



There's Never Been a Better Time to Improve Your Home!

Over the autumn/winter period, we tend to spend more time indoors, which presents a perfect opportunity to catch up on some essential DIY or much needed decorating.

Whether you're planning to take advantage of the forthcoming 'sales' periods or the competitive cost of hiring a trades person, there's never been a more prudent time to improve your home for living, renting out, or selling on next year when house prices start to pick up. To help make the most of your home, we have asked some of Ireland's top interior designers to provide their ideas for better living, from creating more space to splashing out on some colour to make the inside feel brighter. Two readers from Dublin and Belfast show off their new abodes following some extensive alterations; and Stephen McNally from Orchestral explains how he created a *Home for Life* for the Hamill family in Co. Armagh. With everyone feeling the pinch right now, we thought you would appreciate some practical tips on how to make your home more energy efficient and cost effective in *How to Upgrade Your Boiler* and *10 Ways to Improve Your Energy Consumption*. There are also Space Saving Ideas for the whole house as well as stylish options for the bedroom. Shorter days and longer nights tend to make us more safety conscious so in *As Safe as Houses*, we highlight some measures you can take to improve your home security. Nigel McGrath continues our series on home automation and explores what's on the

market for entertainment buffs. Our series on Older Properties enters its second phase with *How to Decorate After Damp* and leads onto some trendsetting ideas for creating a feature wall from exposed stone! For those wanting to enhance their kerb appeal we review materials for refinishing or replacing a driveway and constructing or modifying a garage. We also profile the latest trends for living, kitchens and bathrooms – with some economical ways to achieve a designer look without splashing out on designer price tags! To help make this all possible, check out page 4 and 9 for the chance to win a Home Makeover Hamper and an Air Purifier from Daikin!

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS **Decorate & Improve Your Home Event** will be held in **Spring 2010** in Dublin. See page 9 and 44 for more details and keep checking our website for the latest developments and half price tickets!

Anthea Savage, Editor