

# confection perfection

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**A new era** In the formal living room of Suzie McAdam's terrace house, different design decades and styles play off one another. Suzie had the mouldings added "as a simple, effective device" to frame the wall lights and artworks. Most pieces are vintage or antique, including the 1970s coffee table from Paris, the lilac chair in Pierre Frey fabric, the small French sofa in Fearless fabric by JP Demeyer and the Venetian glass chandeliers and sconces, which Suzie sourced from a vintage dealer in Milan. The jade-hued Onslow sofa by David Seyfried is covered in Pierre Frey 'Dandy laine' with 'Bordure les fleurs du bengale' trims. The Japanese screen is from Altfield and the artwork above the sofa is by Angela Chrusciaki Blehm. →

This interior designer's decadently decorated home flirts with French frivolity





who lives here?

Suzie McAdam, an interior designer, with her husband Barry Byrne, their one-year-old son Sebastian and Mischkko the Husky. [Suziemcadam.com](http://Suziemcadam.com) | [@suziemcadamdesign](https://www.instagram.com/suziemcadamdesign)

SUZIE MCADAM'S HOME is like a mixed box of Ladurée macarons. Decorated in shades of pistachio, rose, vanilla and violet, the Victorian terrace has the visual temptation of a sweet pastry and is every bit as decadent as it looks. An interior designer, Suzie delighted in the opportunity to indulge her personal aesthetic and design her own home – one she spent years looking for with her husband Barry Byrne. When they found this double-fronted 19th century home in Dublin, Suzie says they both sensed its “amazing potential” and lived there before renovating to get a feel for the floor plan and natural light. “What I loved about doing up my house is that I could be true to my style, experiment and take risks,” Suzie says. “I’m lucky that Barry, who has masculine tastes, allowed me to stay true to my vision.”

**MODERN HISTORY** The style of Suzie’s home could be described as a French Baroque chateau moonlighting as a museum of modern art. This fabulous fusion begins with the architecture – Suzie collaborated with her friend, local architect Courtney McDonnell, to create better access to beautiful views and simplify the layout by moving the four bedrooms downstairs and the kitchen, dining and living spaces upstairs. “Designing functional spaces is an important part of what I do,” maintains Suzie, who studied architecture before realising interior design was her calling, “but I love bringing soul to interiors with unusual antiques, fabrics and art.” While the new spaces have large picture windows and a modern feel, they retained the old cornices and fireplaces. Suzie says it was important to distinguish between the contemporary and Victorian elements. Even more crucial was that she connected with every element – “it’s about surrounding yourself with things you love.”

**TASTE SENSATION** Entering the dining room feels like Alice in Wonderland stumbling upon a decadent tea party replete with vintage decor, Venini glass lighting, whimsical wallpaper and eccentric guests – two dog-like sculptures by Melbourne artist Troy Emery. The master bedroom is a Francophile’s fantasy in floor-to-ceiling toile fabric, Pierre Frey silks, Maison Dada furniture and a vintage pink glass chandelier. And during last year’s lockdown, Suzie says the formal living room became a space for enjoying small rituals – “on Fridays we make cocktails and light the fire”. Indeed, even this formal space has a frivolous side. Suzie admits the antique French sofa in surreal JP Demeyer fabric isn’t too comfortable, “but it’s important to have something that inspires you, even if it’s not practical!”



**Dining companions** A pair of Troy Emery sculptures add to the dining room’s fanciful atmosphere. The walnut table is a French Art Deco piece from Pamono, the Venini glass pendant is vintage and the dreamy wallpaper is from Watts of Westminster. **Colour cocktail** The dining room drinks cabinet is painted in a lush pairing of Zoffany ‘Faded Rose’ and ‘Serpentine’. On the top shelf is a print by Luke Edward Hall. **Where the heart is** Interior designer Suzie McAdam holds her son Sebastian in the formal living room (opposite). On the sofa are cushions in Maoming fabric from Pierre Frey. →



**Sweet spot** Decorative touches such as this resin Melting Pop sculpture by Betsy Enzensberger reveal Suzie's whimsical and free-spirited side. **Indoor garden** Suzie loves reimagining old designs, such as the gold vintage chairs reupholstered in Okinawa Saphir fabric by Pierre Frey (opposite). The vintage Berber rug was purchased in Marrakesh. Almost every element is embellished, even the curtains with their Pierre Frey 'Bordure les fleurs du bengale' trim. →





### a quick guide to reupholstering furniture

- 1 Make sure the item is worth the money you will spend re-covering it. If it's poorly made, damaged or you just don't like the design and shape, brand new upholstery won't fix it!
- 2 Choose the right fabric. Highly durable upholstery-grade fabrics are ideal for sofas and dining chairs. Lighter fabrics are fine for purely decorative pieces.
- 3 When consulting an upholsterer, bring visual inspo and ask to take home swatches. Research the costs, but do keep in mind quality upholstery is worth the expense.
- 4 Get creative! You can add, lengthen or remove the skirt of a chair or sofa, or add details such as piping in a contrast colour to enhance the furniture's lines.

