

# Classic Charm, Modern Edge

In charismatic Cultra, Co. Down, this remarkable property has undergone a breathtaking transformation.



EDITORIAL BY EMMA DEIGHAN. PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BRUCE.





Dating back to 1874, this family home has been restored and expanded to harmonise the beauty of its period origins with the comfort and style of modern living. Today, the expanded version stands at 10,000 square feet, boasting a seamless flow between rooms, luxurious finishes, and thoughtful design, thanks to the vision of its owner and the creative expertise of renowned designer Kris Turnbull.

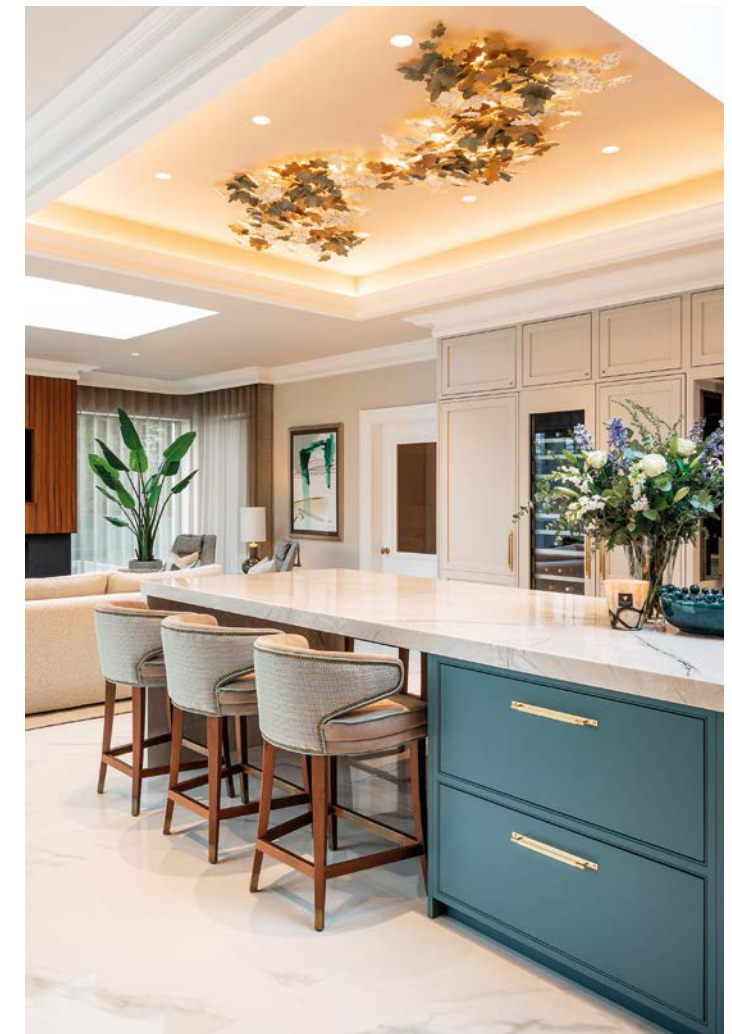
The homeowner purchased the property five years ago and initially rented it out for a couple of years before embarking on an ambitious renovation project. The decision was made to gut the old period property, restore it, and add a modern extension to achieve the desired flow

and functionality. The result is a stunning blend of old and new, offering a beautiful and spacious home perfect for a family with three grown children.

Choosing Kris Turnbull for the interior design was a natural decision for the homeowner. 'I knew exactly what I wanted. Kris and I, we've been friends a long time and he's worked on my friends' homes,' they said. The collaboration with architect Peadar O'Dowd was equally crucial, as he understood the homeowner's lifestyle and preferences.

The kitchen, a central hub for the family, features a long island with six seats, making it an ideal spot for both food preparation and socialising. 'There are enough spaces around the island and in the snug while you're preparing





food for everyone to be involved,' the homeowner shared. The tray ceiling lighting, designed by Kris, is a striking feature with leaf motifs that complement the kitchen's colour scheme. Kris Turnbull added, 'Like in fashion, the clients have a spectrum on the colour chart they love and also are drawn to. This client is drawn to the aqua blues and greens, electric blues, Serpentine greens for their kitchen space, influenced by the view to the sea from the kitchen area.'

