

# BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Lara and Mark DeRighetti's Edinburgh home makes the most of a countryside setting outside and an urban contemporary space inside

Words Fiona Reid Photographs Neil Hanna



**I**T CAN be tricky trying to find a house in the city that feels as if it's in the countryside, so Lara and Mark DeRighetti couldn't believe their luck when they came across this property in Edinburgh's Cammo area in 2006. The house sits within a small enclave of properties that had been developed at the time to complement an existing house on the site, and this property had been created from the original garage for this house.

You'd never guess these origins, however. As Lara says: "When we first saw the house, we thought it looked like a Swiss log cabin." It isn't hard to appreciate why the DeRighettis were so

drawn to the location as the house overlooks the wooded Cammo Estate - an extensive public park that was formerly the estate of Cammo House. Sitting in the open-plan living, dining and kitchen space that takes up the entire first-floor level, the couple are looking out to the woodland directly opposite. Sliding doors open from the living area onto a wide balcony that takes in this same view - it's their dog Gio's favourite spot from which to survey his fantastic 'garden'. When it snows, it's like a winter wonderland scene.

When the DeRighettis bought the house in December 2006, the interior was brand new.

"We really liked the upside-down layout, with the bedrooms on the ground floor and the open-plan living space upstairs," Mark reflects. There was much to admire about the original specification, from the solid timber internal doors and architraves to the granite staircase with its tension wire balustrade - a detail inspired by nautical design, as was the high circular 'port-hole' window in the living space. As you arrive into the large hallway, the wall behind the staircase is clad in slate - again, echoing the organic material of the staircase itself.

Elsewhere, however, the couple knew they would be putting their own stamp on the spaces.

**Clockwise from above:** sliding doors open on to a balcony; the open-plan living space on the first floor of the house; the sculptural Power Plant radiator is in one corner of the kitchen



And little wonder when you consider that Victor Paris, which is one of the UK's leading bathroom and tile specialists with showrooms in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee, is the DeRighetti family business. Having been established in 1975 by Mark's father, the company is now managed by Mark and his brothers. Lara is also involved in the business.

One of Mark and Lara's first tasks was to refit the bathroom and shower rooms on the ground level - there is also a cloakroom on the first floor. Mark's brother Gavin redesigned the master en-suite as soon as they moved in, borrowing a wardrobe space to form a large shower area

and reconfiguring the existing floor space to create a better layout. "It was quite challenging because of the quirky angles, but Gavin came up with a fantastic design that we hadn't envisaged," Lara says. The couple specified a combination of products by Duravit, Hansgrohe and Crosswater, here as throughout, with rosewood furniture in the master en-suite complemented

by warm stone-coloured porcelain tiles, while the en-suite for the main guest bedroom has large-profile anthracite-hued porcelain tiling with a Happy D vanity unit and another large shower enclosure.

It's surprising to realise these spaces were fitted a few years ago as everything looks so crisp. "When new products come out you do think, 'Oh I wish we'd waited and had that,'" Lara acknowledges. It's an occupational hazard after all. But then, as she says: "The original design we did seven years ago still looks great."

The kitchen was also completely overhauled more recently and here the couple headed ➤

**'The original design we did seven years ago still looks great'**

## Cover Story

• to Kitchens International where they worked with designer Louisa Forsyth. "Louisa was very good at listening to exactly what we wanted," Lara says. Lara had casually mentioned how much she'd love a dining booth rather than having a standalone dining table and chairs, but the couple didn't think there was the space available for this. Yet when they met with Louisa to look through her design ideas, she had designed today's L-shaped dining booth alongside the new kitchen.

The grey lacquered glass splashback featured in the kitchen extends behind the booth seating, which was made bespoke by Kitchens International, accentuating the connection between the cooking and dining areas. It's a relaxed and social space, and every element of the design enhances this. For example, the induction hob – all the appliances are by Siemens – is positioned in the peninsula, facing onto the dining area, so you can cook while chatting to guests. As Mark says: "We have a large family and we enjoy entertaining, and this space is just as comfortable whether it's the two of us or a bigger group."

**We have a large family and we enjoy entertaining, and this space is just as comfortable whether it's the two of us or a bigger group'**



Our name may have changed but we are still offering the same high quality products and personal service. Come in and see what we can do for your home.



Dreams become reality.

