

# Star Showhome



# The Making Of The Mansions

*This show stopping, jaw dropping show house has just opened it's doors to uproarious applause. Located within the beautiful 'golden triangle' in Ayr the location and site of 'The Mansions' alone, would make your heart skip a beat. Jodi McLean reports on this award winning five star show house.*

WITH BOTH THE GOLF course and sea in view 'The Mansions', by Elphinstone, sits in probably one of the most covetable sites in Ayr.

Literally a stones throw from the beach and next to Belleisle Golf Course, the position is absolutely idyllic.

Potential buyers from near and far had been waiting with baited breath to see the show house at this exciting new luxury development at Cuning Park, and the wait was certainly well worth it! 'Absolutely fabulous' would be a complete understatement in describing this magnificent show house, designed and furnished by XS Interiors of Bearsden, Glasgow.

According to top estate agents, Donald Ross, they have never had a more positive

response to a show house. 'We have had the most incredible feedback from viewers', commented Jacqueline Miller of Donald Ross. 'The interior design, furnishings and styling have really captivated the viewers and this, coupled with the location and build quality of The Mansions' has really put it on the map'. 'Everyone over the door has praised the show house and are genuinely bowled over with the interior' added Donald Ross partner, Steven Miller .

### **From Concept To Creation**

When Sales Manager of Elphinstone, Pauline Coates, initially met up with Loraine Chassels of XS Interiors there was a special chemistry that happened. The architects plans were barely unfolded when the brainstorming

between these two dynamic women began. Initial discussions on room themes, colours, furnishing styles and fabrics were all thrown in to the interior arena and Pauline and Loraine's first meeting together was the start of a partnership that would soon give birth to a super star show home at 'The Mansions'. After the initial meeting, first on the agenda



XS Interiors sophisticated ebony furniture, with black gloss tops, create a strength to the lounge and dining rooms. The ebony and ivory colour way is echoed throughout in stunning exclusive designed sofas, chairs and window treatments.

was for Loraine to provide story boards for Pauline to show the team at Elphinstone Loraine's vision for each room. Loraine designed every room and selected all the fabrics for the soft furnishings and wallpapers in addition to every item of furniture. Once the story boards were prepared Loraine brought



**Top:** Athena's beautiful limestone fireplace gives a heart to the drawing room.  
**Above:** The huge original oil painting above the sofa is from XS Interiors private gallery collection.

together examples of all the magnificent furniture she recommended for the show house and a Directors meeting was set up at Loraine and husband Carlo's design studio in Bearsden. 'I was really impressed with XS Interiors vision for 'The Mansions', commented Alasdair Carlyle, Director of

Elphinstone. 'The proposed interior design was excellent and her choice of furniture superb', he commented.

Pauline was delighted with the outcome of the meeting, 'With up to six bedrooms possible at the show house, I loved Loraine's take on a 'Juniors Room' as one of them, and thought the 'Relax and Renew Spa Room' was a brilliant and novel concept!', she enthused. 'I always wanted an organic feel to the decor, explained Pauline,' and the bespoke fabric sofas and chairs Loraine designed, using No No fabrics, in the drawing and dining rooms along with their coordinating pelmets and feature cushions were brilliant', she added. It seems Loraine worked through this brief from Pauline and even translated the organic ethos through to the Family room, with its organic feature lighting and ribbed curtain fabric, from award winning Voyage Decoration. The striking textured feature chair and console table in the family room were handmade from natural water hyacinth, by Hyacinth Design. Even the feature peacock headboard and curtains in the Master Suite, again featuring Voyage fabric, were made of organic silk.

From this first meeting, showing the concept for the complete property, Loraine certainly had her work cut out, and this was just the beginning.

**Born to Shine**

The grand hall, on two levels, is the perfect entry to 'The Mansions'. XS used amethyst alcantara suede quirky chairs for a contemporary edge and tied this colour

way in with a huge oversized lily display in the same amethyst tone in a le touquet Italian vase, mounted on a mirrored plinth. Adding more glamour in the lower hall, a mirror topped charcoal Zen console table rubs shoulders with magnificent imported mirrors from Belgium. Simply stunning hand made lighting, from New Orleans, sit atop the console and crown the landing in the form of a grand chandelier. The upper hall echoes the mirrored appeal with a cut mirrored mosaic mirror and console table adorned with blown glass candle ball holders to complete the



look.

