

little black book

Interior designer Louise Norton of N space design & build lets us in on her crucial contacts and reveals her number one sources for top buys in home décor.

☎ Gareth Nihill, Builder. Tel: 087 683 9596:

The most important part of my business is to ensure that whatever ideas I come up with can be done. This is where my builder comes in. He provides all the elements I need - painters, tilers, plasterers, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, block layers and I love working with Gareth as he is hugely knowledgeable, reliable and his finish is second to none.

☎ Sofa Plus, Sundrive Road, Crumlin. Tel: 01 453 2685:

I usually get couches custom-made so my upholsterer is very important. I use a company called Sofa Plus who can make and upholster furniture in any fabric and to any specification. I find the prices competitive and delivery considerably faster than what most stores offer.

☎ Norman Butler Carpets. Tel: 087 280 8773:

Norman takes care of all your carpet needs. He comes out to measure up, brings samples for approval and fits whatever you choose. He is reliable and a joy to work with.

☎ Home Store and More, Airside Retail Park, Swords, Co Dublin. Tel: 01 813 8602.

Web: www.homestoreandmore.ie: This is a one-stop shop for all your kitchen, bedroom and bathroom needs. They stock everything from toasters and blenders to chopping knives and stainless steel bins. They have a large selection of plain bed linens in every colour. I love to choose colours for the bottom sheets and extra pillow cases to co-ordinate with a duvet set I've chosen. Sheets don't always have to be white!

☎ KA International, Jervis St Shopping Centre, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 878 1052:

They have a wide range of fabrics in all colours and styles that are co-ordinated into colour stories which makes it easier for you to mix and match your fabrics. I particularly love their stripes. They also stock loose covers for couches, which can be a very handy way to transform a room in a flash.



Top: A selection of fabrics from KA International Below: Some of the home treats on offer at Pia Bang, Dublin



☎ LM Ruban, Westbury Mall, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 677 0791: I think they have the most beautiful range of ribbons, trims, braids, buttons and beaded tie backs which are great for customising items. A little detail added to readymade curtains, headboards or window seats can really add something special to a room.

☎ Arnott's Bargain Basement, Henry Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 805 0400:

I always look in here for throws and cushion covers when I am dressing a bedroom or sitting room. You never know what you are going to find so you really need to rummage. I like to mix bits and pieces from here with more expensive items to create a look within a budget. Keep an eye out for their specials on items like rugs and mirrors.

☎ Pia Bang Home, 2 South Anne Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 888 3777:

I love her range of kids furniture. Their miniature two-seater couches, tables and chairs are adorable.

☎ Top Drawer, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co Dublin. Tel: 01 278 0022:

They specialise in high quality bed linens and stock everything from plain Egyptian cotton linens to novelty linens with embroidery and appliqué which can really add a feature to a bedroom. Keep an eye out for their sales as they are always fantastic.

☎ Charity shops: I pop into these shops when I get a chance. I'm always keeping my eye open for interesting glassware, vintage crockery, tea sets, etc. to add a focus to a dresser or mantelpiece.

N space design & build, 4 Northbrook Terrace, North Strand, Dublin 3. Tel: 01 887 9722.