Among the kitchen appliances are a Siemens triple

fridge, extra-large freezer, a wine chiller, and Miele eye-level ovens. 'We've used these brands before and they are all brilliant,' the homeowner noted. They opted for a Bora hob, although their preference would have been an AGA. The deep stone countertops and the large working island were non-negotiable for the homeowner, ensuring the kitchen was both functional and stylish.

'Kris' team did the tech drawings for the media area and we used Kerrcraft for all the joinery work,' they added. Reflecting on the overall look and theme

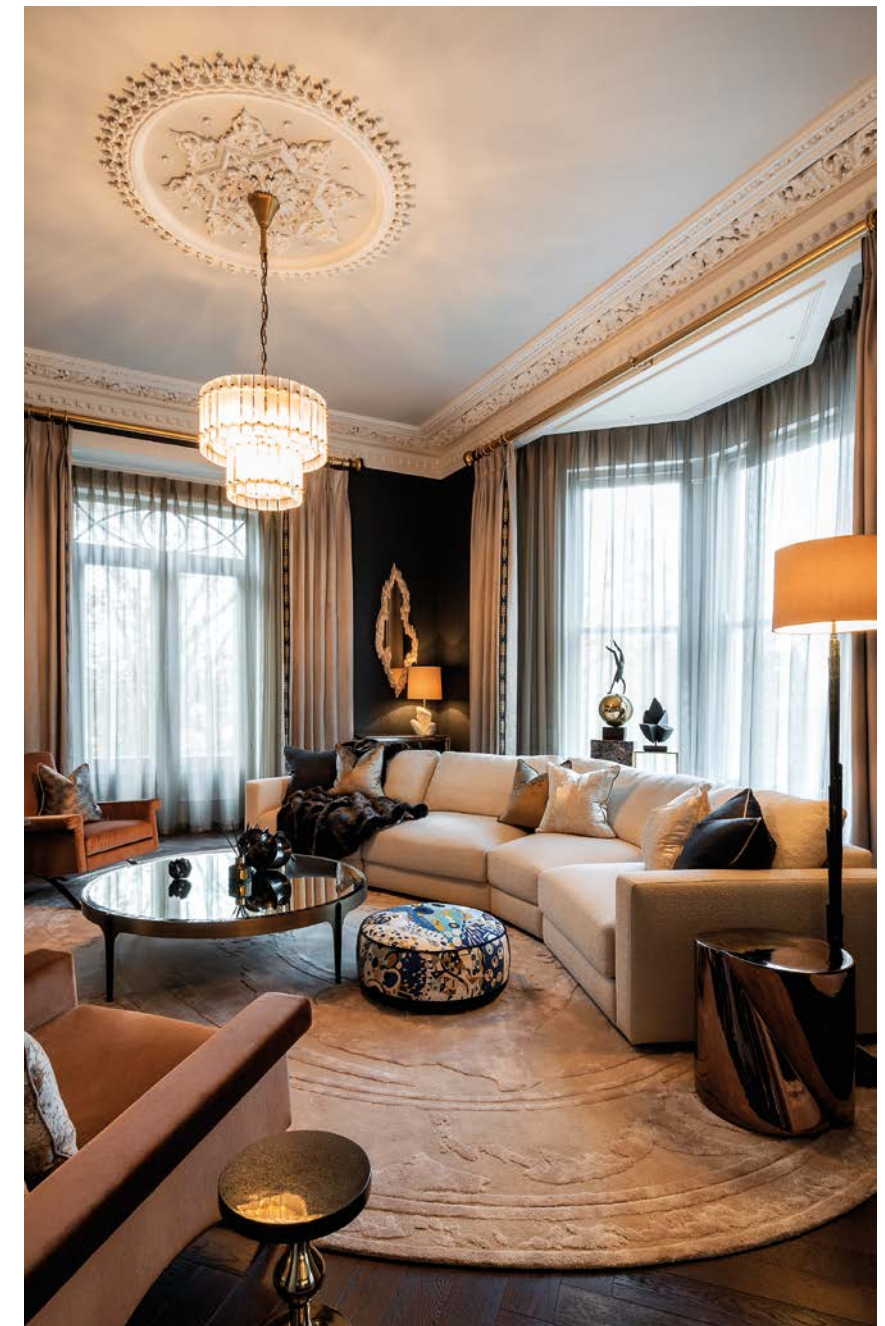
throughout the property, the homeowner said, 'I didn't want ultra-modern, but stylish and liveable.' Kris added, 'The homeowner's style is an eclectic mix of both contemporary and classical in flavour. The combination of a respectful nod to period design showcasing the scale or age of the property is very considered yet a real energy towards a modern open-plan lifestyle.'

