

IRELAND'S BEST SELLING INTERIORS MAGAZINE

house and home™

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INSPIRING HOMES » GREAT BUYS » INSIDER TIPS



BEING... Davin Larkin

A former finalist in the *House & Home* Student Design Awards 2006, furniture and industrial designer Davin Larkin has recently established Kooyong Design, a product design firm. Located in Tallaght's new arts centre Rua Red, the studio aims to support Irish designers to market their products to the public.

Describe your style in three words Sleek, functional, statement.

What has been your favourite project to work on and why? Designing my own range of furniture has definitely been my favourite project, enabling me

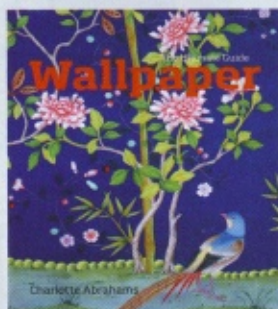
to be both client and designer. Working without a brief encourages me to work to my strengths and explore the limits of my capabilities to create a design that I can stand back from and say wow, that looks great.

What would you save if your house was burning down? My passport. I know it can be replaced but I love travelling and have travelled to a lot of places and collected a lot of visa stamps making my passport a very sentimental item to me. Every time I open it and see each stamp I remember certain highlights of my travels. Also, if my house had just burned down I might want to get away and travel somewhere new, it's the one thing that helps me relax and inspires me as a designer, going to new places, seeing new things and switching off.

What's next for you? Success, hopefully! Design is a demanding business and having invested a lot of time and work into getting where I am today I feel I am at the beginning of an exciting journey with Kooyong Design. I believe Ireland has a wealth of un-tapped design talent and I would love to build a studio that could help us sell our products and designs to the public both here and abroad. A designer working for someone else will never work to their full ability in my opinion but once you give them the opportunity to design for themselves they can really push the boundaries and strive to reach their design potential. Kooyong Design, Tel: 01 443 3133. Web: www.kooyongdesign.com



Four books for inspiration



Wallpaper: The Ultimate Guide, Charlotte Abrahams, Quadrille

What they say: The book traces the history of wallpaper and demonstrates how it can be used in a variety of ways. It features over 250 different wallpapers overall with information on where to purchase.

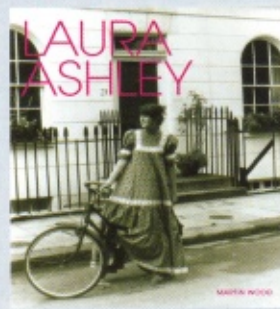
What we say: A swift education in various styles of wallpaper gives way to stunning photography of wallpaper in-situ. This is the book to reassure you that wallpaper should be embraced as an art form.



XS Extreme: Big Ideas, Small Buildings, Phyllis Richardson, Thames & Hudson

What they say: This book examines how the term 'extreme' is used to refer to different aspects of buildings that blur the boundaries between art and architecture.

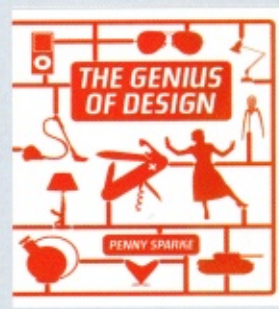
What we say: In this highly visual book, the beautifully shot images are sometimes more whimsical than realistic but they succeed in providing an insight into new design and highlighting how experimental structures can be functional as well as groundbreaking.



Laura Ashley, Martin Wood, Frances Lincoln Limited

What they say: Drawn from first-hand accounts of Laura Ashley's family, friends and colleagues, this is the story of a remarkable woman, an extraordinary partnership, and the creation of a highly successful and influential brand.

What we say: This book allows the reader to relive the life of the woman behind the iconic brand through personal accounts and photographs. A sneak peek into how she lived and breathed the modern design phenomenon



The Genius of Design, Penny Sparke, Quadrille Publishing

What they say: Champions not just the 'design heroes' of the last 200 years but also the democratic forces of machine production and mass consumption and puts humans back at the heart of the debate about what makes good and bad design.

What we say: This book informs the reader about the designs that we often take for granted. The illustrations and images are accompanied by interesting anecdotes about some of the most iconic designers of the past and present.