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ELECTRIC BLUE

When is a home more than a home? When it's also a liveable work of avant-garde art, like this theatrical, uber-luxe new build in Dublin

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Living room A 'Standard' sofa by Francesco Binfaré for Ebra wraps around the coffee table, which is a custom piece made from orange alabaster onyx and grand antique marble. The cushions are the 'Palla S' by Eichholz. Anna Sidi-Yacoub's sculpture, 'Water Reflections in Gray', reflects light around the room from its textured aluminium surface. The side table at the end of the sofa is the 'Tung JA3' by John Asbury for &Tradition ▶





When most people buy their first home, they want something hassle-free, with size and price the biggest factors. Then there are the few who see it as a chance to create something special, to shape the space around themselves. This was the case for Emil Patel, a Dublin-based derivatives trader. When he approached Kingston Lafferty Design, his aim was to get some help with choosing the furniture for his townhouse. Things escalated considerably.

‘The client’s brief was pretty free. He wanted a really cool house,’ explains KLD founder Róisín Lafferty. ‘This is a big investment for him. He’s travelled a lot, rented lots of properties, but he wanted something that no one else had and that’s not your traditional depiction of what a home is. It’s a pretty great starting point for us.’ KLD is used to working with period buildings that involve lots of restoration work and getting things up to modern standards with a high level of finish. This home, however, is a new build on a small development in the south of Dublin, offering the architecture studio a blank canvas. ‘The house was finished in a boring showhouse-type style and the details weren’t very good,’ recalls Róisín. ‘It was very much about making sure everything we did enhanced the house and that the execution was perfect.’

The four-storey home has two bedrooms, four bathrooms, a study, home gym (with a ping-pong table), reception rooms and even

a terrace. The architects really freed themselves with this project and, together with their open-minded, trusting client, went on to complete the home within just four months. The intervention was total: walls, stairs, floors and even ceilings got the KLD treatment, and the result is a uniquely bold interior with a theatrical flair. ‘Because we were given so much freedom, I started to think about the space like installation art and set design,’ says Róisín. ‘I wanted to create more interjections so it didn’t look like we came in and just decorated it.’ With marble archways and graphic perspectives created by floor-to-ceiling mirrors, every corner makes a statement.

One of the most extraordinary elements is the staircase, a cobalt-blue design that streaks through the four floors like an electrified central core. Previously it had been a combination of plain glass, concrete and timber, but Róisín saw its potential. ‘We stripped it back to its bare bones and wrapped it in tinted blue glass, combined with blue mirror in the kitchen, so wherever you look, it feels like this glowing blue box,’ she explains. ‘The impact of it can be felt on every floor. It’s this dramatic spaceship-like creation.’

The level of finish achieved in such a short time is a testament to the artisans who worked on this project, as well as to the design team who invented this dream house. But the biggest plaudit should go to its owner, who had the courage to trust the professionals he chose to deliver a uniquely fun home. kingstonlaffertydesign.com

Living room A bespoke media unit in brushed stainless steel spans one wall, with Axel Chay’s ‘Modulation’ floor lamp echoing its materiality
Kitchen Custom designed by KLD, this space, accessed via an impressive marble portal, is composed of built-in units and a large island, which is framed by a stainless steel lightbox that adds to the theatricality. The ‘Park Place’ stools are by Yabu Pushelberg for Man of Parts. STOFF Nagel’s extraordinary modular candleholder makes a sculptural statement on the island ►





Dining room A bespoke table made from yellow onyx is the centrepiece of this space, offset by GamFratesi's 'Beetle' dining chairs for Gubi. The striking pendant is a 'Shiva' chandelier from Morghen Studio. On the wall is Ruslan Luchko's sculpture, *282 Day Conscience*. Vases by Vanessa Mitrani and Nikolai Wiigh Hansen's 'Strøm' vase and bowl for Raawii are arranged on the table ►



Staircase Next to the extraordinary cobalt-blue glass staircase sits the 'Fifih' bench by Hommés Studio

Powder room Lafferty wanted all the materials to be the same blue to keep things cohesive, so the paint in this cobalt bathroom was matched to the microcement. The mirror reflects Michael Anastassiades's 'Arrangements' light for Flos on the landing

Guest bedroom Dark forest-green tones ground this airy space, where the 'Marvin' Bed by Sleepgreen – finished in Yarwood Leather's 'Mustang Bottle' – is the main event. It is flanked by a pair of 'Reverse' table lamps by Aleksandar Lazic for Audo Copenhagen, while the 'Tense' pendant light by Panther & Tourron for New Works floats above. Underneath KLD's simple, circular mirror, New Works' 'Mass' daybed in 'Andirivieni' fabric by Dedar is the perfect place to kick back. The green abstract canvas is by artist Tony Lee from Etsy and the rug is the 'Tetsu' by Urd Moll Gundermann for Linie Design

Gym One of the most visually striking parts of this home, with its vivid blue walls and ceiling, this is a place for fun and relaxation. A 'Le Bambole' armchair by Mario Bellini for B&B Italia makes for a satisfyingly tactile contrast to the polished steel 'Slit' side table by Hay. A Klein blue 'Knot' pillow by Ragnheiður Ösp Sigurðardóttir for Design House Stockholm picks up the scheme's defining colour ➤





Bathroom This atmospheric space is a study in 'Fusion Wow Quartzite' supplied by Miller Brothers. The 'Amalfi Matt Black' toilet is from Granlusso and the taps are by Hotbath. The 'Sculpt' stool is by Kristian Sofus Hansen & Tommy Hyldahl for 101 Copenhagen. The ceiling spotlights are 'Void 55' by Astro Lighting.

Main bedroom This space feels both soothing and stimulating, thanks to a muted palette of browns and greys, shot through with electric blue in the form of Anna Sidi-Yacoub's *Divine Blue Reflections* sculpture and the '3u' bench by Bismut & Bismut for The Invisible Collection. The bed is the 'Marvin' by Sleepgreen, custom finished in Dedar's 'A Joy' twill, with a pair of 'Gélule' wall lamps by Joseph Dirand for Ozone providing subtle illumination. The tones of the scheme are brought together in The Rug Company's hand-knotted 'Cove' rug. Inset into the built-in wardrobe is a dressing table area with an 'Ella' chair by Jacopo Foggini for Edra **ED**