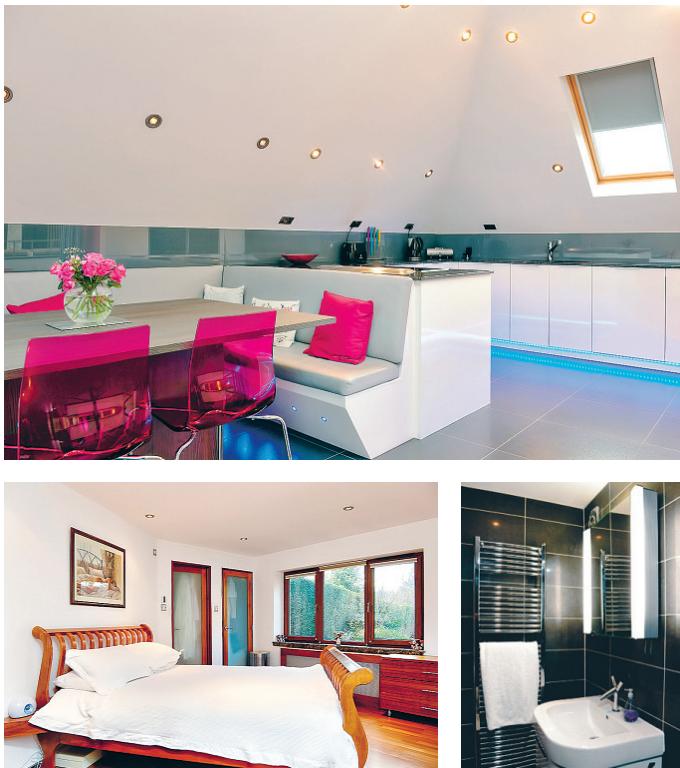
FENTON BARN RETAIL VILLAGE, NORTH BERWICK EH9 5BW  
T. 01620 850435 W. WWW.NORTHBERWICKBATHROOMS.COM



The leather for the booth seating was chosen to match the corner sofa in the living area, which the couple sourced from Designer Sofas at the Ideal Home Show in Glasgow – the company's stand was opposite the stand for Victor Paris, so it was a happenstance find after a lengthy search for the perfect sofa.

The kitchen is a Leicht Amica design with white high gloss furniture and Orlando Oak smoke silver accents, and with worktops in steel silver grey granite and beautifully understated details like the slender, ultra-minimal handles.

The couple also replaced the existing timber flooring that had extended throughout the living space with large-profile porcelain floor tiles in an anthracite hue – again from Victor Paris – which they combined with underfloor heating. "Because we have slate tiles on the balcony, we



Clockwise from left: the open-plan living space; the leather dining booth; large-profile tiling; internal doors are solid wood; sleek bathroom style; the staircase; Mark, Lara and pet dog Gio

chose this finish as it almost feels like you're bringing the outside in," Lara says, while the colour complements the granite staircase.

Previously the kitchen and main living area had different floor finishes, with tiling in the kitchen, but using one finish throughout has unified the whole living area. The couple also installed radiators by Bisque, including one called the Power Plant that looks like a giant sculpture. This living space revels in bold, contemporary design. "We wanted to keep to neutrals but then throw in colours in the accessories," Lara says of the palette, and while Mark's decision to paint one feature wall in bold pink was a surprise at the time, it works brilliantly against the grey.

Next, the couple intend to lay the same porcelain flooring on the ground level, with carpeting in the bedrooms, again enhancing the flow as you move through the house. While this interior has evolved in phases over the last seven years, those early decisions, from the wallpaper to the bathroom fittings, have stood the test of time. \*

Twitter: @PropertyFilesHQ

Victor Paris (0845 607 6944, [victorparis.com](http://victorparis.com))  
Kitchens International ([kitchensinternational.co.uk](http://kitchensinternational.co.uk))

Inspiring Offers from

**THE SCOTSMAN**  
**Reader Holidays**

Whether you are looking for a beach holiday, city break, or somewhere off the beaten track, you'll find a host of ideas to inspire your next well deserved break.

Brighten your day & have a look at our wide selection of holidays with many departing direct from Scotland.

Visit [www.holidays.scotsman.com](http://www.holidays.scotsman.com) and book your next holiday now

12 Stunning Wines...  
**JUST £4.99 A BOTTLE!**

**SCOTSMAN Wines**  
POWERED BY VIRGIN WINES

**SAVE £43!**

**Seasonal Selection** was £102.88 NOW £59.88 (+p&p)

Stock up your wine rack with this enticing 12-bottle case of top quality, boutique wines for the equivalent of JUST £4.99 a bottle – saving you £43!\*

Scan me with your  
mobile phone

Your selection includes some of our most highly rated labels and is packed to the brim with exciting, exclusive wines. Enjoy silky-smooth, award winning Spanish Gran Reserva, alongside refreshingly crisp Italian Pinot Grigio, a soft, fruit-filled customer favourite Shiraz, and many, many more.

With a saving of £43 on this superb selection, stock is strictly limited to one case per customer – order now so you don't miss out!

Call now quoting SC1047 on 0843 224 1020 or visit [www.scotsmanwines.co.uk/sc1047](http://www.scotsmanwines.co.uk/sc1047)

SC1047 Strictly limited to one case per customer. All wines supplied by Virgin Wines, registered office The Loft, St James' Mill, Whitefriars, Norwich, NR3 1TN. Company registration no. 03880762. All prices and savings are correct at time of going to print. Postage and packing is charged at £7.99. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers. All offers subject to availability and we reserve the right to substitute goods of equal or higher value in the event of supply difficulties. UK delivery only, excluding the Channel Islands. Delivery is usually within 3-5 working days. If you have not received your wine within 14 days please contact us. It is a legal requirement for you to be 18 or over to purchase alcohol. Calls may be monitored or recorded for training purposes. If you do not wish to receive offers or services from other companies carefully selected by Virgin Wines, please inform the operator.