

AT HOME

Perfect Fit



THIS SMALL PERIOD HOUSE IS HOME TO AN
IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN THAT LIVES ALONGSIDE SOME
MORE TRADITIONAL DESIGN ELEMENTS

WORDS AND STYLING **LOUISE DOCKERY**
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Fact file

THE HOUSE Dating back to the 1930s, this period house is located in Ranelagh, Dublin 6

THE HOME Sinéad and Sean moved here in 2015 after purchasing it two years previously and completing a full renovation

The Jenson oak dining table is from the trendy online store Made.com. The kitchen was designed by Cillian Johnston (Cillianjohnston.com) and allows the cook to chat alongside dinner party guests with nothing blocking them, making it a nice social experience





People on the market for a new home often can't quite put their finger on what it is they're looking for; they just hope they'll get a "feeling". Intuition was exactly what led this trendy couple to place a bid on a two-bedroom period home in Ranelagh. Despite the outdated décor left by the previous owners' and knowledge that it would require extensive renovation to correct, Sinéad and Sean got that "feeling".



The large serving board is available in a number of sizes in Industry & Co. (Industryandco.com). The glass-doored cabinets allow the couple's crockery collection to inject colour and personality into the kitchen

Sitting Room

The couple gave this old rocking chair a vibrant makeover with a lick of yellow paint



The couple purchased the house in 2013. Due to planning delays, building couldn't commence until the following year, and they finally moved into their new home in 2015. With the guidance of architect, Paul O'Loughlin, and the Buildpol construction crew, what they refer to as "the world's smallest extension" was added to the rear of the house. Along with a glass wall by Nigel Saunders Windows, it immediately made the ground floor more functional and bright. In this case, a little extension went a long, long way.

At first glance, you would be forgiven for thinking the house is just "very 2016". It is, but in the best way possible. Although each of their pieces is currently on trend, they're also classic and functional and could belong to any period. Living in a small space means

that you become quite discerning about the things you acquire. And in this case, each piece has been chosen with comfort, style and longevity in mind.

Earthy tones, classic shapes and natural textures can be found in every room of the house. These basics are often contrasted with unexpected pops of colour and quirkiness. For instance, the couple's living room comprises of a Chesterfield sofa bought in Fadó in Phibsborough, a Campbell armchair from Bluesuntree.co.uk and a vintage rocking chair found in Sinéad's mum's house. They repainted the latter in a punchy yellow.

In the kitchen, a combination of oak (lower) and glass-fronted grey (upper) cabinetry was fitted by luxury cabinet-maker Cillían Johnston. To accommodate for a

In the hallway, a pattern of Victorian mosaic tiles from Tiles.ie was custom designed for the space. The chosen colours complement the Colourtrend (Colourtrend.ie) 'Ral 700' shade on the doors and the 'Rand Moon' in the neighbouring living room. The rest of the house is brightened by 'Wimborne White' and 'Strong White' Farrow and Ball (Farrow-ball.com) colour matches



Sinéad found this Abbey mirror in Littlewoods Ireland's (Littlewoodsireland.ie) Gallery range. Originally cream in colour, she repainted it white to suit the feel of the room



The suspended brass clothes rail allows Sinéad to showcase some of her most beautiful pieces of clothing. The antique brass bed was passed down to the couple from Sinéad's mother

chimney breast, the cabinets were built to varying depths. At the end of the row, two two-door, full-length cabinets disguise the fridge and utility closet. "It was all about having as much storage as possible," Sean explains.

Another of the project's space-saving kings of storage was Noel Twibill of Twibill Design (Twibilldesigns.com). He created an under stairs storage unit made up of drawers, hanging rails and shelves to banish everyday clutter. Upstairs in the guest bedroom, he built two floating night stands to fit the tight space. The only other furniture needed in this room is a House of Fraser chest of drawers and a vintage cane-seated chair.

Neutral carpet runs from the guest room into the landing and was laid by TC Matthews. In the bathroom, white hexagonal and subway tiles from Tiles.ie grace the floor and walls respectively. A wall-mounted vanity unit by Cillían Johnston supports the rectangular wash basin by Villeroy and Boch's contemporary Loop and Friends collection.

The master bedroom perfectly balances simplicity with elegance. While the room remains pale and airy, each piece of furniture is a showstopper. The traditional bedstead, fireplace and mirror are contemporised by modern pieces such as the brass side table and suspended clothes

The chest of drawers was a particularly lucky win at an Adams antique auction. The herringbone throw and toile de jouy duvet set make for a homely contrast

Master Bedroom

This slightly distressed free-standing mirror was found at a vintage shop on Francis Street. Sinéad refuses to repaint it, embracing its slightly distressed patina



The couple advise that, in a small space, having bathroom furniture custom built allows you to maximise storage. The vanity unit and tall mirrored cabinet was made by Cillian Johnston (Cillianjohnston.com) and keeps clutter out of sight



The small courtyard is flanked on either side by raised flower beds, and dotted with potted plants. Easy to maintain and great for a small space. Brick reclaimed during the house's remodel was used to build a laundry and storage room

rail. The antique chest of drawers was found by Sinéad in Adams Blackrock.

The house was built in 1930 and remained in the same family for 80 years. It was important to Sinéad and Sean to maintain the integrity of the build. Each of the floor surfaces on the ground floor vary, but all appear as though they could be original. Actually, only the timber in the living room is. Concrete resin laid by Mike Ryan of Lyshna (Lyshna.com) gives the kitchen a time-worn rustic feel. Although the floor is heated underneath, to give it a cosy look they've added a Turkoman rug from Myles Quirke at The Rug Centre.

The homeowner's advice for making the most of a small city home? "Be clever about storage and go for custom builds to fit the space exactly. And when adding those all-important furnishings? Invest in good quality pieces you really love, even if it means buying them one by one, as you can afford them." If that's the secret to a home like this, we're taking note.