



# THE IRISH TIMES

## Home front: interiors, design, people, events

**Arminta Wallace**  
**Alanna Gallagher**

Dolce&Gabbana bring colour to the kitchen; flower chandeliers and getting advice from an architect for the Simon Community

### Kitchen couture

In a world where large appliances are still known as white goods, fashion designers Dolce & Gabbana's 2016 collaboration with Smeg on a limited-edition fridge heralded a new era in decorative design.

Inspired by Sicilian folk art, each took more than 240 hours to complete and price was "on application" – a polite way to say eye-wateringly expensive.

At Salone Milan this week the firm launched a second collaboration, this time on a range of countertop appliances such as a toaster, kettle, blender, coffee maker and stand mixer. Also limited edition, these will be available in December; you can expect them to be at least twice as expensive as Smeg's standard ranges. [smeg.ie](http://smeg.ie)

### One cool stool – or three

When is a stool not (just) a stool? When it's one of architect Noreile Breen's "Nelly" stools, a witty take on the traditional "nest of tables" theme. Made from Douglas fir and designed as a complementary trio, these small, strong, simple pieces just beg

to be used as resting places for feet, plants, books, lamps and much more.

At just 28cm high, Nelly 01 is the baby of the family; Nelly 02 has a chunky solidity, measuring 45cm x 31cm; Nelly 03 is tall and willowy, reaching a height of 42cm. They cost, respectively, €325, €435 and €360 from [makersandbrothers.com](http://makersandbrothers.com).

### Flower fest

Hanging floral arrangements – or flower chandeliers, if you prefer – are everywhere right now but, lovely as they look, there's that slight worry that big blossom-sharbour all kinds of insects that could drop on to plates below.

Neptune's range of extremely realistic paeonias, roses and blossom twigs can be massed together over an Easter table, or used among cut greenery in more conventional arrangements.

The look pictured here involves suspending painted crates from the ceiling.

You can pick up wooden crates right now in TK Maxx for about €25, while original fruit crates, from farms in Northern Ireland, can occasionally be picked up on [donedead.ie](http://donedead.ie)

### Help homeless people, ask an architect

Skyrocketing house prices may be good news for some, but it's all bad for anyone – such as the 7,500 men, women and children currently in emergency accommodation across the country – at the sharp end of the Irish housing market.

While homeless people are obviously suffering most, a growing number of homeowners also find themselves somewhat stuck: their accommodation needs have

# THE IRISH TIMES

changed, but they can't afford to move house.

Launched by architect and TV presenter Dermot Bannon this week, the 13th annual **RIA** Simon Open Door campaign aims to shine a little light into the gloom by raising €100,000 for the Simon Communities as well as providing inspiration on building projects large and small.

Whether you're thinking of renovating, extending or something in between, discussing your plans with an architect is guaranteed to throw up some lively left-field ideas.

Log on to [simonopendoor.ie](http://simonopendoor.ie) to book an hour-long consultation, between Saturday, May 13th and Friday, May 19th, for €90.

The price is up on last year when consultations cost €70 but architects give their time and expertise for free, so every cent goes directly to the charity.

And as demand is expected to go through the roof, it's advisable to get your booking completed pronto.



# THE IRISH TIMES

singly or collectively for larger group get-togethers. Published by Artifice Books on Architecture, it is available to buy on Amazon or via [guardtillmanpollock.com](http://guardtillmanpollock.com)

## Stone skills

The stereotypical image of Ireland is characterised by stone walls separating lush green fields. But with the advent of technology, much traditional craftsmanship is in danger of dying out, which is why the Stone Mastery Academy in Roscrea is hosting a series of courses to help retain the unique skill of stone masonry.

David Kinsella of [www.wellstone.com](http://www.wellstone.com) says classes are open to everyone. "Stone Mastery classes are aimed at encouraging stonemasons to pass on their skills, protect our heritage and add to it for the future. They are open to everyone from students and the public to architects,

engineers and other professionals," he says.

The first class is on today and focuses on "How to Use Natural Stone in Hard Landscaping"; the next, on April 22nd, will teach "Stone Carving, Lettering, Punching and Texturing". The one-day class costs €123 including Vat and lunch. See [sales@wesellstone.com](mailto:sales@wesellstone.com), 087-6567238 and 050-531 100.

## Guard of honour

*Walls and Boxes* is a new book about the work of minimalist architecture practice Guard Tillman Pollock and covers 25 of its signature style projects. "We are interested in flexible and changeable living spaces that have lots of daylight and sunlight and create more spacious accommodation," says Guard.

Two Irish properties make the cut. House 5 is one of a number of cottages in Ballilogue, Co Kilkenny, that you can rent

# THE IRISH TIMES



■ Clockwise from main: a Neptune 'flower chandelier'; Dermot Bannon at Open House; House 5 by Guard Tillman Pollock; a Nelly stool by Noreile Breen; below, a Smeg/D&G kettle