

Livingetc

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LEADING BY DESIGN

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next level

2023 KITCHEN &
BATHROOM TRENDS
LUXE MARBLE VEINING
FRESH DIRECTIONS
IN LIGHTING
COLOURS FOR
RIGHT NOW



brave NEW WORLD

Eager to step outside their comfort zone, the owners of this amazing abode embraced materiality with a mid-century overtone

PHOTOGRAPHY Ruth Maria Murphy/Living Inside

* STYLING Róisín Lafferty and KLD team

WORDS Sara Dal Zotto/Juliet Benning





LIVING SPACE

The old fireplace was replaced with a bioethanol stove within a seamless wall of Verde Alpi marble. A plump low sofa invites relaxation.

Marenco **sofa** by Arflex, Chaplins. Medium Atollo 239 **table lamp**, The Conran Shop. **Coffee table**, Kingston Lafferty Design



KITCHEN

A polished concrete floor acts as a foil to the extraordinary red tone of Cosmopolitan quartzite. The mahogany cabinets and red seams resonate with the quartzite's hue.

Kitchen designed by Kingston Lafferty Design; made by DFL Joinery. **Stools**, The Contract Chair Company. Coordinates **pendant**, Flos at Holloways of Ludlow. **Floor**, Stone Seal. **Stone**, Miller Brothers

Lover's Walk, a 1940s-built home nestled into the cliffs of Cork in Ireland, is a project that demonstrates a showstopping visual confidence and one that is not

afraid to divide audiences. Its interior designer, Róisín Lafferty, founder of Kingston Lafferty Design (KLD), was determined to conjure a rich and compelling inner landscape that both challenges and calms. 'The clients wanted to step outside their comfort zone with colour and materials to achieve a unique family home that catered to the way they live – and suited both the context of the building and the location. 'We aimed to create an unexpected haven that transports the owners to another world, away from the humdrum of everyday life. It is a world that satisfies the senses, delights and excites, and offers a playful, colourful and all-encompassing atmosphere to provide simple, everyday happiness,' Róisín explains.

The property had been extended in the 70s and 80s, with architecture firm Carr Cotter & Naessens later called on to give it a more cohesive identity and enhanced natural light. It was their warm pale oak staircase that Róisín chose as the point at which to dive in. The clients, a young family looking for their 'forever home', had been originally drawn in by both the luscious surrounding landscape and the modernist timber structure of the staircase and framing joinery. 'We took both of these features as the starting point for our inspiration and design development. Merging the structure and material with the surrounding terrain, we sought to connect a sense of nostalgia and landscape throughout each room. The tones and veins of the selected marbles link to the richness of the vista, emulating the moss and mature trees on all sides,' Róisín says. 'It's a sensory space that wraps itself around you as soon as you step inside. When it came to specifying materials, it was all about balance, contrast and play. The context of each setting and the location of

each material used was hugely important to the tuning and creation of a unique harmony between natural and man-made, raw and polished, soft and hard and light and dark.'

From the main entrance space with its blocks of oak cabinetry, the staircase acts as a central core from which rooms and corridors divide off. Here, Róisín anchored the opening space with green layered Verde Bamboo marble that resonates with the fecundity of the surrounding trees. The stairwell itself has a

double-height void and large picture window, bringing the landscape in from both levels. For the property's latest iteration, Kiosk Architects were commissioned to work with KLD to give the building more thorough energy efficiency standards. They also added a glass floor panel to visually connect the two levels in the hall and landing further.

The kitchen, with its Cosmopolitan quartzite stone counters and walls, appears almost to have been carved out of the cliff face itself. 'We wanted the stone to appear to have encompassed and grown from the space so designed it to encase the window reveals and wrap around the island, the distinctive veining and pattern continuing throughout,' Róisín explains.

Each element of furniture and lighting was deliberately chosen to be individually sculptural, balancing mid-century

sophistication and elegance with bulbous and solid organic forms. The contrast and colour tones link all spaces together, while all of the joinery seamlessly leads you from room to room. Once inside, it is a home with such aesthetic conviction that it has a special sense of place and is entirely a world of its own.

home front

THE DESIGNER

Róisín Lafferty, the founder and creative director of Kingston Lafferty Design (KLD) in Dublin, which she established in 2010.

THE PROPERTY

On the ground floor is a large interconnected living space and music room, a guest bedroom and WC, plus the kitchen which has dining and lounge areas, a pantry and a utility room. Upstairs are two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, plus the main bedroom and en suite, a guest bathroom, a yoga room and a study.

kingstonlaffertydesign.com



THIS IS A PROJECT THAT IS
ALL ABOUT DEPTH, RICHNESS
OPULENCE AND DETAIL

— x —



home truths

TREND PREDICTION FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS?

