

INSPIRATIONAL INTERIORS





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Welcome to Interior Inspirations - an eBook dedicated to helping you improve your home from the inside out. We've got everything you need to transform your space, including the hottest trends for summer, top decorating tips and how the type of property you live in can influence your design scheme, as well as home security and safety tips so you can enjoy your newly beautified home without a worry in the world.

We've also conducted a survey, asking nearly 1,000 men and women their thoughts on all things interior design, from their preferred colour palettes for summer to how much they'd be willing spend on sprucing up their homes.

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SUMMER INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS

WITH SUMMER IN FULL SWING, WHY NOT UPDATE YOUR SPACE TO REFLECT THE SEASON? FROM TROPICAL PRINTS, TO NAUTICAL ACCENTS, TO ROSE GOLD ACCESSORIES, WE'VE GOT THE LOWDOWN ON THE HOTTEST INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW.

In our survey, 59% of people said they would change up their interior design during the summertime.





Club Tropicana

This summer, it's all about taking interior design to new, tropical levels. From leafy palm patterns, to pineapple prints, to exotic florals, why not embrace the spirit of summer and turn your home into a picture-perfect paradise? Whether you vamp up your bedroom or living room, combine this trend with splashes of hot pink, zesty orange and sunshine yellow to give your spaces a truly tropical vibe.

GEOMETRICS FOR DAYS

Sophisticated, striking and oh so chic, you can't go wrong with geometric prints. This summer, strong lines, sharp edges and unique shapes are predicted to make a big splash in interior design circles. To really nail this look in your home, make sure you keep an eye out for hexagon and honeycomb hive patterns. Whether it's on cushions, wallpaper or lampshades, it'll be hard to miss the geometric craze this sunny season.





THE MARBLE EFFECT



Marble prints have been popular for some time now, and you only need to browse Pinterest to see the endless ways in which interior design enthusiasts are decorating their homes with this aesthetically pleasing pattern. With its pale base and intricate, swirling veins running throughout, marble print is perfect if you're keen to give your spaces a stylish update for summer. This stone effect pattern is most effective if it's used sparingly, so why not go for a marbled duvet cover on your bed or scatter marble patterned cushions on your sofa?

Ahoy Sailor

Bring the beach to you this summer with a nautical theme. To perfect your seaside vibe, stick with a strict colour palette of blue, aqua, turquoise and white. You could also incorporate sea-inspired knick-knacks around your home, from super cute sailboat ornaments on your windowsills to a stack of treasure chest-inspired trunks at the foot of your bed. If you want to give just one room the nautical vibe, go for your bathroom.

NOT SURE WHICH ROOM TO TACKLE FIRST?

Our survey revealed that 33% of people would choose to revamp their living room, while 28% would go for the bedroom.





Pastel Shades

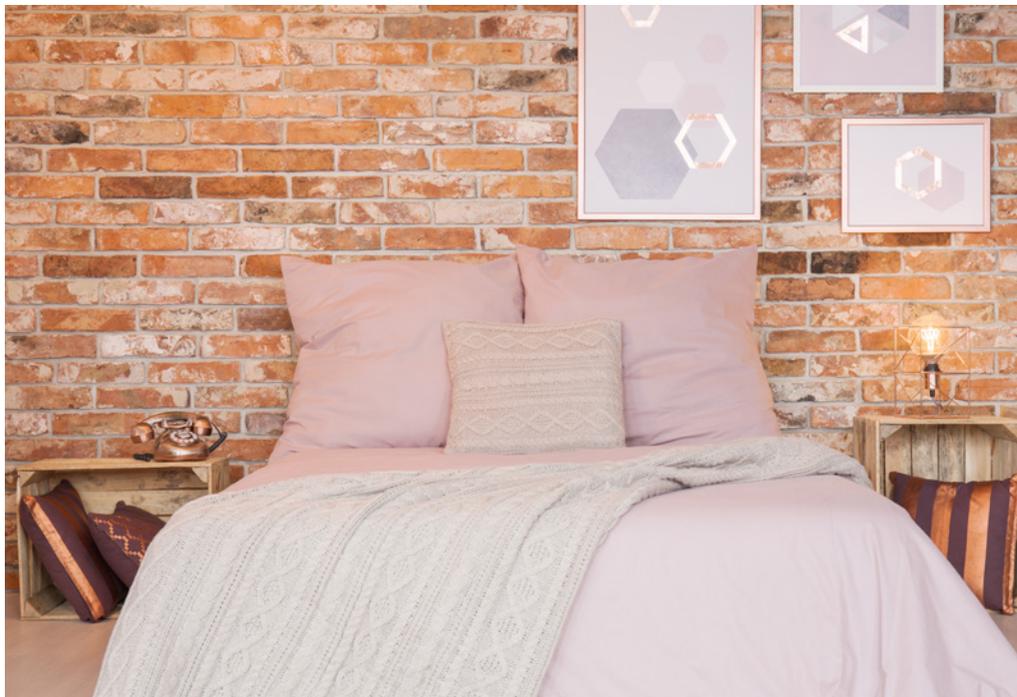
When it comes to choosing their preferred interior colour palette for summer, 42% of people said they would go for warm toned hues, while 24% would choose neutrals for the sunny season.

