

AT HOME

Paper Girl



AS AN ART ENTHUSIAST AND FLEA MARKET FAN,
FAY BROPHY'S HOME IS A HAVEN WHERE THE
NEW AND THE VINTAGE FIND HARMONY

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Fact file

THE OWNER Journalist Fay Brophy and her Chihuahuas Bruno and Lance

THE PROPERTY A complete renovation of a suburban house, built in the 1970s, in Killiney, Co Dublin



White walls and flooring allow Fay's eclectic collection of artwork to pop. The Ikea Soderhamn armchair is a modern break from the many vintage pieces in the room





The teak McIntosh sideboard was bought for
€180 at Dublin store Anonymous



How does a home as beautifully curated as this one come together, striking the perfect balance between vintage and cutting-edge? Fay

Brophy's answer makes our team beam with pride. "It sounds so nerdy, but I scrapbook all of my *House and Home* magazine cuttings and use them for inspiration." During the stressful process of actually buying the house, Fay tells me that reading interior design magazines helped keep her sane and excited about the purchase. "Having it photographed for *House and Home* is a lovely way to bookmark its makeover."

Fay bought the house two years ago in the idyllic Dublin suburb of Killiney and now lives there with her beloved Chihuahuas, Bruno and Lance. In the weeks before moving in, Fay undertook phase one of the renovation. Walls knocked and floors ripped up, once the house was habitable, Fay moved in and worked around herself. Last October, after



Dining Area

The contrast of a modern dining table and mid-century style chairs works beautifully in Fay's formal dining area

a second round of saving, phase two began and, soon after, the home was complete.

Armed with her scrapbook of cut outs, Fay set about finding the perfect mix of pieces to suit the space. "Going to markets and really talking to people is where you'll find nuggets of design wisdom. Dublin is so small; one guy might not have what you're looking for, but he'll be able to direct you to someone who does."

When it came to furniture shopping, everywhere from Donedeal.ie to French flea markets were scoured. Fay would take a wander through Dublin's Art and Antique Quarter where she discovered the Dublin Brocante Market on Newmarket Square and furniture store, Anonymous, on Francis Street. Much of the mid-century furniture in the home was found here. Andrew, the shop owner "really does it for the love of furniture

and nothing is ridiculously overpriced" Fay tells me.

An avid art collector, many of the pieces have been collected over the years and moved, with Fay, from her previous home. "The house was built in the 1970s and had barely been touched since. I wanted to add some fun, quirky elements, but also pieces that could complement the era of the house. I love that it doesn't take itself so seriously."

The biggest splurge in the living room was the Dovre Vintage 35 Wood Burning Stove from Nagle Fireplaces in Cork. It encapsulates both the clean-lined retro style and practicality that Fay wanted for the space. A higher-priced stove is achievable when sitting alongside an armchair from Ikea and flea market furniture. Staying on budget means you have to be willing to put in the legwork. The antique chairs in Fay's

Fay's book collection was carefully measured before the bookcases were installed to ensure there was adequate room for all to fit nicely. Some of the pieces in this space came from Danny's Curiosity Shop in Dunshaughlin



The "island" in the dressing room is actually a side-turned Ikea Kallax shelving unit. The rest of the shelving was custom-made inexpensively from MDF



hallway were taken from a French theatre and found on Ebay for €50. Upstairs, the painted cast iron beds in one of the guest bedrooms were taken from a hospital in Limerick. The school locker beside them came from England. The home evolves as Fay's life does. "Everytime I go away I have to buy my house a little present!"

When asked about her favourite pieces in the house, the drawer unit in the entryway comes to mind. It was an old teak piece that Fay revamped with about seven coats of white paint - finishing it off with a pick and mix of decorative door knobs from Avoca.

Another favourite is the makeshift desk in Fay's study, which is actually a slap of reclaimed wood resting on two Ikea Helmer drawer units. "After weeks of sanding, it took three big, strong Belfast men to carry the timber into the house. It's probably one of my favourite pieces in the house".

The overall vibes in Fay's home are relaxed and homely with fun surprises. Fay's roomy walk-in wardrobe is her little piece of heaven: "All of my friends squealed with excitement when they first saw it. It's practical too, it keeps my bedroom clutter-free and peaceful and helps keep everything in the one place," Fay says.



Fay's love of cute pooches is evident from the doggy artwork around the house

Study

A collection of framed photographs is displayed on a shallow ledged shelf in the study

