

Scotland's Homes 37



TREASURE TROVE: Loraine holds a domed hand-carved wooden chest from India.

Set the scene for film or television

A LADDIN'S Cave is one way of describing Loraine Chassels's lively enterprise. Officially, it is Ex Showhouse Furniture which operates out of Bearsden, to the north of Glasgow.

It specialises in providing furnishings principally for housebuilders' showhouses and supplying props for photo sessions, TV companies, and for film companies needing special items to complete a scene.

Afterwards there is scope for finding new homes for all these items. It was all built up by word of mouth but can now be accessed not only by those in the trade, but by members of the public.

SET THE SCENE

Make an appointment by phoning 0141 942 0519 to view a variety of ex-showhouse and pre-rented items and you can find your way to an set-up that is probably unique in Scotland.

"We have quite a huge and eclectic collection," Loraine agrees. "There are furnishings from all over the world, not antiques but good quality, interesting pieces that are aesthetically pleasing."

For a Glasgow-born woman with clear overtones of California from her early days, she has no pretensions about the work involved. It means being able to provide business with the artefacts it requires.

"That can range from designer leather suites from Italy, cherry-wood tables from America, and Roy Lichtenstein or Jack Vettriano paintings. Table lamps, rugs, sculptures – they're all beautiful works. It can be unusual modern items from China or Vietnam or the Philippines. Versace or Picasso or Mackintosh style pieces – whatever the effect has to be.



TABLE TOP: this one is from the Philippines, with a marble top and hand-carved swag and tail finish.

"As an interior stylist, I provide the items needed to complement a photo shoot, film set, showhouse or indeed a private house, and lay them out to the best effect.

"If we – my partner Carlo and I – can provide lovely furniture that has been rented before, and now comes at an attractive sell-off price – who complains? Everyone likes to get value for money."

Lorraine's hard-headed Scots philosophy has found approval in new loft housing, penthouses, apartments and homes throughout Scotland.

"Recently, we've helped a lot of buy-to-let developers. They want great looking up-market furniture, available immediately and at a keen price, so that they can put their property on the market quickly and for the highest rent.

"We can supply them from the ex-hire and showhouse furniture, with complete room settings to individual items, right away.

"With constantly growing interest in interiors, there are always new and exciting developments in our industry.

"As for ourselves, our studio is groaning with so many goodies looking for new homes, we really could do with expanding. A little castle would do us just nicely."

STEWART FRASER