Blush pink is so in right now. This pretty, pale hue is perfect if you're keen to give your spaces a hint of subtle colour. It looks great when teamed up with other pastel shades, including creamy yellows, mint greens and soft blues, and it also works when accompanied by soothing greys or fresh white. You could even go for a dramatic contrast and partner your blush pink with solid black.



Going For Rose Gold

If you're not already onto the rose gold hype, where have you been? The perfect combination of copper and gold, this gorgeously luxurious, elegant tone has been a firm favourite among discerning designers for a while. This summer, spruce up the inside of your home with rose gold accents for a flawless finishing touch. We're talking everything, from sweet candle holders, to pretty photo frames, to delightful trinket dishes.



BRING THE OUT- DOORS IN



There's no denying that having vibrant plants dotted around your home can improve its overall look and feel. So, to bring an element of the outdoors in this summer, don't be afraid to introduce some greenery. Especially if you don't have a garden, houseplants are the perfect alternative if you're after your own personal slice of nature to enjoy, regardless of whether you go for a large, leafy plant or two or a collection of petite, potted succulents.





While our survey revealed that most people (20%) would go for white as their summer interior colour, blue (17%) and yellow (17%) come in at joint second place.

Feature walls are a popular interior trend. Nearly half (48%) of our survey respondents said they would use a secondary colour paint for a feature wall, while 37% would go for wallpaper and 15% would choose panelling.

If you're keen to change up the colour scheme in your home this summer, why not go for blue? Fresh, clean and calming, this is the perfect hue for just about any room, from your living area, to your kitchen, to your bedroom. To get your look spot on, you could go for a blue feature wall or incorporate the colour through your soft furnishings and accessories.



Feelin' Blue



DECORATING TIPS

WHEN IT COMES TO DECORATING, YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR DESIGNER IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM YOUR SPACES. TO MAKE SURE YOUR HOME LOOKS ON POINT, KEEP THE FOLLOWING TIPS IN MIND.



MAKE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED

Before you start sloshing paint here, there and everywhere, it pays to be prepared. To ensure you do a great decorating job, equip yourself with the basics, such as a dust sheet, high quality brushes and rollers, an appropriate number of paint trays and masking tape. If you're planning to put wallpaper up, you'll need a set of suitable brushes (including one for pasting) and a pasting table. You may also find it useful to invest in a sturdy step ladder to help you get to those hard to reach areas.

It seems summer is the time to get decorating. 68% of those polled said that they undertake DIY tasks during the sunny season.



DON'T BE AFRAID TO MIX TEXTURES

You might be hesitant at first but don't be afraid to mix your textures. From super fluffy rugs, to luxurious velvet cushions, to chunky woven throws, the contrast of different materials is a great way to make your rooms more interesting and it can also give your spaces more depth. When it comes to mixing and matching your soft furnishings, try not to get too hung up on whether certain accessories will clash with others. As long as you don't stray too far from your chosen colour palette, you should find that it all falls into place.

Decorating on a budget? You're not alone. The majority (36%) of our survey respondents said they would only spend up to 10% of their annual income on home interiors.



PILE ON THE CUSHIONS FOR EXTRA LUXE

Sometimes, a couple of cushions just won't cut it. One or two of these soft furnishings might be 'just enough', but if you're going for the luxe look, more is more. You could go for matching designs, or if you're feeling adventurous, mix it up with different shapes and sizes to create a super luxurious look in your space, whether you're decorating your sofa or your bed.

Although many choose to spruce up the inside of their homes during the summer, some prefer to focus on the outside. Our survey revealed that 60% of people spend time improving the exterior of their property at this time of year.

ARCHITECTURE IN IRELAND

WHEN IT COMES TO ARCHITECTURE, IRELAND IS A COUNTRY OF WILD CONTRAST. NORMAN CASTLES, GOTHIC CHURCHES, GEORGIAN HOUSES, THATCHED COTTAGES AND MODERN APARTMENT TOWERS ALL SHARE THE DIVERSE AND BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE.

THE TYPE OF PROPERTY YOU LIVE IN CAN HAVE A GREAT EFFECT ON HOW YOU CHOOSE TO DESIGN YOUR INTERIORS. IN THIS SECTION, WE'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIPS FOR GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR HOME BY PAYING ATTENTION TO ITS UNIQUE FEATURES AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.





GEORGIAN HOUSES

With panelled front doors, sash windows, decorative cornices, niches, alcoves and a powerful emphasis on symmetry, Georgian houses are iconic features of urban Dublin and a number of other cities and large towns.

