

DELECTABLE COLLECTIBLES

As well as three young children, Nicholas and Lizzie Gore-Grimes get to share their urbane Sandymount abode with an ever-changing carousel of fabulous furniture and art ...

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WHO LIVES HERE Nicholas and Lizzie Gore-Grimes and their three children, Andrew, Patrick and Alanna.

THE HOUSE A villa-style single-storey period property on a snug little square in Dublin's Sandymount.

WHY WE LOVE IT It's a functioning family home and work space that manages to be beautifully stylish and child-friendly at the same time.

ABOVE The Cross Café on Francis Street.

RIGHT Alanna spins in front of a pair of John Boyd "Arbor" paintings. The airplane sculpture by Andrew Clancy sits on a nest of G Plan tables. The mid-century rocker chair is by Ole Wanscher for France & Son (Denmark, circa 1950).



“Dealing in mid-century furniture is a new venture for us; we’re constantly seeing new pieces and getting excited.” Nicholas and Lizzie Gore-Grimes are sipping tea at a big Welsh farmhouse table in their large light-filled kitchen, which faces out onto serene greenery. Although they both lead hectic lives – he as a gallery owner and she as an editor and food writer – their home’s relaxed vibe starts with the lingering scent of lavender bushes at the front gate and carries right through the house. Somehow they also find the time to be parents to three young children.

Nicholas runs contemporary art space Cross Gallery on Francis Street, Dublin 8, which now exhibits a beautifully curated mix of mid-century furniture. As a result, art and furniture pieces from the gallery often make their way into the couple’s period home in Sandymount, Dublin 4 – and some pieces make their way from home to gallery – but they relish the variations. “It’s exciting to change things – it gives us a chance to refresh our pieces,” says Lizzie about the odd disappearing item. “I don’t get too attached to the furniture, as it’s an opportunity to get something else. You do become fond of certain paintings, though.” As parents to Andrew, seven, Patrick, six, and Alanna, three, they keep furniture practical too. “The Welsh farmhouse table has taken phenomenal abuse,” Lizzie says, “and the G Plan swivel armchair is fairly robust. They use that like a merry-go-round ...”

NICHOLAS, YOU OPENED THE CROSS GALLERY AT THE AGE OF 23 – HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT? My interest in the visual arts came from my dad, who is a keen collector. My first job was with James Adam’s Auctioneers and I then spent time

ABOVE LEFT Patrick plays on the iPad under “Blue Reflection” by Graham Crowley. **FAR LEFT** The Regency display cabinet in Alanna’s bedroom – a housewarming gift from Lizzie’s mum, Judith – houses the little one’s burgeoning shoe collection. **LEFT** The couple recently had their G Plan swivel chair reupholstered in machine-washable fabric by Mia’s Upholstery, as the kids swing out of it like monkeys. The 1950s Anglepoise standard lamp was sourced in the UK, while the Gabbeh rug came from Oriental Rugs on Francis Street.



in New York working in antiques. Then in 1999, an opportunity came up to take over the space on Francis Street.

YOU’VE ADDED A CAFÉ AND MID-CENTURY FURNITURE INTO THE MIX ... Yes, we opened the café last summer and it’s going great. With the help of our architect, David Leyden (of Leyden, Hassett & Associates), we’ve succeeded in creating a complementary space which has hugely increased our footfall in the gallery. I think people can find walking into a gallery a bit intimidating, but a café by its nature is warm, welcoming and sociable, so it acts as the perfect anteroom to the gallery. We launched the Cross Collection in July and the reaction was hugely encouraging so we plan to host two dedicated mid-century furniture sales a year – one in July/August and one in December/January. But throughout the year, we will always have a select amount of stock on view and an active website that will show the full collection.

WHAT GEMS HAVE YOU FOUND TO DATE? We buy mostly from France and the UK, but also here in Ireland. Our best finds include a Greta Grossman “Grasshopper” light (circa 1948), the Audoux & Minet pair of

LEFT A shaft of late-afternoon sunlight shines into the kitchen through the clever design of the pop-up roof. **BELOW** Lizzie at work in the kitchen on her trusty MacBook Air.





