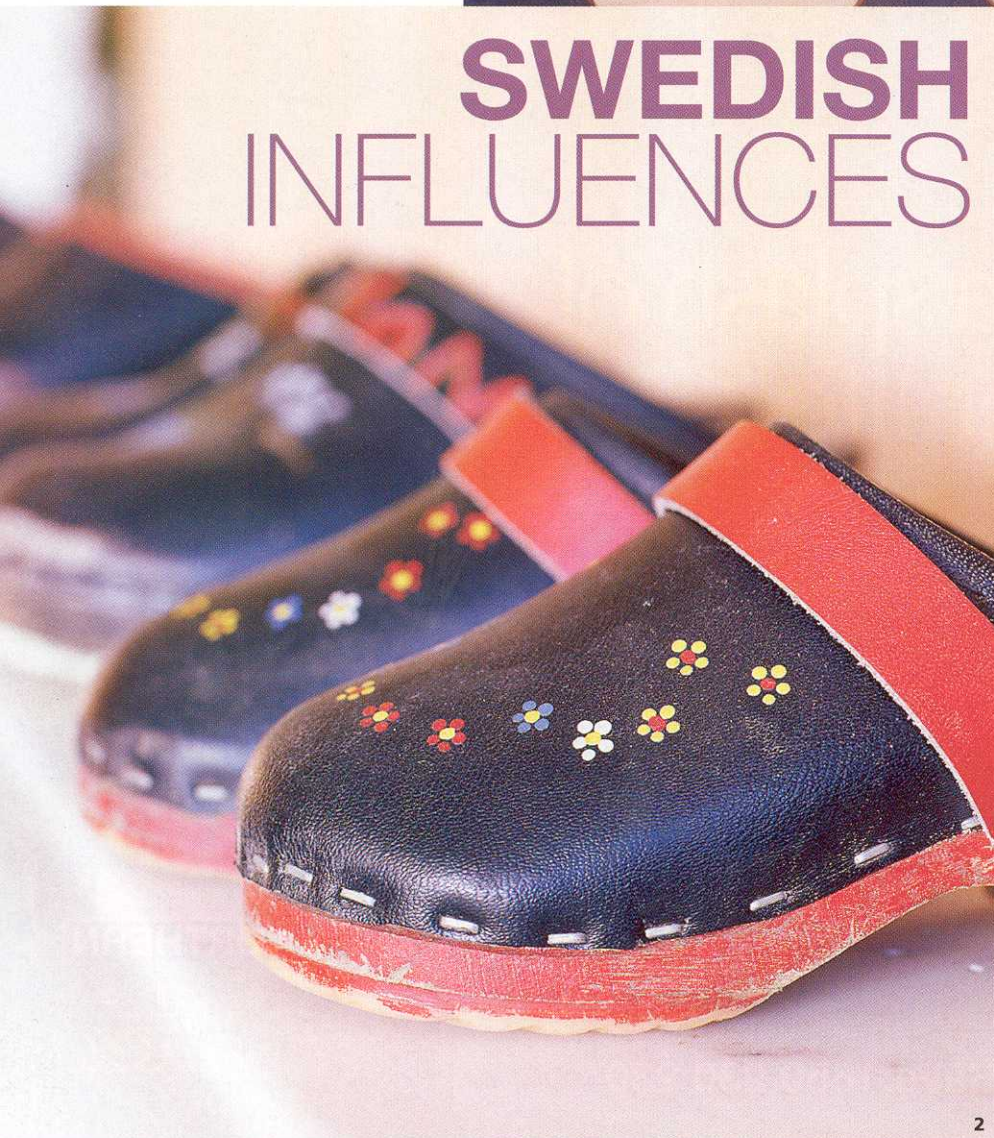




SWEDISH INFLUENCES



Swedish textile designer, LIZ NILSSON, is about to renovate her new house in Dublin 6.

DESCRIBE THE HOUSE YOU HAVE JUST BOUGHT. It's a three-storey Victorian house in Rathgar and we have exciting plans for it.

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO ADAPT IT? We plan to add a timber and glass extension to introduce light from two sides. I will have a large studio for my textile design in the basement so there will be enough space to do my own screen printing. The middle floor will have a spacious open-plan kitchen/living area – something I've wanted for some time.

WHAT KIND OF HOUSE DID YOU GROW UP IN? My parents owned a yellow brick 1940s house near Malmö in southern Sweden, divided into four apartments. We lived on the top floor.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME AWARE OF GOOD DESIGN? My mum's best friend, Elsie, an artist, first encouraged me to pursue art as a career. In my early twenties, I did a foundation course in art in Sweden, then a degree in textile design. After moving to the UK and studying at the Grays School of Art in Aberdeen, I did my MA in conceptual Fine Art at Goldsmiths College in London.

WHO OR WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN INSPIRATIONS FOR TEXTILE DESIGN? They are mainly from my cultural inheritance. Moving away from Sweden means I have held onto my sense of identity more than if I still lived there. If I had to choose one particular influence it would be Astrid



1 This contemporary range of Swedish tableware by "Haganäs" is teamed with a 1950s black and yellow cup/saucer from Camden Market in London and 1950s Swedish cutlery. The table-runner and napkin designs are called "Triangle".

2 A row of tiny clogs. One pair was worn by Liz as a child and the others are her children's first pairs.

3 Designed in the 1950s, the Danish cot Liz slept in as a baby, now converted into a seat.

4 Designed by Liz, "Dot" table-runner in blue/black provides the background for white porcelain hearts – a gift from her sister, Tina – and a fine porcelain egg vase by Swedish ceramicist, Brigitte Linde, used as a candle holder.