If you want to remain true to the character of your Georgian home or you just fancy adding a Georgian element to your modern house, keep your colour palette pastel. Soft greys, pea-green, dusky pinks, Wedgwood blue and mauve work particularly well. When choosing furniture and ornaments, you can't go wrong with Greek and Roman inspired designs. Think embellished vases, upholstered chairs with curved backs and legs and figures of gods and goddesses, sphinxes and satyrs. Gold gilding and faux marble paintwork can also help you to achieve the bona fide Georgian feel.



When we asked our survey respondents to describe their interior style, traditional came out on top, with 28% of people saying they stick to the conventional look when it comes to decorating.



TRADITIONAL THATCHED COTTAGES

Having evolved from wattle and daub style dwellings such as round huts and Crannógs, the traditional thatch roof cottage is a hallmark of the Irish countryside and an important part of the country's history.

Whether you're lucky enough to live in one of these traditional houses or not, you can achieve an authentic cottage decor style in just a few steps. Firstly, make sure your walls are whitewashed for that picture postcard look. Then create a fairy-house sense of enchantment with pops of primary colours on the windowsills and doors. When it comes to furniture, choose wrought iron beds, wooden fireside chairs and a pine kitchen dresser complete with patterned plates to give off the charm of Old Ireland. Finally, add touches of religious symbolism with Child of Prague statues and pictures of the Virgin Mary for that genuine Irish cottage allure.



ECO-FRIENDLY HOMES

There is a growing trend towards properties that are designed to be environmentally friendly. From natural and locally sourced building materials, solar panels and rainwater harvesters to triple-glazed windows, motion-sensing lighting and underfloor heating, there is a never-ending host of features that can make up an eco home.

If you've invested in a sustainable property, why not tip your hat to its green credentials in your interior design scheme? Whether you're looking for a new dining set or decorative accessories like vases, wall art and photo frames, consider your local charity or vintage shop or online buy and sell, upcycle and freecycle groups before splashing your cash in large retailers. This can be a simple way to shrink your carbon footprint. Whatever your style, you'll be able to find pieces that will beautify your home - often at bargain prices.

Also, when adding a new lick of paint to your walls, go for zero or low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and when buying wooden furniture, consider eco-friendly reclaimed timber.





21st CENTURY DESIGNS

Many contemporary Irish houses achieve the perfect blend of rustic charm and sleek minimalism. With impressive floor to ceiling windows accented by characterful stonework and sharp, unexpected angles set off by timber frames, these modern-day masterpieces are a real treat for the eyes.

If you've built or bought a contemporary home, it would be a shame to design an interior that doesn't live up to its external elegance. When decorating a state-of-the-art property think cosy, welcoming, light and uncluttered. To make the most of your spacious, open plan living space, high ceilings and the abundance of natural light, create a neutral colour scheme that's punctuated by bold accessories. Reflect the building's clean lines in your decor through geometric artwork, graceful drop lights and irregularly curved-line staircases that draw the eye. Don't be afraid to experiment with textures too and get creative with structural 'eyesores', such as exposed pipework, by painting them in bright, contrasting hues.

HOME SAFETY AND SECURITY

WHEN REVAMPING YOUR SPACES, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE AESTHETICS - IT'S IMPORTANT TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO SAFETY AND SECURITY TOO. SO, TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOUR HOME NOT ONLY LOOKS GOOD, BUT THAT IT'S SAFE FROM THE INSIDE OUT, KEEP READING.



POSITION YOUR STUFF STRATEGICALLY

While you might consider yourself an expert in the art of 'feng shui', how you position your furniture and possessions can also impact on how safe your stuff is. Unfortunately, some people look for opportunities to take what isn't theirs, and if your belongings, especially expensive electronics, are located in plain sight of a window, you could be at an increased risk of burglary. So, to deter thieves, it's vital that you're strategic in your positioning. If you can, try to keep your TV, computer and games consoles out of view.



TIDY UP YOUR WIRES AND CABLES

Not only will it ruin the look and feel of your rooms, but unruly wires and cables are a massive no-no when it comes to home safety. Leads strewn across floors are a trip hazard, so be mindful to keep your electrical cables tidied away.

Don't overload your electrical sockets.
Having too many cables connected to the same outlet is unsafe.



MAKE SURE YOU'RE INSURED

Even if you're careful to avoid potential disasters and think your home is relatively safe, there is always the risk that your possessions could be damaged or stolen. So, to save yourself the hassle of having to fork out when something goes wrong, it's important to make sure you're insured. Home insurance is designed to protect your finances should anything happen, whether it's a flood, fire or theft. It's important to pick a policy that meets your personal needs, so don't forget to read through the small print to make sure you understand all the terms.

INSTALL AN ALARM SYSTEM

To really heighten your security at home, you could install an alarm system. When you're not in, you can set the alarm and be notified via an app on your phone if it goes off. You could also get into the habit of setting it each night before you go to bed.

Home security is a top priority for a lot of people. Nearly half (46%) of those polled said that it is an extremely important factor to them.





Thank you for reading our eBook. We hope it's provided you with the inspiration you need to totally transform your interior this summer.

