

04 your home



Pilar Landaluce

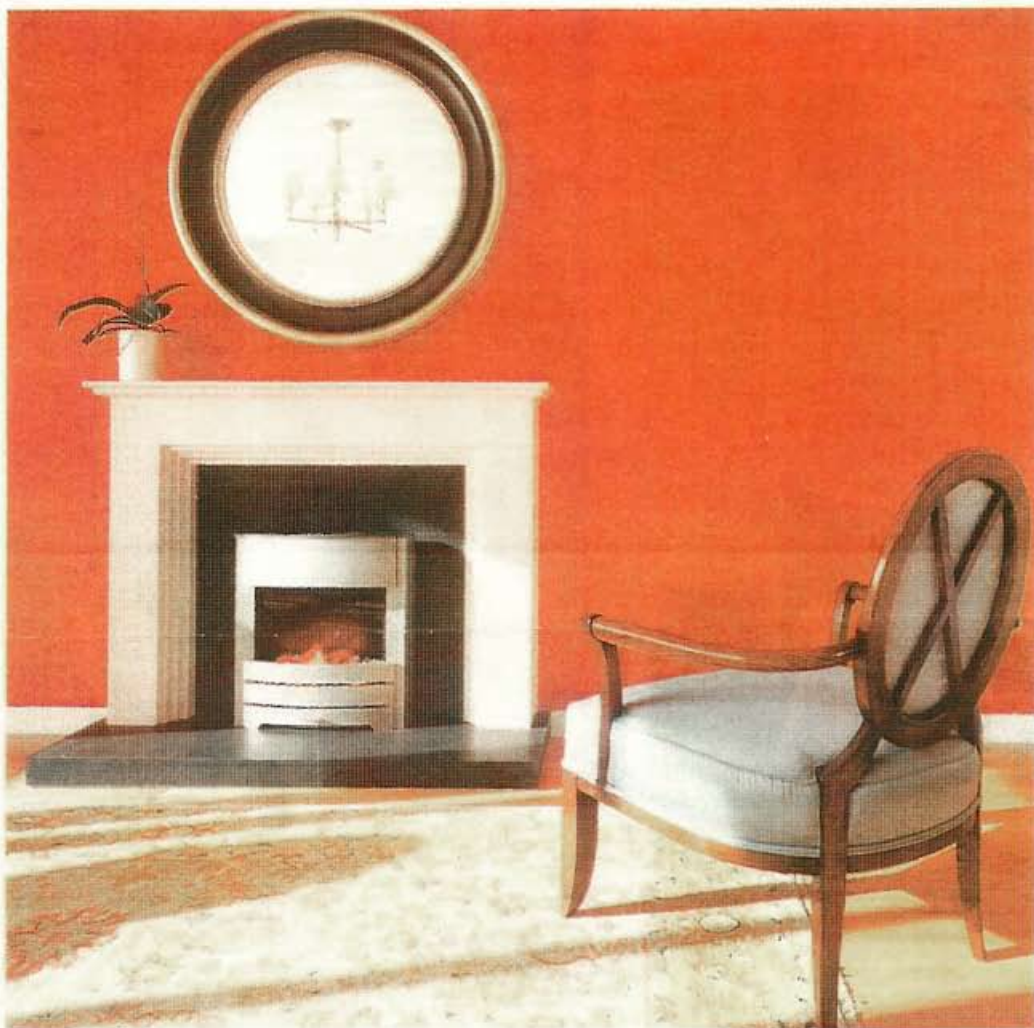
A native of Madrid, **Pilar Landaluce** has been working in the sector for a number of years with extensive experience in commercial and residential design gained in Ireland and abroad. From the contemporary to the classic, her Spanish background is reflected in her design style. She has participated on several occasions in the Design Forum of the Ideal Homes Exhibition and her work has been featured in trade magazines. She is also a founding member of The Interiors Association.

The new trends that eventually find their way into interiors normally follow the lines marked by the catwalk where changes and new trends happen very rapidly. Trends don't happen overnight and on the contrary evolve over a number of years.

With the start of a New Year and coming up to spring we will inevitably start looking at our homes and getting the urge to improve the general look. Maybe you'll concentrate on one particular room or maybe you'll be more adventurous and do some structural work or even an extension. With the property market not being as active as it was in recent months, it makes more sense to stay put and concentrate all efforts and resources in improving the existing family home.

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INSIDE EYE: Interior trends for 2008



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- **Chair**
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Downsize

In 2008, gone are the ornate and formal surroundings we used to aspire too. We are downsizing, and want to live in a more functional and practical home. Glamour is more muted and comes from the quality of materials used, together with the implementation of the latest technologies.

Kitchens centre stage

In recent years, we saw the kitchen taking centre stage and increasingly becoming the "heart" of every home. This trend will continue, with kitchens becoming as large as possible to accommodate the day-to-day family living from cooking, eating to relaxing. The trend is for the kitchen to look more like a living-room, with concealed handles and all major appliances housed on a wall of kitchen units freeing valuable floor space.

Open-plan living

Not only restricted to kitchen and living-room, "open plan" living is now moving to other parts of the home. The en-suite bathroom is now a familiar part of the bedroom, with free-standing state-of-the-art baths and bookshelves and other items becoming part of the bedroom itself. Interior lines are blurred, and no space is confined to just one function.

Spa focus

Even modest homes and apartments now feature en-suites and the total number of bathrooms is increasing, with people deciding to add on downstairs bathrooms or extra bathrooms upstairs. Bathrooms will become the focal point of the home becoming akin to a small spa, a room to relax in.

Evening Herald

your home

SUPPLEMENT

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■ Furniture
Lomi Design. Baldoyle Ind. Est.
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■ Kitchen
Designed by P-Lan Design.
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Colour splash

Splashes of colour are injected into the home and inspiration from the 60s and 70s is firmly back in the picture. Bright tangerine, Indian pink, zesty yellow, vibrant green or purple are all making your home go boldly where it hasn't gone before. Colour is character. Grey will continue to be the "new natural" and it will be used as a background colour using different shades. The new colour in favour for this season is yellow, in the entire spectrum from gold to a soft tone. Don't be afraid to use bold colours in your home – think earthy reds and proud purples for a strong look at home in 2008.

Supersize furniture

There is a tendency to go big and use oversize furniture, although these large items will need a lot of space to really appreciate them. This trend is extended into surfaces with worktops, hand basins and bathrooms in thick pieces of stone and marble. Chunk natural wood is used on tables and left raw which when mixing with very modern slim-line dining chairs giving a very sophisticated look.

Rough and ready

Texture will be a very important element in 2008 which will extend to different surfaces and materials. Floors and hard surfaces are more real with a rougher natural finish. Marble, stone and tiles are more tactile.

Bold patterns

Bold pattern and vibrant schemes continue to be the trend, with feature walls still prominent. Wallpapers are still a winner with choices from textures to pattern. Prints are getting bigger and bolder. The use of metallic finishes and effects will continue into 2008 although there will be a more muted metallic which are more sophisticated than their shinier counterparts and much easier to live with.

Outdoor overall

Outdoor spaces are becoming progressively part of the overall home design. The trend is making the outdoor spaces a continuation of the interior and the extensive use of glass and large windows allows this to happen very easily. Incorporate the outdoor spaces by using design and lighting which will allow you to use them throughout the year regardless of the weather.

Eco-style

The general public is becoming more environmentally conscious and this will translate into interiors. Not only will there be more efficient use of alternative energy, there will also be more efficient ecological products that are both eye-catching and functional at the same time.