'The interior architecture and design was an 20-month process. The house was brought right back





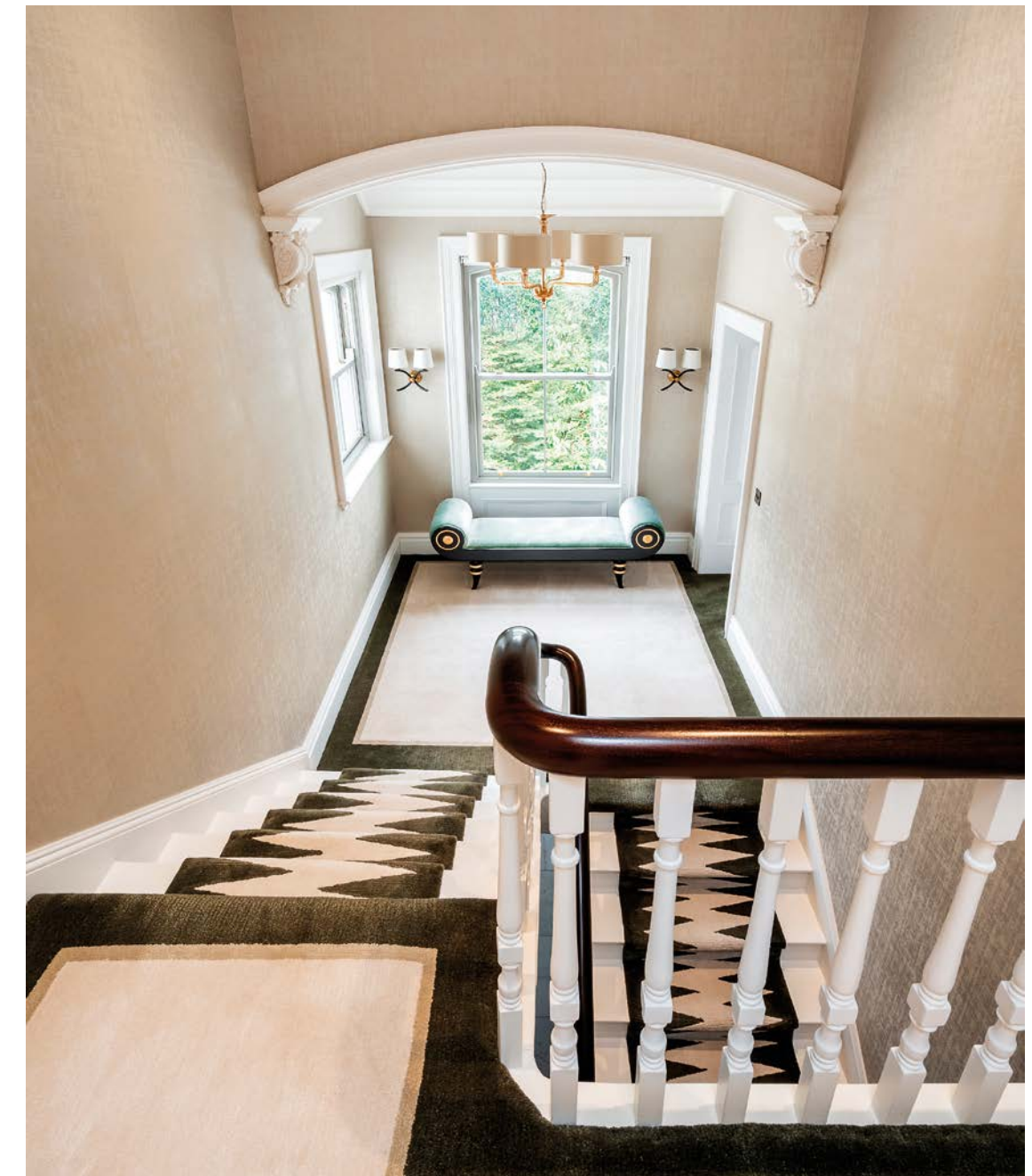
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to the brick, re-imagined with a 4000 sq ft extension consisting of the new kitchen, utility, wine cellar at the back of the house, double garage and loft style bedroom suite. Team KTS are involved in the entire project from concept, design, and delivery of interior architecture and fit out. Right down to the bedlinen and the wine in the cellar!

