

Right at Home

ISSUE 187 ONLY INSIDE YOUR SUNDAY MAIL

JOHN AMABILE ■ MRS MOP ■ GARDENS ■ PETS ■ BARGAIN HUNT



DIY DONNY beats the crunch and helps slash bills

Champions of the world

Celebrity designers Loraine and Carlo go for global inspiration

UP FOR GRABS
Two-for-one tickets to wedding show

Justin and Colin
go to work on an awful office to get



Michael Kilkie
gives traditional scrambled eggs



Viv and Nick
show us their party piece with flowers

peek in your pad



my favourite thing!



▲ **Handmade coffee table:** This looks like it was inspired by the work of Gustav Klimt. It's made of sliced mother of pearl, cut bamboo and shredded coconut. We both appreciate unusual and artistic things.



▲ **Ski snapshots:** These were taken when we were on holiday in Val d'Isere, France, years ago. They hold happy memories and sit in the hallway.



▲ **Gerard Burns artwork:** He's one of our favourite artists and a pal. We love his style and have several of his pieces.



► **Antique Burmese angels:** We like oversized pieces and these are perfect for the room they're in – the balcony bedroom. The colours are fabulous too.

◀ **Oversized urns:** We enjoy special pieces and place them in prominent positions. These sit at the door of the drawing room and make a great statement.



From left to right, two views of the media room; the balcony bedroom overlooks the garden; and the original Inglenook fireplace takes pride of place in the drawing room

Showhome style for everyday life

Globetrotting couple's villa has sensational style inspired by travels to far-flung spots

Ever wondered how to get that perfect showhome look but didn't know where to start?

Take a peek inside Carlo Sambucci and Loraine Chassels' pad and you'll find all the inspiration you need.

The couple have been in the interiors business for more than 20 years and their home is stunning.

They import items from across the globe as part of their company XS Interiors and EX Showhouse Furniture.

Apart from creating styles for clients and celebrities, Scotland's top designers also turn to the pair when they're looking for must-have items to finish their schemes.

Lorraine said: "People joke that we change how our home looks as often as we change our clothes but that's normal to us – it's great fun."

"I'm the buyer for our firms and when purchasing for other people and projects I find amazing things. "We used to travel a lot to find suppliers but now we have a good network of people in place, we spend more time at home."

"Our house has never been about financial investment – it's a home and that's the most important thing to us."

The couple moved into their 1903 Edwardian villa in Bearsden, near Glasgow, in 1984. They lovingly restored the interior and exterior.

There are more than 20 rooms and they paid particular attention to the period details including ornate cornicing, bay windows and stunning stained glass featuring Charles Rennie



Lorraine and Carlo love to entertain guests in their opulent dining room, left, but for more informal occasions use their media room, top, or the conservatory, above

Mackintosh's Glasgow rose. There's more Mackintosh style echoed in the decorative brass and copper door plates and in the ceiling cupolas, again featuring the Glasgow rose.

The grand hallway gives a good insight to their eclectic style. There's a handcarved sofa from the Philippines covered in bright zebra-print fabric, contrasting with a 150-year-old Chinese sideboard and a couple of quirky lamps from New Orleans.

A pair of Grecian bronze sculptures and antique gilt mirrors give an extra opulent feel and the drawing room is a sedate, stately home affair. Lorraine couldn't find a wallpaper she liked so she created a paint effect that looks like silk flecked with gold.

It ties in perfectly with the classic over-stuffed Duresta sofas but the star of the room is the original Inglenook fireplace with hand-carved seats still covered in original William Morris fabric.

For more informal gatherings, there's a conservatory – reached from the drawing room via an original cast-iron staircase – and a media room. Their plasma TV screen is hooked to a Bang & Olufsen entertainment system hooking up sound and vision around the home.

Spanish chairs provide the ultimate in slouchy seating. Lorraine said: "They rock, swivel and recline – perfect for relaxing with a glass of wine."

When entertaining, Carlo and Lorraine love using their dining room. Carlo found an old fireplace behind a wall and added a wood-burning stove for a cosy focal point on one wall.

Beside it, there's gorgeous arch window overlooking the garden and

on another wall there's an imposing 5ft original oil painting from one of their favourite artists, Gerard Burns.

The round glass-topped fossil-stone dining table is given pride of place. A stunning Swarovski crystal chandelier which hangs from the ceiling casts tiny pools of light all around.

One of the most interesting rooms is the balcony bedroom, which has French doors leading to its own terrace overlooking the garden.

The room has an original corner fireplace and has been given a boutique hotel vibe thanks to the choice of contemporary furniture with an art deco twist. A screen has been creatively used as a headboard.

Lorraine said: "We have a real passion for what we do and it's lovely to apply that to our home. "We're all about style, not fashion. We're inspired by the items we bring in from all over the world and we still get excited when new items arrive."

For more information, log on to www.xsinteriors.com or phone 0141 942 0519.