



Hebden trestle oak table, €2,140, at Neptune; www.neptune.com.

Timeless Trestles

In use since the Middle Ages, trestle tables can be used from desk to dinner.



Finnvard Linnmon table, €79 at IKEA.



Dark oak veneer Loft table, €4,395, at Rock Hill; www.rockhillinteriors.com



Henley oval table, €1,957, at Neptune; www.neptune.com.

Gobi table, €450, Considered by Helen James, at Dunnes Stores.



Caring for
TABLES

Dust wooden tables with lint-free cloths. To prevent warping, keep tables away from heat. Clean regularly with carnauba wax (not Pledge!). Watermarks can be removed with mayonnaise.



Paxton Dining Table, €515, at Marks & Spencer.



Multi-tasking

Create a vignette in hallways, or a natural break in an open plan room with a strategically placed console.



Knotted gold marble console, €1,125, at Hedgeroe Home; www.hedgeroe.com.

Kalby console, €149.99, at Jysk; www.jysk.com.

FEBRUARY
WHAT TO BUY
for your house

THIS MONTH ... we're talking tables with interior designer Gregory Curran, who has detected the trend for separate informal dining rooms among his clients. Cue the need for another table. "When it comes to shape, round or oval tables are very popular. I recently sourced an oval one by Ethnicraft (at Arnotts) for a client. I also replaced my own dining table with a round walnut one by Skovby, which can be extended to form an oval. I discovered Adel-C table designs at Milan Furniture Fair, and commissioned a dining table from designer Simon O'Driscoll." Auctions are a good source for picking up antique tables, (look out for mid-century Danish design at Whytes), as well as The Store Yard in Portlaoise for unusual styles. Adding simple, modern chairs creates an instant, playful update. www.gcurrandesign.com. ■ PMcC

A moveable
FEAST

The late David Hicks formalised the "tablescap" - a rotating collection of books and a few meaningful objects.



Side table, at Søstrene Grene from March.



Accessories from Roche Bobois, Beacon South Quarter, Dublin 18.

The rule of three

The golden design rule for coffee tables is to style with three high, medium and low objects.



Acrylic table set (one shown), €135, at River Island.



Gold Giraffe table, €150, Carolyn Donnelly Eclectic, at Dunnes Stores.

"Fashionably amusing table manners ... breaking the right rule at the right time."

P J O'ROURKE

Timeless **CONSOLES:**

To style consoles create an anchor, whether a piece of art or a mirror. Styling above and below the table is important to achieve balance. William console, €690, at Hedgeroe Home.



Desk and bookcase, Ligne Roset at Arena Kitchens.

WEDDING TRENDS



PAULA MCMANUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Bridal ENVY

Interior designer Rebecca Roe shares her tips on creating a wow wedding at home

"I always knew I wanted to have my wedding at home, in my parents' garden. I started by creating moodboards and pooling the combined design and organisational expertise of my mother, fiancé Fred and myself. Having worked in India for many years, it was a recurring inspiration, reflected in the wedding invitations by Smart Imaging and the marquee from **BOHEMIA TENTS** with a lovely block print on the ceiling. I also wore a coat by designer **ROHIT BAL** over trousers and a silk top with bugle beading made in India, which I've been able to wear again and again.

Our colour palette was green and white. Mary O'Garra from **FLOWERSMADEEASY** helped us choose blossoms and foliage which would last a weekend. (We hosted an informal brunch with an acappella band the day after the wedding). Opting for trestle tables, we decided on fern runners with different sizes of glassware, votives and silver tealights.



We incorporated silk flowers, hydrangea and peonies for the top table and we mounted a cascading arrangement from the ceiling, which is now on display at our store, Hedgeroe Home. For catering, we clicked with Julianne Brogan from **BLACKSHEEP CATERING**, who was also able to provide tables, chairs, staff and a bar. For tableware we hired Jasper Conran chinoiserie plates from Caterhire, mixing them with other chargers to complement the colour palette.

We hired a project manager on the day which was invaluable as was having a rehearsal - to ensure generators, cooking equipment, heaters and the portaloos were in working order. Finally, for our first dance - we got **THE HOT HOUSE BIG BAND** to play a jazz version of *Happy* by Pharrell Williams, appropriately named as the day itself was perfect."