Off the kitchen, a dining room exudes a moody, luxurious ambiance. 'The colours here break the spaces up, and let you know you're in the next room, which is the dining room and lounge,' the homeowner explained. Bifold doors here provide privacy when needed. Kris' design for the dining room drew inspiration from French textile collections, blending rich ink blue, purple, and French gold. 'The dining table and chairs are designed for this space in cave mahogany and brushed antique brass along with a bespoke carpet and bronze cast consoles with crystal onyx top,' he described. The adjoining lounge area





continues the elegant theme with a more relaxed palette, featuring Cassina armchairs in burnt orange.

'The winery here was also on my wish list. Kris' team did the technical drawings, and KerrCraft made it. In the middle, we have a gold sink and taps. It's a wow area, and we use it frequently,' the homeowner divulged. The music room, a quiet space devoid of television, showcases the homeowner's love for green. 'The fireplace was the first thing I chose and worked from there,' they said. Kris Turnbull's design includes stunning wallpapered panels and intricate panelling that enhances the room's formal yet cosy feel. Kris added, 'This room is a sensory space and all the elements are designed to reflect this. The combination of fabrics with a chinoiserie wall covering might seem brave, but it works beautifully.'

Upstairs, the master bedroom offers spectacular views

of Belfast Lough and the lighthouse. 'I wanted a very calm space, very elegant with a really luxurious feel to it,' the homeowner shared. The dressing room adds to the suite's opulence. Kris explained, 'The principal bedroom was created from three existing separate rooms and brought together to create the ultimate suite to enjoy. The palette was soft and gentle.' Each of the other bedrooms reflect personal touches, with a dark green headboard in one and a terracotta colour scheme in another. 'The peach room is my daughter's bedroom; she loves that peachy pink colour,' the homeowner said. Kris Turnbull's team ensured each space met the family's needs and tastes. 'The darker room with the navy headboard is my son's room. He wanted burnt orange and navy,' the homeowner noted.

The homeowner's study, in the old part of the home, is





both luxurious and functional. 'The fireplace here is the only original one from the former home, restored for that room,' they noted. Kris said, 'The slightly more formal approach with the curtains and pelmets complements the function of the room. The material is taken from fragments of painted rococo wood panelling from the 18th century. Taking old wooden panelling and reimagining it in textiles gives the room the energy it deserves. Combining this along with archive panoramic wall coverings from the Louvre and statement McQueen wall

lights make the room special.'

One of the most significant challenges and triumphs of the renovation was integrating the old period property with the new extension. 'We had to tie the old period into the modern extension, and now it's more modern but very elegant and stylish,' Kris added. The flooring, a mix of large stone tiles from Portugal with carpeted bedrooms, plays a crucial role in unifying the space. Custom-ordered Italian marble tiles and bespoke stair runners add to the home's bespoke feel.





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‘The success with inception to delivery of the project is down to the relationship with the client. The client has exceptional taste, which makes the design development and styling a real pleasure,’ Kris said. His involvement extended to every detail, from the bedlinen to the wine in the cellar, ensuring a cohesive and personalised home. ‘It’s really difficult to pick a favourite room in this house,’ the homeowner said. ‘But the study and the music room come to mind when I’m asked which is my favourite!’ 🏠

*If you have any questions or queries relating to this reader’s home please contact Heather Withers.  
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