

# homes & interiors

Sara Thompson - My Favourite Room

## Luxury bathroom to enjoy moments of calm

Classic meets contemporary design in this stylish bathroom by Thompson Clarke

Sara Thompson of Thompson Clarke Interior Design lives in a Georgian style country house with her husband and three children in Co Down. Sara describes her home style as decorative and very colourful with frequent use of patterns. The house is filled with paintings, decorative objects, interesting rugs and textiles and things Sara has collected over the years. "I think I'm quite eclectic. I love classic interiors. I try not to design based on a trend or fashion and instead design based on what I really love and what I feel is going to stand the test of time. Then I like to have interesting pieces like a contemporary lamp or an interesting rug or table that might be more modern in design. It's always a question of mixing and matching. I think nothing should properly match. Beautiful things can go together. I like to find interesting objects and make them work in a room. I generally go for a classic contemporary look."

Sara's favourite room is her master ensuite bathroom which is positioned over the centre of the house with two doorways into it, one from the main hall and landing that makes it easily accessible to everyone. The second doorway leads into the master bedroom. "It's got three lovely vistas, one view of outside, another onto our bedroom and the other reflecting



back into the rest of the house. It's a symmetrical, square room with a very large Georgian sash window that is almost floor-to-ceiling and looks out onto the surrounding countryside. When you are sitting in the bath you can enjoy this lovely view and enjoy a moment that is quiet and peaceful.

"The room is done in lots of warm tones with a brown herringbone tiled floor and soft greeny-grey panelling and a very decorative wallpaper from Cole & Sons which is from their archive of old wallpapers that have been updated. It's cream with hand-paintings of hummingbirds and flora, with lots of greens and corals and stronger reds and purple and grey - it's very lively and colourful in style yet traditional.

The cast iron roll top bath was reclaimed and rescued from a skip. It's bright orange; we had intended to



paint it but when we first placed the bath in the room we found it actually worked really well with the coral and red tones in the wallpaper. It's very striking. The room also has a very colourful vintage Turkish rug. Overall there are lots of neutral tones as well with these hints of stronger colours that when complemented by the softer tones really work on you and lift your spirits.

"I always intend to have long, luxurious baths but in reality with three

children and a husband to chase after I don't always have the time. But on the weekend it is a very inviting thing to do. The children all love the bath too and are in and out of it every night. The room also has a fitted vanity unit with a marble top and a double sink. We designed this and it was made by Function Design based in Killinchy.

"This room doesn't really feel like a bathroom, it doesn't just feel like a place just to get washed in, it's been as well thought through and carefully

put together as every other room in the house."

Thompson Clarke specialise in residential interiors and their design studio is based in east Belfast. "We love using local talent and working with local craftspeople to design bespoke pieces. We would design everything from kitchens to fitted furniture, bookcases and sofas and we work with upholsterers, curtain-makers and flooring companies locally," adds Sara.

## Must haves

### Spring cleaning



It's time to tackle that annual ritual. Luckily, we have sorted the kit to get your house in order

**Essentials (l-r)** Dustpan, £9; Fly Swat, £9; Bottle Brush, £6.75; Rice Straw Hand Brush, £7.50; (heart shaped) Old Carpet Beater, £14.50 (in stock April); Extending Cupboard Brush, £35; Red Handled Brush, £6.50; Bottle Brush, £7; Loo Brush with Rim Cleaner, £8, RE for the Home



### Heart Of The Home Eco Cleaner

100% natural, vegan, biodegradable and hypo-allergenic.

Available in three essential oil fragrances - Spearmint Rosemary and Peppermint; Lavender, Sage and Rose Geranium; Eucalyptus, Lemongrass and Marjoram, from £8.50. RE.



### Cleo Black Metal Coat Rack Bench

Reduced from £280 to £255, Alexander & Pear