**Marble marvel** Suzie designed the marble island with slim legs to recreate the feel and functionality of an elevated dining table, where the family eat and food prep takes place. She also had the ceiling removed to reveal the home's original pitched roof, which opens up the space. Around the island are Gebrüder Thonet Vienna 'Cirque' stools and on the walls are pink China lights from Magic Circus. The blue cooker is La Cornue. **Custom fit** Suzie (pictured opposite) sits in front of the kitchen's custom joinery by Newcastle Design. This practical storage was inspired by the Victorian-era front door. **Bottom's up!** A cheeky ceramic vessel (opposite) stands above the splashback. This marble is from Miller Brothers. →



FROM LEFT **Flight of fancy** While Barry didn't agree to using pink onyx in the kitchen, Suzie got her way in the main bathroom, which is clad in marble from Miller Brothers and Phillip Jeffries 'Flight' wallpaper. The Calacatta marble bathtub from Hurlingham had been on Suzie's wishlist. The lion-shaped tapware is from Bespoke Taps, the mirrors are Gubi, the wall sconces are by Kelly Wearstler, the cabinet handles are from Anthropology and the vintage pendant is by J.T. Kalmar. **A fashionable life** Suzie seized the chance to design a dressing area for herself. The joinery is painted in Zoffany 'Faded Rose' and the drapes are made from Zelina fabric in Pétale by Pierre Frey. **History meets escapism** Draped in Electric Dreams kimono-inspired jacquard by Dedar, with Samuel & Sons fringe and sage green Augustine silk by Pierre Frey, this bedroom has all the fantasy and frou-frou of Sofia Coppola's film *Marie Antoinette*.

**style tip** Love Suzie's modern-meets-baroque interior style? When embracing lots of sensory textiles, elaborate light fixtures and ornate furniture, do mix and match prints and materials, then rein it in with a more concise colour palette →

**Boudoir beauty** The master bedroom is fit for a modern-day queen, with a dressing table and stool by Maison Dada, a vintage pink glass light found in Milan, a Jonathan Adler daybed and a Slim Aarons photographic print above the ornate fireplace. Phillip Jeffries wallpaper adorns the walls.



shop it! Embrace fun and frivolity with French-inspired decor



- 1** The Home Collective 'Flin' glass floor lamp, \$199, Temple & Webster. **2** Marco tribal indoor/outdoor rug in Beige, \$349 for small, Domayne. **3** Monocled Miss print by Slim Aarons, from \$616 unframed, Fine Print Co. **4** Modernism clear glass shell chandelier in Brass (approx. 59cm), \$568, Beautiful Halo.
- 5** Mia swivel chair in Boucle Paper, \$995, Coco Republic. **6** Rounded glass vase, \$10, Kmart. **7** Lenox dining chair in Distressed Velvet/Metal, \$399, West Elm. **8** Dorset framed oval mirror in Champagne Gold, from about \$183\*, Oval and Round Mirrors Store. **9** Scandinavian Full Moon dressing table with integrated LED lamp in Navy Blue, \$2400, Lectorsy. **10** Chandelle tapered candle in Sky, \$29 for 4, Maison Balzac. **11** Grand Galet candleholder in Mint, \$49, Maison Balzac. **12** Single scalloped shell wall lamp in Black, \$269, Litfad. **13** Provence 3-seater sofa in Heron Grey, \$1399, Brosa. **14** European Forest framed artwork c1900, \$420, Vintage Art Emporium. **15** Lismore Essence Champagne saucers, \$289 for pair, Waterford. **16** Ginori 1735 x Luke Edward Hall 'Neptune' charger plate, \$191, MatchesFashion. **17** MM Linen 'Marlie' cotton-blend cushion, \$119.99, Temple & Webster.

still-life styling alice leraice  
\*conversion correct at time of print



**Colours and finishes**  
FROM LEFT Sanderson 'Andhara' wallpaper in Dove/Cream, \$264 for 10m, Wallpaper Shop. Designers Guild 'Brera Grasscloth' wallpaper in Duck Egg, \$335 for 10m, Feliz Home. Wall paint in Petal Pink, \$130 for 4L, Porter's Paints. Arabescato marble, Surface Gallery.

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