



Q & A

EOIN LYONS answers your design queries

business, and should be able to do something. If it can't, you might have to consider getting the armchair re-covered in a new fabric.

Joshua Duffy on Francis Street, Dublin (00-4730390) is a good upholsterer and has a selection of fabrics from which to choose. Stick with suede or choose something more hardwearing instead, but don't try to match the original. Go for a complementary shade. This might seem an extravagant approach, but the cost won't be over the top (think approximately €400).

Q: I'm redecorating a hallway and want to get rid of an ugly radiator that's in the middle of the wall that faces the front door. I'm not crazy about radiator covers and would ideally like under-floor heating, but can't afford the disruption that a job like that would cause. Is there anything else available?
Vincent Connolly

A: Dry Zone is a heating specialist company based on Drury Street, Dublin 2, that do an ingenious radiator disguised as a skirting board. I saw it used recently in the home of interior designer Philippa Buckley. It looks convincing and freed up her wall space, which sounds similar to what you want to do. The skirting is made from aluminium, painted white or any other colour you fancy, with a narrow opening running vertically, parallel to the floor, from which heat emanates. It's easy to install, as it links to a water-run radiator system and can be connected to the pipes that are usually under the floorboards. Dry Zone owner **Andreas Splendori**, an Italian, says it gives a more comfortable heat than normal radiators as the hot air is distributed more evenly. That also means its energy efficient, as heating can be set at a lower

temperature. The average cost is about €35 per metre of skirting, plus fitting and extras such as controls. See www.dryzone.ie for more details.

Q: What's collectable now? I'm bored with what's in antique shops - mainly silver and glass - and want to buy someone an interesting gift.
Shella Foley

A: *Elle Decoration* and the *Guardian* recently listed Scandinavian artist **Stig Lindberg** (1916-1982) as one of the top 10 designers in the world to watch in terms of value appreciation. Lindberg created whimsical ceramics and graceful tableware lines during a long career that stretched from the 1950s to 1970s. A leader of Scandinavian Modernism, he is hot because a retrospective of his work has just finished in the Stockholm National Museum. Important, signature pieces are fetching big prices internationally because there is a limited supply and each is unique; the Japanese, in particular, have latched onto him and are buying in bulk.

Dubliner **Geoff Kirk**, a former commercial artist, is probably the only person in Ireland with a collection of his work and has a new website from which it's possible to buy these mid-century pieces. See www.kirkmodern.com. Kirk also deals in graphic, colourful art deco ceramics by **Clarice Cliff**, **Shelley** and **Suzie Cooper** but has been collecting Lindberg for years and has seen the value of his work soar. The objects are useful - vases, bowls, jugs, tea sets, jam pots - but are more decorative than anything else. Prices rise in part thanks to a young, affluent clientele who are snapping up mid-century Scandinavian furniture to which Lindberg ceram-

ics are a natural foil.

While some pieces, such as elaborately painted vases, sell for €1,000

