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# DÉCOR

## KITCHENS & INTERIORS

IRELAND'S  
STYLISH KITCHEN  
AND INTERIORS  
MAGAZINE

### FRENCH INFLUENCE

IRELAND'S FINEST KITCHENS, GLOBAL INSPIRATION, APPLIANCES  
WOODEN FLOORS, INTERIOR DESIGN, COFFEE TABLES, FLOOR LAMPS  
WINDOW DRESSING, EXPERT ADVICE & FINISHING TOUCHES



# FINISHING TOUCH

Sara and Lindy of Thompson Clarke Interiors are on hand to help you choose the most stylish & functional hardware for your scheme



1 Selection of cabinet knobs from **Bombay Duck** 2 Thompson Clarke Interiors bathroom scheme 3 Knobs from the **Haute Deco** 'Eclipse' range 4 **Bombay Duck** Pink Vintage Melon glass door knob 5 'Fleur Du Mal' knobs from **Haute Deco** [bombayduck.com](http://bombayduck.com) [hautedeco.com](http://hautedeco.com)



Hooks, handles and hanging may seem like small details, but they can have a major impact on your décor. Stylish hardware can give older cabinets a new look while providing the finishing touch on new pieces. At our Belfast Studio we can while away many hours searching for just the right handle, hook or pull for a client's home. In reality, they are one of the last sourced items, often as an after-thought to the project, which can be a shame. The decision can be rushed and your choices compromised, so don't underestimate their design importance. Continuing our series of 'designer advice', here are some of our recommendations on choosing hardware.

– Think about the space you're choosing handles, knobs and pulls for. If it's a kitchen, they need to be durable and practical as well as blending in with the style of the kitchen cabinetry. They will also protect the finish of your cupboards and will prevent dirty fingers transferring onto the finish. The choice available can be

mind-boggling, and it's easy to begin to obsess on finishes. Go with your instinct and don't overthink it.

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Remember, you don't have to match everything in the room from light switches, door handles, window levers to cabinet knobs. A gentle mix of contrasting materials is very appealing.

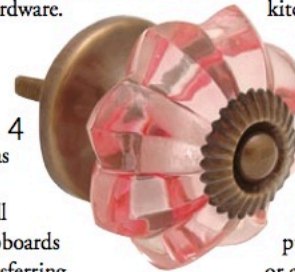
– Ideally hardware should be considered at the design stage of a project, so the whole look and feel is agreed up front.

Cabinet knobs can totally change the look of a vanity unit or kitchen depending on your choice. Choose from; long bar handles or beehive knobs, drop handles or tiny button nose knobs, old style or slick modern. **Bombay Duck** has a wonderful collection of affordable girly glass knobs, which are perfect for bedrooms or check out **Chloe Alberry** on London's Portobello Road for amazing cricket ball handles and mother of pearl and stone options, as well as good kitchen handles. If it's

doorknobs or knockers you're after, then **Wilson's Auctions** stocks a wonderful selection.

– Sizing is important and, where possible, request a sample before purchasing larger quantities. Undersized cabinet knobs can look simple and refined but are not ideal for long or heavy drawers. You will also require two for longer drawer options meaning you need two hands to pull the drawer open. Bar pulls or cup handle pulls are brilliant for these types, particularly for dishwashers or bins, which are used multiple times throughout the day. Also consider how the knob or handle feels; can you fit four fingers into the pull or is it awkward to handle?

– Consider the finish. Un-lacquered brass is more fashionable than chrome right now, with



kitchens as an exception. In terms of doorknobs, ebonized-wood is very current as the black finish is extremely versatile. It's also a good way of avoiding chrome and brass. If you like the vintage look, it can be tricky to source a complete set of matching knobs or pulls. Consider going mix and match or avoid vintage entirely!

– For dressing rooms it's worth considering hooks on bare walls, which allow for more storage and look stylish. Fix them lower down in children's rooms to ensure they are easy to reach (**Anthropologie** has a great range of fun and frivolous ideas for kids). Just choose what you hang on them carefully as you don't want to clutter a space.

– You will find hardware varies greatly in price. Count the number of knobs, handles and hooks you need to purchase and decide on your budget before you begin, as it is easy to get carried away. Chain stores offer attractive, economical lines, while independent shops offer high-end designer styles for a bigger budget.

– And finally...don't forget to consult a contractor or knowledgeable salesperson about which hardware will work with your doors or drawers in terms of size and fixing.

[thompsonclarke.com](http://thompsonclarke.com)



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