'The Mansions' abounds in space and this is particularly evident on the ground floor where the stunning lounge opens up into the formal dining room through double glass doors, creating a vast space. The ebony and ivory colour way is the height of sophistication. Vanilla cut velvet pelmets coordinate perfectly with the bespoke sofas and Gleneagles tub chair, designed by XS Interiors. A baby grand piano, in polished black lacquer, graces the huge bay window

overlooking the lawns of 'The Mansions'. The magnificent Blairquhan fireplace in the drawing room was manufactured and installed by Athena in Kilmaurs. Made of Verona natural limestone it features scone brick and a large Nexus basket and logs- a perfect match for the interior. It gives a cosy heart to the home, while the original oil painting, supplied from Loraine and Carlo's private studio at XS Interiors, by artist Gerard Burns adds a real wow. Interesting sculptures adorn New York style pedestals and sit aside unusual acrylic

block art in boutique hotel style frames. The round glass dining table with coordinate feature mirror creates a statement and hints at wonderful dinner parties.

The family room is flooded with light and with French doors that lead on to the perfectly landscaped grounds, it is a room for all seasons. Incredible hand woven feature lighting creates an artistic look and fuse perfectly with the water hyacinth woven console table and wenge backed hyacinth chair. The textured fabric sofa is imported from Spain while the coffee table and entertainment unit, clad in chocolate leather, and are from Italy.

The dining kitchen, with direct access out to the garden, is a masterpiece in interior design. The contemporary layout and styling with Poggenpohl kitchen furniture, by award winning Kitchens International, features a creative mix of blossom white and teak decor lava and the centre island with it's zodiac alabaster work surface is the ultimate in luxury. Add this to any domestic goddess's wish list and hey presto the top of the range Miele appliances abound. From the latest ovens, combi-microwave, steam oven, and warming drawer to the state of the art wine cooler and ever invaluable coffee machine, nothing is missing. Even the laundry utility room has the highly desirable Miele washer and driers in situ. The dining area sports a beautiful Italian glass dining table and sideboard to match with a sensational sculptured art plaque above, adorned with pewter roses.

## Beauty From Within

Sleeping beauty could not want for a better boudoir as seen in this striking and original Master Bedroom suite. Enchanting peacock adorned silk fabric is used within the window treatments and on the hand made headboard. Lime green and teal colours are juxtaposed throughout in the soft furnishings and ornamentation. A waxed feather trimmed cushion and Austin bronze peacock filigree sculpture, on the grand chest, reiterate the thematic of this room. The attention to detail



### This Page

**Left:** The family room features an original water hyacinth chair and console table. Voyage Decoration's organic fabric was selected for the vast expanse of windows.

**Centre:** A 'Relax and Renew Spa' room was created by XS Interiors and features wooden slatted blinds and seaside wall paper art.

**Bottom left:** Beautiful spacious bathrooms at The Mansions boast high quality fittings throughout and clever tiling designs.

**Bottom right:** A quirky chair in amethyst alcantara suede sits in the grand hall entry.

**Opposite Page Top:**

Contemporary Poggenpohl kitchen furniture, by Kitchens Direct, creates the perfect designer look. XS Interiors glass dining table and coordinating cabinet keep with the monochromatic scheme.

A grand pewter plaque adds the wow factor.

**Centre:** The Miele appliances shown here are in a class of their own.

**Bottom:** Bizzari vanilla hide sofas and moulded glass furniture create a cool crisp look in this spacious home office.





is incredible. Cream solid wood furniture add to the rich appearance of the bedroom.

The Principal Guest Bedroom is a latte layered inspiration and from the bespoke wallboard to the mirrored furniture the feeling is opulent. Clarity in colours of oyster, latte, cream and charcoal echo the drawing and dining room downstairs and make for a perfect guest retreat.

