

The art of modern opulence at home

Create the ultimate retreat filled with luxury using deep tones and rich finishes

 **Ruth Noble**

When it feels like life has been hurtling at full tilt since the pandemic, most people want to retreat to their homes to relax and recharge on their time off. What better way to do that than to create a haven of luxury and sophistication within the comfort of your own home?

The best way to achieve this elevated aesthetic appeal and thus promote a sense of wellbeing is through a few key changes in design to create the ultimate in modern opulence.

The elements of interior design and decoration that typically draw us into a room and entice us to linger and enjoy the space include rich colours, intricate fabrics, exaggerated patterns, plush rugs, and the finer details that are added through gilding, embroidery, tassels, fringing and beading.

Add to that a few ornate mirrors, window dressings, decorative wallpaper and plush seating that we can sink into and the ultimate rich interior aesthetic is achieved.

Here's how to create and present a distinctly opulent finish within interior spaces.

Set the tone

Paint and fabrics in rich, dark tones are the basis to creating an opulent interior space. Carrying these tones throughout the scheme is important to create impact. Paint the skirtings, architraves and woodwork in the same deep tones and carry the darker paints on to the ceiling also to complete the moody look.

Think deep plum, burgundy, aubergine tones, for example, for paint tones and fabrics; mahogany or black lacquered furniture; and dashes of gilding and polished brass hardware such as door handles and door knobs.

When selecting timber floors or carpets, lean to the darker options. Select deep pile wool or patterned rugs which occupy the floor space within the living room and bedrooms.

Intense tones and deep colours for curtains, Roman blinds, sofas and headboards create a defined base to the opulent scheme.

Patterned fabrics on armchairs or a large mural or patterned wallpaper panel that is applied to the walls can also incorporate the rich colours of the schemes.

Polished finish

Gloss, lacquer, marble, crystal, polished brass and mirrored finishes are more associated with opulence than honed or matte finishes – this applies to bathroom fittings, paint finishes, tiles and furniture too.

Select high gloss paint for woodwork in dressing rooms and bathroom units, carry marble through the bathrooms and select polished brass finishes for the taps.

Textured wallpaper with statement patterns will draw guests into the room.

Maximise the size and scale of the mirrors, this is effective in creating an exaggerated effect but also has the practical



Tapestry fabric and embroidered cushions add the luxe effect

tical effect of bouncing light back around the room.

A wall of antiqued mirror tiles or panels are extremely effective in creating the basis for an opulent scheme.

Similarly, gild framed mirrors are a statement piece hanging over a fireplace or positioned leaning against a wall in a bedroom or dressing room.

Sophistication

Introduce silk fabrics to the schemes. Faux silk or satin interlined curtains bordered with silk or beaded braids and trimming, tied back with silk tassel hold-backs, and silk cushions in rich jewel shades complete the opulent scheme.

Incorporate wool, velvets and tapestry fabric on armchairs, footstools, embroidered cushions and occasional pieces. Embroidered cushions, faux fur throws on sofas, armchairs and beds add the luxe effect which will bring comfort and texture to the room.

Glazed ceramics such as vases, lamps, decorative objects introduce life to the schemes.

Panelled walls with insets of textured fabric is a beautiful method of incorporating texture within the interior spaces and works delightfully in dining rooms, dressing rooms and other spaces which do not have as much day-to-day traffic as the rest of the house.



Glazed ceramics such as vases, lamps and decorative objects introduce life to your interior design schemes



Comfort in opulent interiors should be exaggerated, with grander proportions



Paint the skirtings, architraves and woodwork in deep tones for a moody look

Lighting

Overstated glass and ceramic lamps positioned in an entrance hallway, on nightstands or on the sideboard of a dining room create an effective ambience. Crystal wall lights and ceiling chandeliers are statement pieces that have a dramatic effect in living rooms, corridors or bedrooms.

Consider comfort

Comfort in interiors should always be well considered but comfort within opulent interiors is exaggerated; this is applied to the seating, the ottomans, the footstools, the headboards and the

cushions – these upholstered items are oversized, the proportions are grander than the standard, armchairs are larger and the sofas are deeper than average.

The pile of the rugs is thicker and the furniture is layered with wool or cashmere throws.

Opulent interiors are overstated, luxurious, elegant and timeless.

Ruth Noble is a professional residential interior designer. See noblehome.ie and ruthnobleinteriors.com for more or follow her on Instagram: @noblehomeinsta or @ruthnobleinteriors

Dublin homeware brand Oriana B unveils custom collection

TINA-MARIE O'NEILL

Creative and eclectic furniture and design brand Oriana B in Fairview, Dublin 3 has unveiled its first in-house designed collection of furniture, lighting and homewares.

Designed in Dublin and handmade in India, the collection comprises more than 100 pieces across cabinetry, armchairs, lighting and mirrors that capture Oriana B's mission of creating thoughtfully designed pieces that give independent thinkers the power to create distinctive homes.

The brand was founded by Dublin-based Londoner Katharine Deas and Dublin interior designer Alannah Monks in 2020 as a lifestyle brand, which specialises in

original mid-century and contemporary furniture alongside creative homewares.

Five years later, Oriana B's first custom collection provides an imaginative and design-led answer to the many requests and feedback that the pair have received in their five years of sourcing and curating for Oriana B.

Taking inspiration from the many design movements and furniture techniques of the 20th century, this first collection weaves together furniture techniques such as fluting, marquetry, inlay cabinet making and carving to create a polished aesthetic.

"Features like cabinetry not fitting into the space plans of Irish homes; television units coming without cable cut-outs; or wall lights lacking



Alannah Monks, Amanda Walsh and Katharine Deas of Dublin creative design brand Oriana B

multiple installation options were among the common frustrations we heard," said Deas. "This, coupled with what we saw as an acute lack of discerning and aspirational design in Ireland, inspired us to create our first custom collection for Oriana B."



Large curved dark wood sideboard, rust coloured armchair, burgundy twist table and wooden floor lamp with pleated orange shade from the Oriana B collection

Highlights include luxurious Art Deco-inspired cabinetry, marble console tables, curved nightstands, statement coffee tables and TV units coloured with a rich patina featuring curved line motifs.

Upholstered pieces like mid-century-inspired velvet armchairs in burnt orange and

olive, and cosy bouclé fireside armchairs are also key pieces.

The punchy collection also includes a strong decorative touch with enamel-finished side tables and mirrors, bobbin framed mirrors and an extensive collection of floor lamps, table lamps and wall lights with pleated shades.

The duo's trademark polished eclecticism aesthetic pioneers homes that are distinctive yet discerning, curated but never contrived.

For those looking for original and stylish pieces from Oriana B, the Fairview shop and working studio at 19 Esmond Avenue are both open to visitors and features more than 1,500 hand-picked pieces on display. The brand also ships nationwide.

See: orianab.com



Proudly supporting over 1,000 community initiatives, including **Bray Rowing Club.**

Glenveagh
Home of the new.