



‘Ring the Changes’ by Neville Knott

This week's *Showhouse* is in an exclusive development in Ring, Co Waterford, with views across Dungarvan Bay. Our two designers have just one week to complete the task: two enormous three-storey detached homes with huge spaces and gigantic bathrooms. The challenge seemed almost impossible as the deadline had been brought forward to Saturday evening and the temperatures were sub-zero. Both designers, looking stressed and tired, were being pushed to the limits and there was what can only be described as a battalion of builders, painters, tilers and carpenters in situ.

Nina is a feng shui consultant, so her overall concept was based around these principles and this influence was everywhere. Her colour pallet had muted tones highlighted in some of the rooms with strong daring accent colours offset by interesting materials, finishes and accessories. The main features in her interior included a glass panelled staircase in the entrance hall, cool pale grey walls in the sitting room teamed with warm dark flooring, and the most amazing main bathroom with marble flooring and six mosaic-tiled columns.

The kitchen was nominated as the room which had to be finished by Wednesday afternoon, when each designer is asked to comment on their competitor's design. Feng shui seemed to transform Nina's kitchen and the overall result was very unusual - there were no wall units, the ovens were housed in a warming station and the dining table was situated in the middle of the room. She had chosen burgundy units with white doors, a grey and burgundy granite worktop, miniature glass pendant lights, and floral patterned fabric panels on the windows. Her competitor looked stunned when he saw the room!
