



# ACE OF SPACE

After a lengthy house-hunt, Pat and Steve are delighted to finally have a stylish city home to call their own

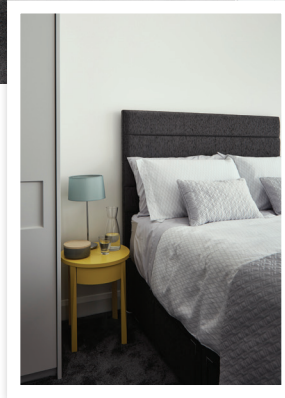
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**LIVING ROOM** Pat and Steve picked stylish, simple pieces that keep the living room stylish and practical. TK MAXX velvet cushions add a zesty pop of colour to the BoConcept's Carlton sofa (Arnotts.ie). The couple's bar area is neatly hidden into the custom storage unit built by Ingrained (Ingrained.ie). The blue rug from Vintagecarpets.com mirrors this built-in unit, perfectly





After a year and a half of house-hunting in Dublin city, a newly-built Smithfield apartment block was a quick sell for social workers Pat and Steve. A stone's throw from the city centre, this building manages to feel homely, with a sense of community – not to mention the roof garden with a whopper city view.

By the time they got the keys, house viewingS had exhausted the couple. A friend suggested they work with an interior designer to help renew their focus. Soon after, Steve found himself entrusting the space to Sarah Drumm from Dust (Dust.ie), online interiors store and design consultancy. Sarah got to work, custom designing a piece that would become a focal point of the living space.

"The main focus was designing creative storage solutions. Our clients wanted to create closed storage, a home bar, open shelving for display and a home office – but they didn't want any of it to take over the main open-plan area, as they wanted this area to remain open and airy." Their wish was her command. A clever built-in unit was created. To add a fun element of surprise, the cabinet's interior was covered with metallic wallpaper by Beware the Moon.

The couple ooze style; and clearly have an eye for quality – often preferring it over quantity. The home is not minimalist, but rather the backdrop for a well edited collection of artwork and furniture.

The vibe is clean and streamlined; but draws influences from around the globe. Aboriginal Australian artwork and a sculpture, from Rhodes, serve as elegant souvenirs from their travels and add colour and texture to the space. For the all-important furniture and lighting, Steve and Pat opted for simple Danish designs

from Vita, Bo Concept and Hay. To keep costs down, they chose Eames DSW replica dining chairs from Irish online store, S. Alternative Furniture. Bright coloured chairs were teamed with a wooden extending table from Heal's.

A mustard sofa and matching ottoman from Bo Concept, adorned with citrus-toned throw cushions from TK Maxx, provide just enough colour to balance out the bustle of the opposing gallery wall. On it, hangs a selection of work from Irish artists Michael Morris and Paul Flynn. A painting of the Pride flag was bought from an artist on Merrion Square, in celebration of the marriage equality referendum; a vibrant piece of modern history represented through art.

The pre-existing kitchen is sleek but practical and provides the ample storage needed to eliminate countertop clutter. Two open shelves allow for personality to come through via the couple's collection of cookbooks and serveware.

The hallway sees a more dramatic shift in terms of colour. Colourtrend's Peacock Blue creates a sophisticated welcome to the home. A black Venetian console table from Phoenix Interior Design flanks a brass mirror from the Paul Costelloe's Living collection at Dunnes Stores.

The master and guest bedrooms are both grounded with neutral shades of grey, which allows for pops of colour. Yellow Ikea nightstands and a mid-century rocking chair add a quirky touch to an otherwise very classic design. High pile carpet from Carpetright and Foxford bedding add even more luxury to the space.

These textiles, indeed, add warmth and softness to this particular room, but it's this whole apartment's colour, personality and cheerfulness that make this home look and feel so comfortable. **H**



**LEFT AND RIGHT** Despite being grey and contemporary, the open shelving in the kitchen means an eclectic touch can be introduced. The charcoal tone of the cabinetry is soft, yet modern. In the hall, Peacock Blue by Colourtrend creates the perfect backdrop for the high console and mirror



## DUST'S TIPS FOR APARTMENT LIVING

Interior designers, Sarah Drumm and Lisa Marconi certainly know a thing or two, when it comes to making a smaller space completely functional and roomy. All it takes is some creative planning.

- » Storage is so important, you need to really plan your built-in storage around your needs, so that everything has a place, allowing you to create a space that is clutter free
- » Mirrors are a great tool in smaller spaces as they will bounce light around the room and make a space feel bigger than it is
- » Metallics are a great addition. They have a similar effect as a mirror as they reflect light and brighten up a space
- » Be practical when choosing furniture for a smaller space. It's important to space plan, so make sure you don't order furniture that's too large for the space.
- » Also, opt for furniture that can adapt to your changing needs, such as an extending table for when you're entertaining. Footstools and ottomans can double up as coffee tables and then transform into extra seating when needed
- » Plants and flowers are always a great addition. They make even the smallest space feel fresher and lighter.
- » Pull furniture away from the walls, a few inches between the wall and the back of your sofa will make the living room look more open.





Retro '70 pendant lamp,  
from €189, Woo Design,  
Woodesign.ie



STOCKHOLM bedside  
table, €80, IKEA, Ikea.ie



Black Venetian hall table,  
€360, Phoenix Interior Design,  
Phoenixinteriordesign.ie



Tappa side table set in brass  
and antiqued mirror, €350.50  
Swoon Editions, Swooneditions.com



Zabel media unit in rosewood, €265,  
Swoon Editions, Swooneditions.com



# STEAL THE STYLE

Through signature pieces,  
this stylish couple's Smithfield  
home balances simplicity and  
charm, seamlessly



Grossman Grashoppa floor  
lamp in black by GUBI,  
€735, Minima, Minima.ie