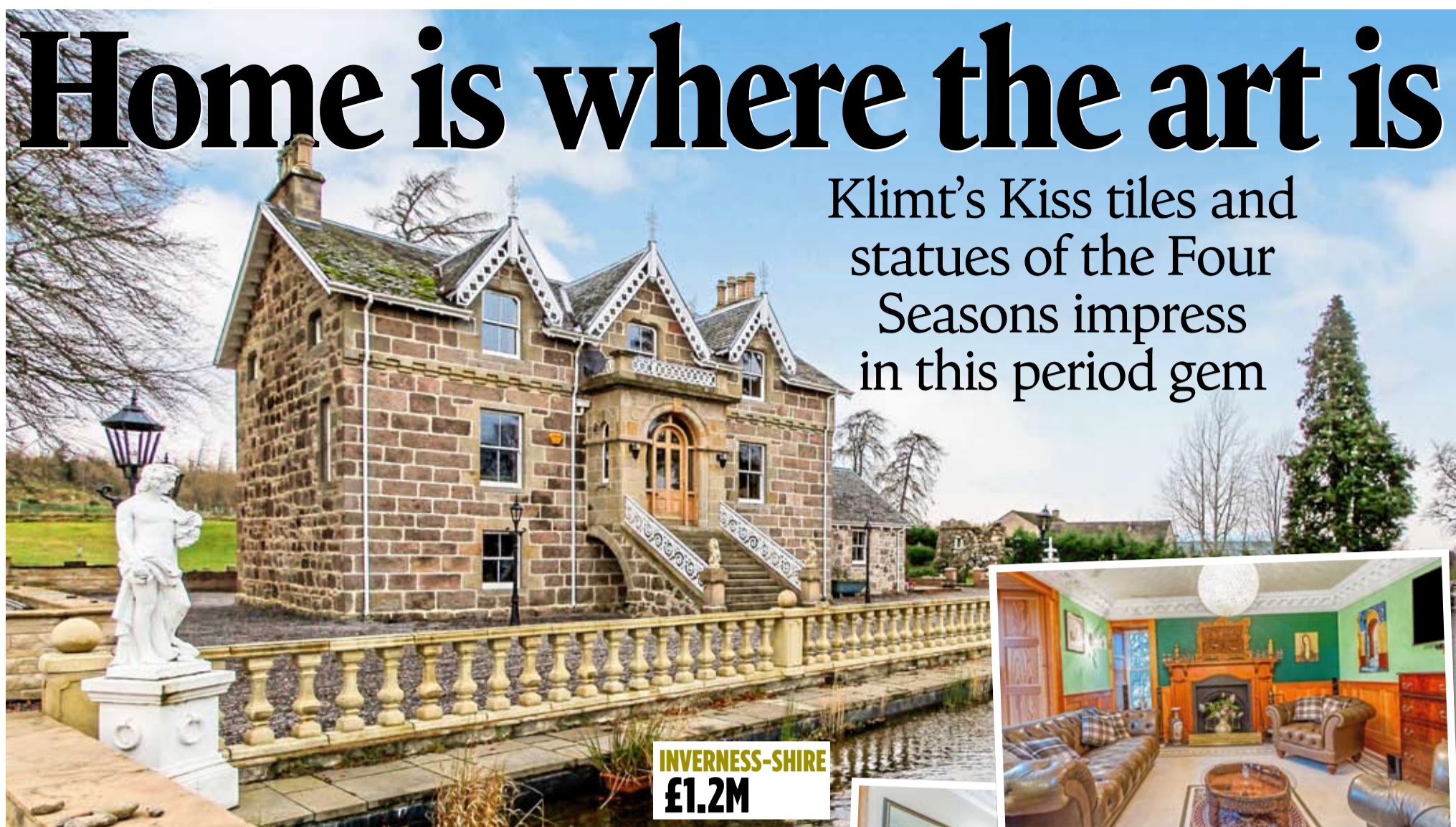


Home is where the art is

Klimt's Kiss tiles and statues of the Four Seasons impress in this period gem



INVERNESS-SHIRE
£1.2M

By **Paul Drury**

THE Doune is the kind of spectacular property which quickly dispels the notion that old Victorian country houses are damp and draughty. It may have been built in 1856 but it has been fully upgraded for 21st Century living.

The home, a near ruin when bought by the current owner in 2009, was originally built as the dowager house for Mackintosh of Mackintosh, of Moy.

The house was stripped back to the four walls, such was its dire need of repair.

It now offers underfloor heating on all three floors, with a state-of-the-art ground-source heat pump found in a soundproofed plant room in the basement.