Style STEALS



1. Jasper Conran Peacock plate, €3.26; www.caterhire.ie.
2. Prosecco coupes, €9, at Hedgeroe Home.
3. Wedding invite; www.smartimaging.biz.



Caroline Goulding watercolour cake. RIGHT: Rose pastry slice, Newbridge Silverware, €20.

Floral trends

Floral trends suggest greenery and pampas grass is on the rise with low florals on tables. If you blanch at the cost and wastage of flowers, incorporate silk blooms.

FLOWERWALLSBYRACHEL.COM

delivers, assembles and collects pretty flower walls. Full day hire is €350.



The Rosehip And Berry Florist

The MUSIC

If music is the food of love ... have you thought of different tempos throughout the day? Sarah Mackie, who has had Emile Sandé and Daniel O'Donnell perform at Larchfield Estate, Co Down, the wedding venue she co-owns, recommends Kooky Ukes for a drinks reception, Fiddler Adam to liven-up the party, and The Bentley Boys or Untouchables for later in the evening. For couples who want to brush up on dance moves without going the full *Strictly*, Kinetix Dance runs group or private wedding classes in north and south Dublin, while Dancesport will choreograph a simple routine to "your song".

CAKE trends

Before you have your cake and eat it, take note styles this year favour geometric shapes with gold details and pops of colour. Marbled icing is out, sugar ruffles are in, while for the logo-obsessed, how about a monogrammed cake, incorporating your new initials?

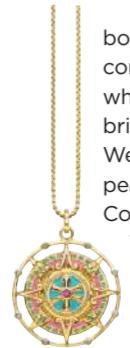
Traditional fondant and buttercream options are still best-sellers and mistress of both is Dublin-based **CAROLINE GOULDING** who trained at Ballymaloe Cookery School and with Peggy Porschen in London. Goulding says "Fondant cakes are becoming more texturised, ethereal and organic in their design". Smooth, straight-edged buttercream cakes with watercolouring are also very popular. What makes Goulding's cake flavours special is that all the elements from pralines to honeycomb, syrups and caramels are made by her. www.carolinegouldingcakedesign.ie



Bridesmaids' GIFTS

For bridesmaids' gifts, classic fragrances such as Orange Blossom, English Pear & Freesia and Peony & Blush suede from Jo Malone come in special edition Bridal Lace bottles. Adding an extra special touch is the complimentary service (at Brown Thomas) where gift boxes can be embossed with the bridesmaid's initials or the wedding date. We also recommend the inlaid mother-of-pearl photograph frames from The White Company and pearl earrings by Inner Ireland.

The PC bride however will have groomsgirls and bridesmen - traditional roles are being updated. Groomsgirls, channelling Bianca Jagger's St Tropez nuptials, look great in white trouser suits or jumpsuits. For flower girls **CAIRENN FOY**'s pretty cotton dresses with embroidery



Tropical gold pendant, €198; Thomas Sabo.



Jo Malone Bridal Lace perfume bottles, €120; at Brown Thomas.

are perfect for summer weddings. Foy's new range of silk, taffeta and satin communion dresses with lace and velvet trimming also work well for posh weddings (at Brown Thomas).



White crepe flounce jumpsuit, Halston, \$475; www.halston.com.

The "Pandora" headband; www.emily-jean.com.

Humanist WEDDINGS

While our elders may prefer the well-worn, wedding service consisting of *Love Divine, I Corinthians:13* and a traditional vow, humanist services are trending but make sure you gel with the celebrant. **JEAN BARRETT-QUINN** and **BRIAN WHITESIDE** are in demand for their ability to engage an audience. As for readings, swap Shakespeare's *Sonnet 116* or *On Marriage* from Kahlil Gibran Gibrani's *The Prophet*, for **SEAMUS HEANEY**'s poem *Scaffolding*. Rule of thumb: to ensure your readers don't fluff their lines, keep it simple.



PHOTOGRAPHER: KATHRYN MERYN

A humanist wedding at Larchfield Estate, Co Down. Florist: The Rosehip And Berry.

Venues, like readings, are increasingly innovative - on board the SS Nomadic in Belfast, the Orangery at Kilruddery House outside Bray, the *Downton*-esque Uppercourt Manor, Co Kilkenny, to Lobstar, a tiny restaurant in Monkstown, which recently hosted a bijou wedding with precision and style. ■ PMcC