



Go big and go bold for more intense impact



Colour has long been a cherished tool for bringing splendour and character to our homes



## Brave the dark with rich, moody colours

Deep, rich colours are on the rise again – perfect for those looking for an alternative to all those tasteful Scandi neutrals, writes **Roisin Lafferty**

**H**omes feel particularly warm and magical at this festive time of year when they are adorned with sparkling decorations and atmospheric lighting. They are so cosy that you can be torn between the thrill of merry gatherings and the lure of your own snug nest.

Christmas brings with it luxurious colour palettes and rich, jewel-like tones of red, green, gold and purple. But come January, the gilded, gem-toned baubles are packed away and the twinkling lights are returned to the attic and with them we pack away a little of the season's magic and energy.

Colour has long been a cherished tool for bringing splendour and character to our homes. While safe, neutral tones have dominated recent design trends, more recently English designer Abigail Ahern has started something of a dark interiors revolution. Ahern creates magical interiors in shades that would have petrified most homeowners less than ten years ago. She has reminded us of the power and beauty of dark colours.

This ground-breaking shift has called a halt to our obsession with trying to make rooms feel bigger and brighter. Our yearning for large, bright, airy spaces led us to paint rooms in the brightest, most neutral shades we could find. But in truth, white and pale-toned paint colours need natural light to bounce around a room in order for them to really look their best.

Without natural light, white is pos-



Becky Russell, associate director, and Roisin Lafferty, director, KLD Design

sibly the worst colour you can paint a small room, resulting in underwhelming, greyish walls and an overall bland look.

Using darker, moody shades adds depth and richness, making rooms feel more intimate. Small rooms were, up until this point, a bit of a nuisance to homeowners, who would obsess over ways to make these spaces appear bigger and brighter.

One of the hardest aspects of painting your interior is choosing the perfect shade. It has always been important to take rules about colour combinations with a hefty pinch of salt, but it's not until someone does something relatively revolutionary, like painting their entire home in dark, inky shades of grey and black (à la Abigail Ahern), that we begin to appreciate the value of thinking outside the colour box.

If you are thinking of using unorth-

odox colours, a quick online search or scroll through Pinterest can help give you confidence.

Rich colours have a luxurious quality which makes for an intensely opulent aesthetic when you combine various dark shades in one room. Lately, I'm loving colours like India Ink, Deep Teal and Stormy Weather from the Fleetwood Pantone collection. They also have a beautiful rich grey called '1830 Rue Chapal' in their Vogue collection, which is every bit as elegant as it sounds.

Using dark shades is not for the faint-hearted, but there are a few key tricks should you decide to take the plunge.

**Go big and go bold** – consider painting everything in the room, including skirting, radiators, doors and even the ceiling in dark colours for a more intense impact. This will remove the boundaries

between the walls and create a streamlined, powerful look.

**Consider a glossier finish** – using a gloss paint allows the light to bounce around the room more and is another way of bringing a unique quality to the room.

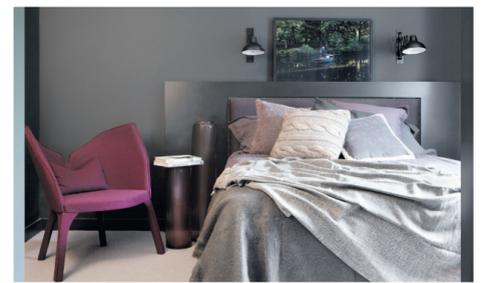
**Add luxurious textiles** – incorporating rich materials like velvet and leather will echo the lavish feel of the dark wall colours – and opt for pops of rich colours like purple, mustard yellow or orange to add a unique focal point as well as a sense of personality to the space.

Dark, rich colours can transform our homes, creating a magic that lasts far beyond the festive season. So be brave and bold with your colour choices.

*Roisin Lafferty is managing director of Kingston Lafferty Design, KLD. For more visit [kingstonlaffertydesign.com](http://kingstonlaffertydesign.com)*



Gloss paint lets light bounce around a room



Darker shades can make rooms seem more intimate



Rich colours and textures have a luxurious quality

## A two-bedroom bijoux cottage for €235,000 in Dublin 8

BY TINA-MARIE O'NEILL

**F**innegan Menton is handling the sale of Primrose Cottage at 27 Eugene Street in Dublin 8, which has a guide price of €235,000.

The two-bedroom cottage was fully renovated in 2015. It is close to the Teeling Whiskey Distillery and within walking distance of the Guinness Store House.

The property extends to a tidy 37 square metres and has an open plan kitchen/living room with a new, fitted kitchen including a timber counter and a range of fitted appliances.

It has two double bedrooms, both of which open to a private, narrow rear yard. Both bedrooms have timber floors.

A newly fitted, fully-tiled bathroom suite incorporates a step-in shower with a glass door and a frosted glass window. A folding ladder in the kitchen area leads to a small

storage attic and there is a separate utility room off the rear yard which has tiled floors and is plumbed for a washing machine.

The cottage is within short walking distance of the Coombe Women's Hospital, the new Weaver Park on Cork Street, St Patrick's Cathedral, the Grand Canal, Grafton Street and the city centre. It is also close to St James's Hospital and the new children's hospital currently under construction.

The nearest Luas stops at Fatima and Rialto are within a five-minute walk.

According to the agent, Dublin 8 has seen a number of areas redeveloped in recent years. The St Teresa's Gardens regeneration is to the rear of this property and a new access road will be provided on Eugene Street. A number of the cottages will be removed to allow for access into St Teresa's Gardens.

For more details contact the agent at 01-6147900.



The bright hallway with folding ladder to a storage attic



Primrose Cottage at 27 Eugene Street in Dublin 8



A double bedroom with door to the back yard



Eugene Street is close to the Luas stops of Rialto and Fatima