All of the external walls have been insulated to modern standards, while all original internal doors have been fully restored and skirtings custom-designed to suit the property.

Highlighting the attention to detail lavished on The Doune are the seven different Victorian floor-

AT A GLANCE

Price: Offers over £1.2 million

Location: Daviot, Inverness-shire

Bedrooms: 6

Unique features: The Doune offers a traditional period look but the accommodation is suited to modern tastes and insulated to 21st Century standards. A ground-source heat pump generates all of

the energy needed to provide underfloor heating over the home's three floors. The superb collection of out-buildings would suit a serious handyman or keen hobbyist. The pond at the front of the property creates the atmosphere of a French chateau.

Contact: Email caroline.proctor@purplebricks.com.

tile patterns that have been used throughout the house.

But it is not only functional aspects which have received attention. Large elements of flair are also evident – for example, Gustav Klimt's The Kiss has been reproduced as a tile within the shower enclosure of the downstairs bathroom.

In the past, The Doune has served as the home of Vice Admiral Lachlan Donald Mackintosh, a senior naval chief during the Second World War.

He survived a dramatic attack on a vessel in his command in the Mediterranean in August 1942, while the aircraft carrier was just south of Majorca. HMS Eagle

had been escorting a convoy of ships travelling to Malta as part of Operation Pedestal.

A German U-boat managed to evade defences on the Strait of Gibraltar and fired four torpedoes, sinking HMS Eagle with the loss of two officers and 158 ratings.

Mackintosh survived, along with 926 other crew members.

Helmut Rosenbaum, the captain of U-73, which had carried out the deadly attack, was decorated with the Iron Cross, First Class, the following day.

But back to the here and now. The Doune's kitchen extension and patio were added in 2012, offering an oil-fired Aga, nice Belfast sink and central dining island. There

are two living rooms and six bedrooms – four of these have en suite bathrooms and all boast surround sound systems and feature fireplaces.

The entrance hallway is particularly traditional, possibly helped by the fact that it houses an impressive suit of armour in the corner.

Extra accommodation is provided by a converted barn, with two workshops, each with a mezzanine floor above.

A handyman would love this place as it comes fully fitted with workbenches and storage areas.

If any more space was needed for pottering about, the garage offers another fitted workbench, four

overhead fluorescent lighting tubes and five double electrical sockets.

The garage, only seven years old, also has underfloor heating, so a car fanatic could keep their collection of classic marques in complete luxury.

A garage loft above has planning permission for a one-bed flat.

A real feature of the garden is the 32ft by 130ft pond. This is powered by a three-phase electric water pump, which recirculates 33,400 gallons of water every six hours. The pond also features statues of the Four Seasons.

The gardens extend to 36 acres, with 15 paddocks and fishing on the River Nairn.

VICTORIAN GRANDEUR:

The Doune, main picture, boasts a large garden pond. Inset: One of the two living rooms, top, and the impressive hallway, left



... and here are three more to turn your head

Price: Offers over £295,000

Location: Selkirk

Bedrooms: 3

Unique features:

Located on a quiet residential street, Maryville retains lovely period features. The large fireplace in the living room is particularly impressive, while the front of the property has attractive red sandstone mullions. Tweedbank Railway Station is a ten-minute drive away, providing ready access to Edinburgh.

Contact: Alice Morgan at Rettie on 01896 824073 or email alice.morgan@rettie.co.uk.



SELKIRK
£295K

Price: Fixed at £460,000

Location: Bearsden, Dunbartonshire

Bedrooms: 4

Unique features: This is a four-bedroom conversion of the former school buildings of Drewsteignton Preparatory, an educational establishment opened in the popular commuter suburb in the 1920s. Following a comprehensive upgrade in 2019, there is now an impressive living area and stylish kitchen diner, which has oak worktops and integrated appliances. There is also a double-sized tandem garage.

Contact: Siobhan Cox at Rettie on 0141 943 3150 or email siobhan.cox@rettie.co.uk.



DUNBARTONSHIRE
£460K

Price: Fixed at £430,000

Location: Edinburgh

Bedrooms: 2

Unique features:

This top-floor flat is in a conversion of an A-listed mansion house. A communal stairway is shared with two other properties. The lounge has a triple front-facing window, wood flooring, ceiling and cornicing. A secret door is flanked by book shelves, leading to a cupboard and large attic room.

Contact: Jordan Mackay at Aberdein Considine on 0131 222 9002 or email jmckay@acandco.com.



EDINBURGH
£430K