

Omagh woman launches Ireland's first online interiors magazine

by Louise Doyle

A CREATIVE Omagh woman is at the helm of an innovative interior online design magazine, which is the first of its kind in Ireland.

From a young age, Rachael Colton, had a passion for all things to do with design so when the former Campsie Primary School pupil, who went on to study at Omagh Academy, pursued a career in textile design at Leeds University, a successful career path burgeoned.

Speaking to the *Tyrone Constitution*, Ms Colton, who recently launched the interiors lifestyle magazine, 'ROCO', and is the magazine's editor-in-chief, said her love of design was passed down through her grandfather and mother.

She said: "At a young age it was clear to see I loved design and this was in part passed down through my grandfather and mother who were both passionate about art.

"I started by education at Campsie Primary School and then I studied at Omagh Academy before pursuing a degree in textile design at Leeds University, where I specialised in hand-woven fabrics for interiors."

The local woman, who has a natural flair attention to detail went on to work for design houses such as Harvey Nichols whilst living in England before coming home.

"Upon my return home I further developed my career working for one of Ireland's leading art galleries," added Ms Colton. Championing Irish design and



Omagh woman and editor-in-chief of the newly-launched ROCO magazine, Rachael Colton. The online interior design magazine, is the first of its kind in Ireland. SU2818LD

pulling on trends from abroad, the magazine offers a new viewing experience for readers and it is read completely online and free of charge. Unlike other magazines, there is no subscription fee.

ROCO has the look of a glossy magazine, but online. The magazine is identical to a traditional print publication in format, with a table of contents, recurring features and even the ability to turn pages over.

The content of the magazine covers everything from shoots of local homes, interviews with

designers, products of the month, fashion trends, crafts and weddings. Every issue is bursting with high-quality images, behind-the-scene videos, music and links to online stores.

The magazine is refreshingly different offering it's readers more 'interactive eye candy' compared to traditional print publications.

Ms Colton, whose background is in design, said the magazine has been a 'labour of love' over the past eight months as it was important to her that she was providing a free magazine that promoted design in Ireland.

She said: "I have always been passionate about design and would regularly read magazines from around the world. "I wanted Ireland to have a voice internationally when it came to design whilst also providing a magazine that was accessible for all to read. My main aim was to provide inspiration from Ireland free of charge.

"It was important that ROCO created a sense of community for the readers whilst providing an opportunity for the team to interact with our followers."

Similar magazines already exist in American, Australia and England but ROCO is the first to be launched on interiors in Ireland.

Already getting world-wide recognition, ROCO has been featured on popular international design blogs, tweeted by Laura Ashley as well as mentions by local designers.

To read the magazine and follow the daily happenings at ROCO visit www.rocomag.com