

AT HOME

# My Style



RETRO AND PASTEL PROPS SIT  
SIDE-BY-SIDE IN SHARON'S WHOLESOME,  
1950S-THEMED HOME

WORDS AND STYLING LOUISE DOCKERY  
PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL SHERWOOD



Pastel-coloured finds grace every surface in the Hearne-Smith house. Enamel and tin are softened by bright and bouncy blooms. Vintage food tins and marmalade pots are used to house kitchen utensils. A pretty way to keep your essentials at easy reach. Handy utensil rails provide the kitchen with the perfect amount of homely clutter

This south Dublin kitchen looks like something right out of an American '50s homemaking manual. Cutesy to the max, every square inch is Instagramable. But the kitchen wasn't built solely on aesthetics; it's a family space, testing kitchen and photography set for food writer and stylist, Sharon Hearne-Smith. Sharon has tested and photographed recipes in this kitchen, for dozens of books; for top chefs Neven Maguire, Lorraine Pascale, James Martin and Jamie Oliver. If she wasn't working from this kitchen, she was doing her thing in the kitchens of Rachel Allen, Ina Garten and Gordon Ramsay.

"I worked in London for 16 years and, during the time, was in some of the most well-equipped home kitchens. I always loved having a snoop around to get ideas," says Sharon. When Sharon and her husband Marty moved to Dublin in 2008, she finally had the opportunity to put everything she had learnt into practice. The home was in bad nick at the time of purchase. The couple took advantage of its need to be completely renovated and drew out plans to swap around the living room and kitchen and then add a light-filled extension.

The project took 18 months to complete and, during this time, Sharon scoured auction houses, charity shops, eBay and Ikea for affordable pieces that would fit the





space. A keen upcycler, Sharon's loot rarely remained in its found state. Pastel-coloured paint, lace, pom-poms and floral knobs were added to each piece for a touch of retro sweetness. Even the white high-gloss Ikea cabinetry was given the "Sharon treatment". She commissioned a local carpenter to add tongue and groove panelling to the gable ends of the units and added decorative trim to the overhead cabinets. The end result was, quite literally, cookie-cutter cute. "I had him tracing around tea cups and cookie cutters to get the perfect shape for the trim," Sharon explains. On either side of the fireplace, cleverly executed storage was added in the form of floor-to-ceiling drawers, a plate rack and shelving.



Sharon's "shrine to wine" was made by attaching an old chapel shrine to a display cabinet; both of which were found in Oxfam Home on Francis Street



Speaking from experience, Sharon says *The No-Cook Cookbook* is a must-have for busy working parents who don't want to compromise on flavour or nutritional value



Italian tomato tins and Japanese sweets add decoration and storage to the mantelpiece



This means Sharon was able to build a store-cupboard pantry and purchase her most-used ingredients in bulk, decanting ingredients into tall glass Kilner jars, that allows her to see what she has, on hand, to get creative. And over the past number of years, Sharon has certainly been creative. On June 2nd, this year, she released her second book, *The No-cook Cookbook*. It's the savoury big brother of her first book, *No-bake Baking*. The concept behind both books came after Sharon noticed the gap in the market for healthy, but convenient, recipe ideas that please every member of the family.

Sharon's well-honed sense of style doesn't just extend to food and interiors, but to fashion, gardening and kid-friendly arts and crafts. Sharon regularly updates her social media accounts with fun, retro lifestyle ideas that encompass all of the elements of her brand. A quick flick through the "Pocketbook" section of her website and you'll find decorating tips and tricks, as well as mentions of her favourite spots to pick up vintage kitchenalia and furniture. Among these are Oxfam Home in Dublin's Antique Quarter; Herman & Wilkinson in Rathmines and the Bailey Gibson Salvage Yard on the South Circular Road.

It's Sharon's well-crafted ability to make something beautiful out of inexpensive, found ingredients that has built, not only her career spanning 20 years, but also a perfectly styled and functional home.

[Sharonhearnesmith.com](http://Sharonhearnesmith.com)

*The No-cook Cookbook* is available in all good bookshops, now.



Teacups from Danish company Greengate (Greengate.dk) hang from the shelves of Sharon's dresser



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7



6



# Steal The Style

SHARON'S DUBLIN HOME IS DAINTY  
BUT HARDWORKING AND CREATES  
A REAL TREAT FOR THE SENSES



3



4



5

1. Pluto pendant light, €34.95, Meadows & Byrne, Meadowsandbyrne.com 2. Garlic storage tin, €10, Debenhams, Debenhams.ie  
3. Highgate rose 12 piece dining set, €92, Cath Kidston, Cathkidston.com 4. BUSH classic DAB radio, €71.99, Argos, Argos.ie  
5. Lace Hearts apron, €24, Cath Kidston, Cathkidston.com 6. Mexican printed tin, €4, Penneys, Primark.ie  
7. 5kg stainless steel mechanical scale, €35, Marks and Spencer, Marksandspencer.ie