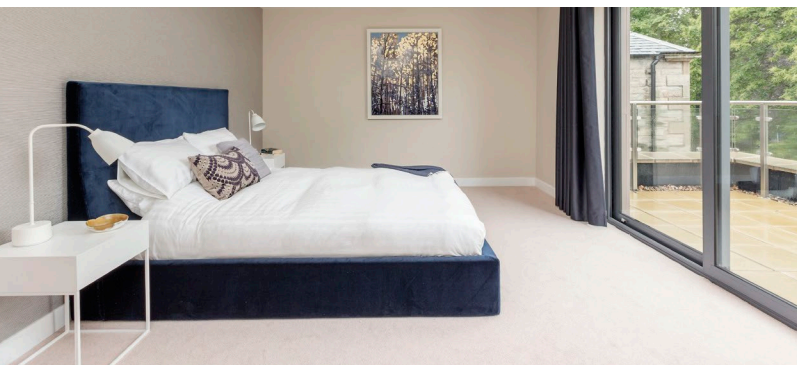


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