The Jaipur Guest bedroom boasts a hand crafted and painted bergere wood bed and matching finial cabinets, inspired from the days of the Raj, while a jewel encrusted Gustav Klimt canvass art embraces the viewers as does the mother and child oversized floor sculpture from Texas and the gold LOVE sign on the hand painted wood console. This room gives you a hug.

Throughout the fabulous bedrooms XS have used lovely full bedspreads and teamed them with American coordinate large cosy stuffed pillow shams and a multitude of decor cushions and layering throws, by Samuel Homes the soft furnishing specialists Loraine loves.

The Relax and Renew Spa Room has great personality and so fresh in both style and concept. The feature sea shell and stone photographic art XS have used give 'The Mansions' a beachy feel ( well the beach is just a minute away, after all), and the imported driftwood lamps from Paris add to the feeling of nature. The trickle of the pebble water fountain beckons you to the leather massage bed. What a great idea for a spare bedroom!



Loraine and husband Carlo's companies, XS Interiors and EX Showhouse Furniture, have been designing and furnishing private residences and show houses for well over a decade. 'We take care of so many different types of projects', said Carlo, 'from private clients needing help with one room in their house or looking for the right piece of furniture, right through to multi million pound properties both here and abroad. I think one of the reasons we are so popular a choice with private clients and builders alike is that Loraine and I have a very hands on approach.' he added. 'Each project we work on is very important to us' Loraine confirmed, 'we treat our work with passion and commitment. With 'The Mansions', the enthusiasm of all those involved at Elphinstone coupled with Carlo and my keenness to excel really propelled the project' she added.



Loraine Chassels and Carlo Sambucci of XS Interiors.

Back to reality and the day to day business is beautifully contained within the study. Moulded glass top end furniture and seating in the finest winter white hide, were imported from Rimini in Italy, The Enchanted Forest wall art is a perfect background for a study and creates an unhurried feel of calm. Iconic classic pieces of furniture including an Eileen grey occasional table and an Arco floor standing light add to the cool vibe.

Juniors Room definitely puts a smile on your face and the handmade bedding, on the two tier clapperboard New England bed, picks up the punch of the fun. Loraine also designed the lime suede pelmet and blind. Even the en suite bathroom carries on the 'happy' theme where kitty tails act as sponge holders.



**This Page**

**Far left:** In this Principal Guest Bedroom mirrored furniture and feature wallpaper in charcoal and latte add a glimmer of glamour.

**Bottom left:** 'Juniors Room' shows off XS Interiors flair for fun.

**Opposite Page The Master Bedroom Suite** sports an inspired peacock theme, in lime and teal. Solid wood cream painted furniture add to the classic appeal. Attention to detail abounds with the use of unusual object d art.

A state of the art TV adds a surprise in the Master Ensuite.





### From The Bottom To The Top

Extremely spacious ensuites and bathrooms have creatively incorporated stunning Porcelanosa tiling with quality Grohe taps and Laufen sanitary ware. The bathroom designs and quality specifications at 'The Mansions' are of the highest calibre throughout. The in-built TV in the Master en-suite is a particular treat - I imagine myself with a glass of champagne and a candlelit bath - toasting the day - I wish!

When I visited 'The Mansions' during the opening weekend it was packed with a swarm of viewers. The air was electric. Ear wiggling for comments I overheard a very attractive couple on the upper floor jesting about time slots for the use of the Relax and Renew Spa Room. Both seemed to favour a Friday evening massage. Another group of 'yummy mummies' looking to upsize, were sitting in the lounge near the piano commenting on which of the two dining areas they liked the best. A husband and wife in the kitchen pondered over who would 'take charge' of the Miele coffee machine, while a pilot and his brother on the upper floor considered whether the Study could incorporate a mini gym. They were all captivated. They were all talking. One thing was for sure - they were all unanimous in their opinion. 'The Mansions' show house was a winner, and I totally agree.

### Useful Contacts:

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*HomeSeeker Readers Offer*  
Meet the interior designers of the Mansions by phoning to arrange a one hour studio visit on 0141 942 0519.

