



# Inspirational Interiors

Restaurant interiors are more inspiring than ever and we caught up with Roisin Lafferty from Dublin design company, Kingston Lafferty Design to discuss how best to introduce these designs into our homes.



## INSPIRATIONAL INTERIORS



Roisin Lafferty,  
Managing Director,  
Kingston Lafferty Design

When we head out to eat, we are impressed with not just the food being served, but the décor surrounding us within the restaurant. Everything from the lighting, surface textures and furniture adds to the overall experience and we

are now returning from a night out not trying to recreate the food we ate, but source the dish it was served in!

Recently, Roisin Lafferty and her team at Kingston Lafferty Design were thrilled to learn that their Tootoomoo Restaurant Design was shortlisted in the internationally recognised Restaurant & Bar Design Awards 2016.

The restaurant based in London's Crouch End is a Pan Asian style fast food and bar space with design features drawing on traditional Asian design balanced with a cool, modern edge.

'Many of the ideas that people love within Tootoomoo can be translated into today's homes,' comments Roisin. 'For me it is all about making a space as interesting as possible, whether commercial or residential. While you can take more risks with commercial designs, certain aspects can work really well within our own homes.'

As Roisin goes on to say, 'We are always encouraging our clients to think of zoned areas within their homes. For example, booth seating allows you to zone a dining area within your open-plan kitchen/living space. Not only is this a practical way to seat lots of people around the table, but adults and kids alike love booth seating - who doesn't want to sit in the booth at a restaurant?'

'Over the years we have seen a trend for kitchen designs which are more in keeping with those you see commercially in restaurants. There is a lot more designs with exposed stainless steel surfaces etc, and the kitchen island with a raised breakfast bar area to sit and eat at while watching the home chef at work is another easy adaption to bring from the commercial world into the home.'

'You can also take lots of inspiration from the materials used on every surface in a restaurant,' explains Roisin. 'From tiles, to mirrors or wooden panelling, every surface tends to be covered and there is no reason why this can't be recreated within residential spaces too.'

'If you want to tile your ceiling, tile it. It's your home, don't be afraid to make brave choices because someone has said it's not the done thing. Obviously don't slavishly follow a current trend which you may tire of very quickly, but if you fancy a mirrored wall in your kitchen to open up and add interest to



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HELEN CATHICART

this area, it's not going to date any time soon.

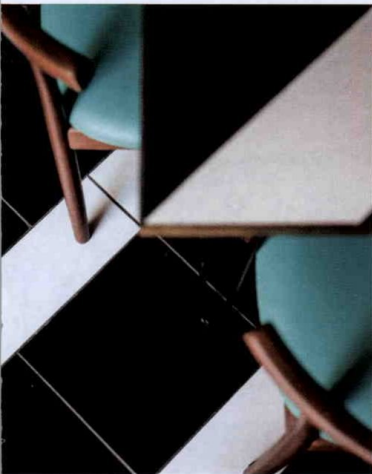
'Lighting is another great way of adding atmosphere to the rooms of your home and recreating the feel of your favourite restaurant interior. 'Zone the different areas of your home with a mixture of low hanging, large scale pendants, clusters of smaller pendants, spotlights, floor and table lamps. Today's choice of light fittings is fantastic, and although I do love designer light fittings, there

are some really great pieces to be found on the high street as well.

'As you can see from these images of Tootoomoo, we have mixed and matched the light fittings throughout the restaurant. All of your fittings should complement each other, but they don't need match,' advises Roisin.

'Last but not least, there is always paint. The most dramatic way to change your interiors and also the least expensive, paint

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allows you to be playful and the options are endless. Don't be afraid to paint tables and chairs (as per the red zone in Tootoomoo which almost looks like an art installation), or frame a piece of art with a large square of colour behind it.

Finally, as Roisin expertly points out, 'To anyone wanting to switch up the interiors of their home and bring in ideas they have seen put to use commercially, I would

say start by making a moodboard. Take photos of all of your existing pieces and collect images of the look you are wanting to achieve. Put everything together on your moodboard and decide how best to make it work within the space available to you. Pinterest is great for ideas and of course, don't be afraid to take photos of the many inspirational designs you will see the next time you are eating out!'

*Get The Look*

Bring the Tootoomoo look into your home...



Marble side table from **April and the Bear**. £58. [aprilandthebear.com](http://aprilandthebear.com)

Bloomingvale copper plated pendant lamp from **Furnish.co.uk**. £178. Phone 0345 5444044. [furnish.co.uk](http://furnish.co.uk)



Anchor tile marine wallpaper from **In-Spaces**. £78 per 10 metre roll. Phone: 07860 773691. [in-spaces.com](http://in-spaces.com)

YPS dining set in Walnut by Team 7 from **Wharfside**. Price on request. [wharfside.co.uk](http://wharfside.co.uk)



Artificial Areca palm from **MiaFleur**. £16.95. Phone 0116 2986393. [miafleur.com](http://miafleur.com)



Black bar stool with rivets from **PIB**. £99. Phone 0203 4455150. [pib-home.com](http://pib-home.com)





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