



R&R *in the* WEST

Ruth and Stuart Morgan's stylish B&B in Clifden combines her skills as a textile designer with the fascinating memorabilia he has collected over the years as a guitar tech for U2

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In 2003, Ruth and Stuart Morgan made Hillside Lodge, a B&B on the Sky Road in Clifden their home. The move from a two bedroom basement apartment in Dun Laoghaire to a 10 bedroom B&B in the West urgently in need of an injection of style was more challenging than either had anticipated. But over the years they have created a homely and inviting space filled with personality, and unique pieces with stories to tell. "We thought it would be easy and that we would be sitting around all day reading the papers. We jumped in with two feet and just started swimming," Stuart says. "It was daunting to furnish a house this size, especially to do it the way we wanted to." It's hard to imagine the home hasn't always looked as it does now. "It was raspberry ripple pink on the outside, and there was pink carpet in the breakfast room," Ruth says. "Replacing that with wood flooring was one of the first big tasks we took on, and I thought we'd never be able to cover the pink walls!" Now a fresh white on the outside, the aesthetic of Hillside Lodge is clean and contemporary, and Ruth wasn't afraid to use colour for the interiors, with greens and blues throughout as a nod to the Connemara landscape. No pink in sight.

Running the B&B has also been challenging as Stuart is away so much with work. For the past 25 years he has worked as a guitar tech for Adam Clayton of U2, so he tours the world with the band for up to six months of the