



Your Springboard for Improvement!

Spring has thankfully arrived and with it comes renewed energy in the form of *Decorate extend & renovate!*

This issue is packed with inspirational ideas to help improve your home. In *Glassy Houses* we explore ways to improve natural light and enhance space, whilst in *Healthy Homes*, Claire Dignam looks at ways to improve our home environment. James Rooney helps us understand the importance of architectural design when planning an extension, and Niall Brown gives us the lowdown on how to prepare a Specification for Tender. Homes of the next generation are explored further by Nigel McGrath when he reviews how television has revolutionised our homes for working, living and entertaining. There are also practical tips and advice for planning a new kitchen, laying new flooring and getting your garden ready for summer. If you've thought about growing your own vegetables but were deterred by limited garden space, then read *How to Make a Raised Garden Bed*...the ideal solution for small gardens and green-fingered beginners! We also see how a couple in Co. Limerick created a modern family home following the purchase of a property occupied by

students, and how a 19th century barn was sensitively transformed into a luxury leisure suite in Co. Antrim. We also look at the use of lime and Craig Frew highlights its importance in restoring older properties. Don't forget all the competitions, readers' letters and of course our expert panel - who are happy to answer all your home improvement queries!

'Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will.'

(George Bernard Shaw)

...Therein lies your determination to decorate, extend & renovate!

Anthea Savage, Editor