

# Move

## PICK OF THE BUNCH

Take a leaf out of the best garden books | p9



## MOVING EXPERIENCE

How to organise a house removal | p10



## PILE IT HIGH

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After 30 years, Sam Andrews is selling Windgate, a deco jewel in Howth's crown designed by its first owner, the architect Toby Millar



BRYAN HEADE

# PEAK ART DECO

**A**t the height of the boom, Sam Andrews's seven-bedroom art deco home Windgate was valued at €6m, but even then she thought that was too much. She has always believed that the 1.4-acre property is worth €4m, and she has set that price with Finnegan Menton, and won't be moving on it – regardless of how the market is performing now or in the future.

For Andrews, the main selling point of her 1930s home is its position at the top of the Hill of Howth, with stunning 180-degree sea views extending from Baily lighthouse at Howth Head across 10km of Dublin Bay to Dalkey Point.

"The house may be bricks and mortar but there is something special about it. It's like it's sitting in a little corner of heaven. There's a tranquillity about it that's unique – it holds its place in nature, and I love when strangers come in and feel as I do," she says.

The house was designed in 1935 by the architect Toby Millar, later head architect for Bank of Ireland. He built it as a flat-roof bungalow before extending to a two-storey house with art deco features such as curved walls and windows, and crisp, clean lines.

When Andrews first put the property on the market back in 2013, four of Millar's daughters came to visit and relive their youth

Windgate's sleek 1930s style and unique setting on the Hill of Howth make it a magical family home, writes **Linda Daly**

at Windgate. It turned out that the architect had raised his five daughters at the magical home in Howth; Andrews raised her four daughters there. "That was a really lovely link. They were talking about being down in this part of the garden they called Dingly Dell, where they would sit around and make up stories. You could see how their imaginations



were fired as kids in that setting. They felt they were very lucky to grow up here, and that's how my girls feel."

One of Millar's daughters, Jennifer Hudson, recalled: "I remember the rounded art deco window in the lounge. If you danced in front of it, you saw all these different angles of yourself in the reflection."

The Millars sold the house to a builder, who added to the home, and Andrews extended it further after moving in 30 years ago. It has four reception rooms, seven bedrooms and seven bathrooms over 4,850sqft of living space. "It has changed shape since its beginnings but we always retained the art deco style. I can remember walking into the hall for the first time; there was black wallpaper and matching carpet. It was the weirdest thing, I didn't know if I was standing on the floor or walls," recalls Andrews.

"With such large windows, you're always aware of cloud formation. It really inspires

me, and I've spent hours upon hours watching the ferries go past."

A new dimension has been added to the garden. Andrews's mother tried to get her to plough through the vegetation and replace it with a lawn but she felt that would go against the natural Hill of Howth. The land is packed with rhododendrons, winding paths, a granny flat, a mews building and a wendy house – built by Millar for his daughters.

The gardens attract uncommon species, including a peacock, which wanders the garden from time to time, and red squirrels.

The main house underwent an insulation upgrade in 2000, and has a mix of tiled and wooden floors. There are en-suite bathrooms to two bedrooms, and many have access to the south-facing balcony terrace. Some rooms could do with cosmetic modernisation.

"I feel so privileged to have experienced Windgate over 30 years. I believe it should be filled with kids, people and animals. It's not just a house, it's an experience."

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