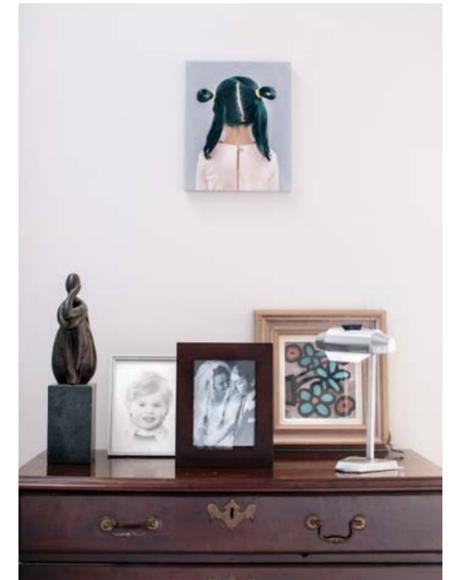
bentwood and rope armchairs (circa 1940) and a gorgeous pair of 1950s Pagholz children's chairs by Adam Stegner.

WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR HOUSE IN HAVELOCK SQUARE? The single-storey, double-fronted villa style of the house instantly appealed. It's also on a lovely square – the family-friendly location really sold it.

WHAT WORK HAVE YOU DONE ON IT? Our architect, David Leyden, came up with a plan that would leave the period exterior and two front rooms untouched, but open up the rest of the house to create an extra bedroom, bathroom and open-plan kitchen/living space. The advantage to a one-storey house is that you can bring light in from the ceiling throughout the house.

LIZZIE, YOU WRITE ABOUT FOOD AND EDIT COOKBOOKS – WAS THE KITCHEN SPACE IMPORTANT TO YOU WHEN RENOVATING THE HOUSE? I had been planning my dream kitchen for years. Having spent years living in small apartments, counter space was high

LEFT The view from the garden into the living/kitchen space. The 200-year-old Welsh farmhouse table was purchased in London when the couple first bought the house, and it takes a great battering with no complaint. The leather-upholstered Regency dining chairs came from Michael Connell Antiques on Francis Street. **BELOW LEFT** Jurassic Park in the boys' bedroom. **BELOW CENTRE** Alanna's red shoes. **BELOW RIGHT** Andrew, Patrick and Alanna cuddle up.



TOP LEFT The drawings in the boys' room are by Stephen Dunne. **TOP RIGHT** In the master bedroom, some old family photos sit side by side with a small Bauhaus desk lamp and "Girl with Buns" painting by Cristina Bunello. **ABOVE** A selection of framed family photos hangs on the kitchen wall around a Smiths railway clock that Lizzie picked up on Portobello Road in London when she was living there. **LEFT** An Art Deco bedside table and German industrial task lamp.



up on my wish list, plus a little utility room. My biggest indulgence, though, was the Gaggenau five-burner gas hob, which I still get such enjoyment out of using every day.

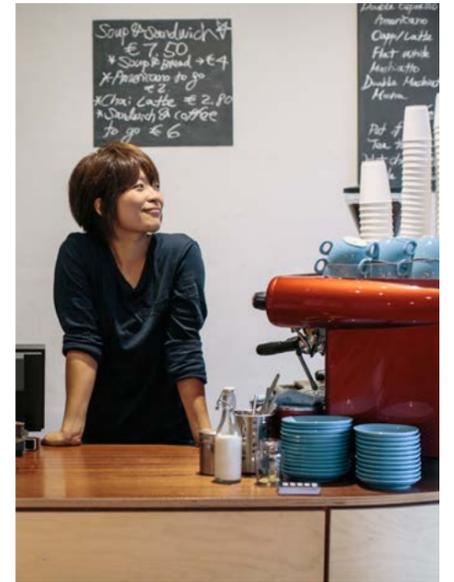
YOU WORK FROM HOME A LOT, TOO, LIZZIE – HOW DO YOU FIND TIME AND SPACE TO DO THAT WITH THREE YOUNG CHILDREN?

It's not without its challenges, I'll admit! I try to work solidly while they are at school, until 2.30pm, and then keep my afternoons free to do homework and after-school activities with them – but inevitably pressing deadlines mean I'm working away while sitting on the sidelines of the swimming pool. The MacBook Air has been my saviour; I just take it everywhere with me. The new modern office!

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE AS A COUPLE? We admire things that are well made, but are practical as well as having a strong aesthetic. When you have three small children and a limited amount of room, you have to make sure that each piece in the house justifies the space it takes up.

The next Cross Collection sale starts on November 29; see crossgallery.ie and crosscollection.ie.

LEFT Nicholas standing in the doorway of the Cross Gallery and Café on Francis Street in Dublin. **ABOVE** A framed work on paper by Anthony Lyttle hangs in the café at the front of the gallery.



ABOVE LEFT The main gallery space of the Cross Gallery. **LEFT** The Cross Café. **ABOVE** The café's barista, Sungsu, trained in Melbourne and makes some of the best coffee around. **BELOW** Sungsu is also a skilled illustrator and her "sad bear" latte art is much loved.

