

# IRISH HOT 100

There's so much to be proud as punch about in the Irish design, art, architecture and creative industries. New homegrown talent is emerging all the time, too, from funky design start-ups and vintage furniture companies to clued-in design bloggers and new online businesses. In no particular order, we have hand-selected the 100 Irish people, places, products and talent you need to know about this year - and beyond.

photos: **Paul Sherwood** research: **Dara Flynn**





### 67 BLANAID HENNESSY

Blanaid Hennessy is a style icon with fingers in more than a few pies. Born in Kilkenny, she is a stylist, freelance interiors and fashion writer and blogger; presenter of StyleNation.ie's 'All of This' show, co-creator of The Style Bitches, a satirical fashion blog and owner of Hennessy Media with her brother, photographer Eoin Hennessy. Expect to see a lot more of this busy lady in 2010. [www.blanaid.com](http://www.blanaid.com)

### 69 Fergal O'Leary

Fergal O'Leary is director of Horizon Furniture, a company he set up after training in Cork for a well-known cabinet-maker. O'Leary, who says he finds a lot of modern furniture bulky and ungainly, prides himself on making understated, elegant and practical pieces. [www.horizonfurniture.ie](http://www.horizonfurniture.ie)



### 70 Derek Wilson

Derek Wilson's name is dropped every time someone mentions ceramics around here, and for good reason. Wilson's latest works are first-class breeds of fine art, although his repertoire includes contrasting modern, functional and accessible pieces too. [www.derekwilsonceramics.com](http://www.derekwilsonceramics.com)



### 68 Victoria Rothschild

Irish-born Victoria is one half of Rothschild & Bickers, the respected handmade glass company based in London. Signature products include free-blown glass lamps with glamorous, vintage and often feminine feel. [www.rothschildbickers.com](http://www.rothschildbickers.com)



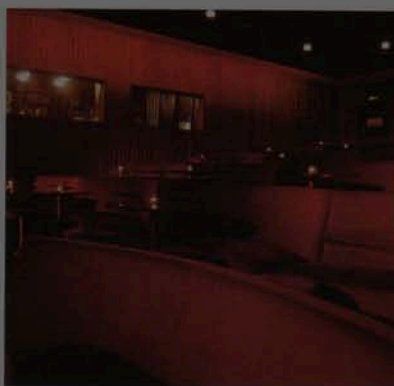
### 71 Irish Georgian Society

The IGS is a conservation organization that never seems to run out of enthusiasm. This year, the society is hosting a series of lunchtime lectures entitled 'Conserve your Dublin Townhouse', aimed at all historic homeowners, every Tuesday throughout February, March and April 2010 in the Helen Roe Theatre, 63 Memion Square, Dublin 2. See [www.igs.ie](http://www.igs.ie)



### 72 PEADAR LAMB

Late last year, Peadar Lamb, the already-renowned stained glass artist, travelled to New York for the unveiling of a 100-square-foot installation of six separate windows. Commissioned in 2007 by the Irish Repertory Theatre, the piece is Lamb's largest ever commission to date. New Yorkers, as a result, will be getting to know our home-grown artist very well: the piece is now on permanent display above the façade of a building in Chelsea.



### 73 Pecha Kucha at The Sugar Club

The Leeson Street hang-out is the venue of choice for Pecha Kucha (Japanese for chatter), a hot new social event where artists, designers and architects discuss issues using Powerpoint presentations, except with the brakes on: the speaker gets 20 slides and just 20 seconds to discuss each slide, so it never gets dull. Keep an eye out for the next one at [www.thesugarclub.com](http://www.thesugarclub.com)

### 74 Wallstickers.ie

Wallstickers.ie was set up in 2008 when Eric Rosenfeld, originally from Poland, saw a gap in the market for a trend already growing in Europe and the US. The company now employs 30 staff at its factory in Clonmel, Co Tipperary and is growing, thanks to its huge variety of vinyl decorative stickers at reasonable prices. [www.wallstickers.ie](http://www.wallstickers.ie)

### 75 VAUGH SHANNON

Nic Shannon and Trevor Vaugh met at industrial design college and never looked back. Their products range from mirrors to shelving, seating and lamps, and each carries strong overtones of humour and wit. The pair license their designs internationally on a royalties basis, and as members of the IFDN, are keen to develop an Irish industrial product design scene, which is still very much in its infancy. [www.vaughshannon.com](http://www.vaughshannon.com)