More focus on natural materials – people have a new-found appreciation for their timelessness and beauty.

WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU THE MOST?

Gabriella Crespi, Gio Ponti and Verner Panton – all have designed holistically for the spaces they create.

TO-DIE-FOR BRAND?

Apparatus. We use their lighting all the time but seeing the showroom in New York recently was complete perfection. I love them even more!

FAVOURITE MATERIAL?

Natural stone – nature’s art. It continues to mesmerise me with every project we do. Irish Green marble is my favourite.

DESIGN DESTINATION?

Vincenzo De Cotiis’ home in Milan – pure design heaven.

CORRIDOR TO DINING AREA

The gloss surface of the red tiles rebounds light from the huge walls of glass while deliberately emphasising a transition into a new space.

Meridium wall light, Debonademeo at Artemest. Source similar finger tiles at Tiles Direct. Curtains in sheer fabric by Lizzo. Kai Kristiansen chairs in rosewood; reupholstered in Kvadrat fabric; sourced from 1stDibs. Naan extending dining table, Cassina at Chaplins

HALLWAY/STAIRCASE

‘We took inspiration from the modular nature of the stair core throughout our design, framing each space and deliberately inserting volumes within the larger spaces,’ says Róisín (pictured).

Verde Bamboo marble, Miller Brothers. Existing oak joinery reinstated by DFL Joinery. Luna light, Gio Ponti at SCP. Vase, Nordic Elements



BOY'S ROOM

The custom bunk bed is for sleeping and playing.

Custom **bunk bed/play zone** by Kingston Lafferty Design and made by DFL Joinery

CLOAKROOM

A large-scale terrazzo tile makes an arresting visual statement here. The mirror is wrapped in Verde Alpi marble.

Tiles, Mosaic Factory.
Sanitaryware, Vos at Victorian Plumbing

FAMILY BATHROOM

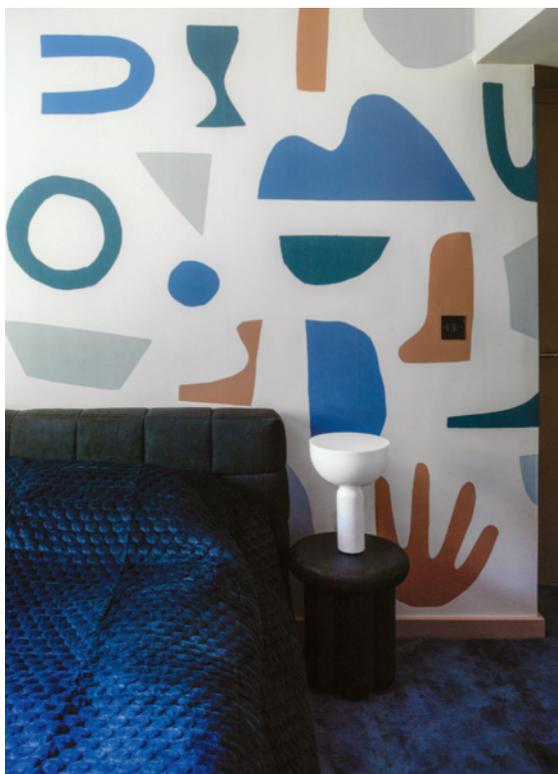
The stark contrast between terrazzo tile and Fusion quartzite creates a bold visual language offset by black fittings.

Sanitaryware, Vos at HomeStyle.
Terrazzo tiles, La Terrazzo



MAIN BEDROOM
Gio Ponti tiles change in tonality
according to the light source.
A Rosso Levanto marble unit fits
neatly in the eaves space.

Vintage Gio Ponti **tiles**, source on Pamono. Amber **wall sconce**, Alberto Lago at Artemest. Gubi **chair**, Minima. Chevron timber **floor**, Trunk Floor



GUEST BEDROOM

The richly hued scheme was inspired by the Yves Saint Laurent gardens in Marrakech.

Forme **wallpaper mural**, Hovia. **Throw**, Homesense. Bubble Saucer **pendant**; Kizu **lamp**, both Finnish Design Shop. Phant **side table**, Woo .Design. **Carpet**, Jacaranda Carpets



MAIN EN SUITE
Róisín wanted this to be the ultimate in opulence and indulgence. Rosso Levanto marble wraps the floor and forms the vanity and two basins – even the wastes are marble.

Marble, Miller Brothers.
Bejmat tiles, Wow Design