

AT HOME

My Style



A TOUR OF DOMINI KEMP'S SOUTH
DUBLIN HOME IS A DISCOVERY OF HER
DUAL PASSIONS: FAMILY AND FOOD

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Domini effortlessly mixes old and new, and her precious cookery books make an appearance in almost every room



“Nothing is too precious here. I don't over-think anything,” says chef, food writer and restaurateur Domini Kemp. This may be the case, yet Domini's Sandymount home is a testament to her natural sense of taste in interior design. Upon entering the home, shared with husband Garvan and two daughters, Lauren and Maeve, we instantly get a sense of Domini's two key passions: family and food. A gallery wall of sepia-toned family photographs lines the staircase and, in the kitchen, another wall reveals a fun display of children's photos and postcards held in place by Scrabble letter magnets. Domini's kitchen is a foodie's dream: a well-stocked pantry stuffed with baking supplies, health foods and a selection of artisan oils and

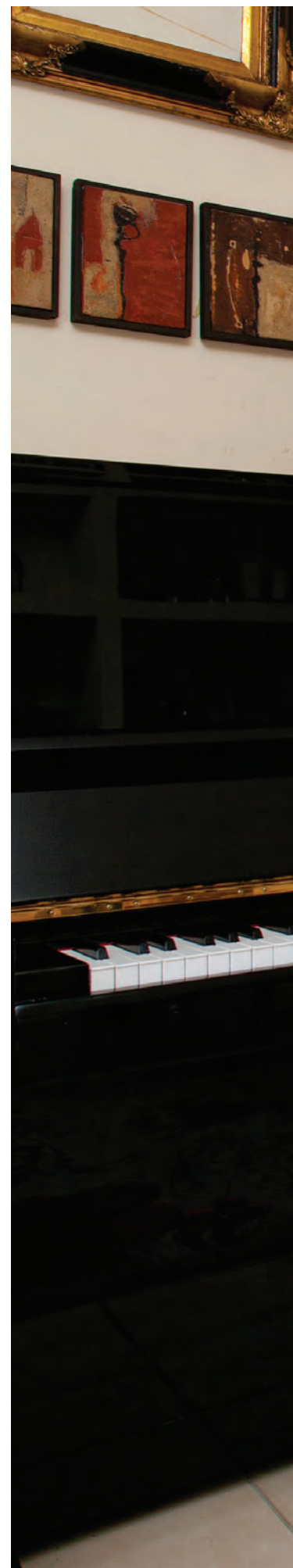




The antique chest in the hallway displays some of Domini's collections of pottery and china

vinegars."This is mainly where I get my inspiration. I just stand here and think 'What could I do with this, this and this?'" Just off the kitchen lies Domini's office, which could be mistaken for the cookery department of a book store. Dozens of titles are neatly stacked on built-in shelving, and a box of blue cloth-bound books, just back from the printers, sit on the floor. *Dinner*, Domini's third book which hits the shelves this autumn, is bursting with no-fuss, nutritious, crowd-pleasing dinner inspiration – a godsend for those who dread the daily 'what's for dinner?' dilemma.

Domini's philosophy of simple, healthy eating is evident in her home. Bowls of fruit, homemade pickle jars and herb trimmings adorn the industrial stainless steel counters. A stack of book-marked medical cookery





The stack of wooden trunks in the piano room is a pretty way to hide the random odds and ends any family acquires



An Ikea Varde cabinet is topped with vintage glass pieces and a hand-carved serving board from the Wicklow-based company Two Wooden Horses



books lie on the wooden dining table, overlooking her organic vegetable garden. One of her biggest grievances is that those pesky slugs are destroying her cabbage.

Mismatching dining chairs surround the family table. "The cats really like the vintage look apparently, so they took the liberty of distressing the chairs themselves," Domini laughs, pointing at the cat-clawed contemporary leather chairs, which are mixed in with French cane-backs painted in a chalky grey. Some of the artwork in the house comes from the Bahamas, where Domini and Peaches, her sister (and partner in Alchemy, the pair's new juice bar at Grafton Street's BT2) were born. Other pieces were picked up on family holidays. Pointing to a portrait of a lady bought in a French gallery, Domini says it would be the one material thing she'd grab if the house was on fire. "I love that there's always a bit of mystery to things you pick up abroad.



Family photographs personalise professional stainless steel fittings



Domini keeps her countertop well-stocked with some culinary essentials, both home-grown and exotic

This painting had a lovely story behind it."

The family's living room is a gorgeous mix of old world charm and modern-day cosiness. The walls are painted in deep sage and serve as the perfect backdrop to natural accents and jewel-toned accessories. The modern couch is layered with a motley crew of cushions, varying from luxurious Mulberry and Manuel Canovas's *Dara* pattern to Ikea's Stockholm range and items from the high street brand Accessorize.

Beside it sits a gilded King Louis chair, which has been lovingly chipped and distressed through years of wear and tear. Above it, an oversized oil painting with a hole through the canvas hangs proudly. Its imperfection only adds to the charm of the room.

Domini's approach to home decor isn't dissimilar to her take on food: relaxed, family-orientated and with an appreciation for the good old classics.

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