THE ART OF ELEGANT DECORATING

EDITOR'S EYE THE BEST OF THE SS23 COLLECTIONS OUR FAVOURITE UPHOLSTERERS

COLOUR CONFIDENCE

INSPIRINGLY BOLD IDEAS FOR EVERY SINGLE ROOM

HOW TO DECORATE WITH GREY GREEN NEW WAYS WITH FLORAL WALLPAPERS

SPRING IN THE GARDEN DESIGNERS SHARE THE PROJECTS TO DO THIS SEASON

CHARACTER BUILDING

Styles from different eras come together to form exquisite interiors in a Galway residence reimagined by Kingston Lafferty Design

WORDS SARA DAL ZOTTO PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA CORSICO/LIVING INSIDE

ENTRANCE HALL The original tiles inspired the bold palette.

Console, Martin & Brockett at 1stDibs. Walls in Eating Room Red; staircase in Railings, both Farrow & Ball, Vintage Murano glass chandelier, Acquired. Bespoke mirror, Kingston Rafferty Design. Wall light, Kelly Wearstler

HOUSES

READING ROOM A Sputnik light and curvaceous forms are very mid-century modern. Vintage chandelier, Acquired. Stay sofa, Gubi at Nest. Gropius CS1 chair, Noom. Coffee table, Soho Home. Ceramic side table, Out There Interiors. Rug, iRugs. Walls in De Nimes, Farrow & Ball

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INTERNAL ANNEXE The addition of this space allows multiple circulation route options between the rooms, in contrast to the previous linear layout. The large glass cabinet was a piece that came with the house. Floor mosaics, Mosaic Assemblers. Green portal tiles, H&E Smith. Urns and vases, The Vintage Hub

feast for the eyes, this Galway city residence – an amazing project suspended between ► history and modernity,

conceived and realised by Kingston Lafferty Design – is a never-ending surprise. 'Today it's a family home for husband, wife and five children, the very epicentre of a hectic and bustling family life,' says Róisín Lafferty, founder and creative director of the Irish studio that works internationally.

Built in the 1860s, this post-Georgian-era, threestorey house is part of a terrace of similar homes. It's been a five-year project. 'We were first approached to look at the house back in December 2018, with Helena McElmeel Architects having started to investigate the best planning application approach the previous year,' says Róisín. 'Due to the historical and conservation relevance of the building, the conservation and planning department were very strict with granting permission for the design works, both architecturally and for the interior.

'We looked at the way the family wanted to live in their home, the spaces that they naturally gravitated towards and how best to design the configuration and journey between these,' says Róisín. 'Most importantly, we looked at how best to integrate natural light to key areas – the fabric of the original house had hugely thick walls, massively reducing the amount of natural light that could filter through to the dining and kitchen.'

A very original project, in perfect Kingston Lafferty Design style: 'My inspiration for this house came from the abundant character that exudes from the building as soon as you enter it. This house had a wonderful soul and spirit from the onset of the project, and we sought to embrace and harness that,' says Róisín. 'Our key self-appointed task was to create an interior that sensitively encompassed the essence of the property and, for the end result, to feel like it had always been like that.' The designer also admits to another source of inspiration – *The Handmaid's Tale.* 'The series captivated me in terms of set design and overall atmosphere.'

The interior has been cleverly designed as an encounter between époques: 'We wanted to merge the old and new and ensure each space hosted a collection of interesting pieces from different eras. Our exploration of colour took its cue from the fraving original stair runner and the inlaid Georgian patterned mosaics in the entrance hallway,' says Róisín. Aside from the fixed finishes, the house came with an abundance of original pieces, including a series of display cabinets, an original Thonet rocker, gorgeous glass and brass pendants, as well as other curiosities. 'We did have to persuade the client to keep one of the delicate original net curtains,' says Róisín. 'The main thing was keep these pieces, give them all homes, and add elements that gave interesting structures and shapes throughout, injecting colour and material contrasts for depth and richness.'

Thanks to the studio's work – uniting research, good taste, perfect choice of colours and items marvellously custom-designed – this is an home that now feels spirited, soulful, alive and homely. 'Our focus is to create unique and individual spaces for our clients. We want to truly listen to our clients and align our creativity with how they live,' says Róisín. And this house is a wonderful example of just that.

kingstonlaffertydesign.com

"CONSERVATION CONSTRAINTS WERE A CHALLENGE WHEN DEALING WITH THE DILAPIDATED OUTBUILDINGS THAT BLOCKED NATURAL LIGHT GETTING INTO THE HOUSE"

KITCHEN

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The cabinet is original to the house. It was refurbished to fit this new location, with the depth reduced and mirrors added. Walls finished in a rough render and painted in Charleston Gray, Farrow & Ball, Floor tiles in a tumbled finish, TileStyle





DINING AREA 'We kept this space quite contemporary to connect with the small courtyard and sunken lounge space it opens onto,' says Róisín. Terracotta floor tiles, Baked Earth. Pathway tiles linking to utility are limestone flagstones, Rocca Tiles. Table and bench (seen far right) in blackened oak designed by Kingston Lafferty Design. Chair, clients'

own. Mid-century Italian wall sconces, Acquired. Custom accordion oak doors designed by Kingston Lafferty Design and made by O'Gorman Joinery. Monochrome print by Dominic Turner, So Fine Art Editions



MEET THE DESIGNER

Róisín Lafferty shares her style inspiration MOST SUCCESSFUL ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT The sunken conversation pit. I have wanted to design one of these for years and it is such an unexpected surprise in this particular home – a really playful and bold space that is very comfortable.

GO-TO COLOUR It's a toss-up between green and maroon – both of which seem to appear in a myriad of ways throughout my work.

SECRET ADDRESS Apparatus Studio, New York. They have only recently opened up their HQ as a full gallery space and I got to see it on my last trip there. Spellbinding creations, lighting, furniture and spaces.

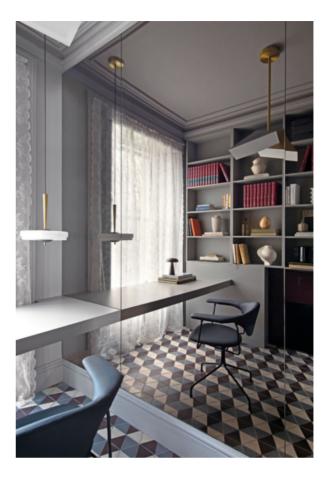
FAVOURITE BUILDING Vincenzo De Cotiis' apartment in Milan – simply breathtaking.

NAME TO WATCH Niamh Barry, an Irish lighting designer producing world-class creations.

HOUSES









BEDROOM

Up on the top floor, the eldest daughter's room is sophisticated with an emerald green upholstered bed and feature wallpaper. Teide wallpaper, Rockett St George. Lee Broom Crystal Bulb pendant, Nest. Bedside table, Soho Home. Swoon Porlock bed, Littlewoods

MAIN EN SUITE Previously an additional bathroom, this was incorporated into the main suite. Central fan floor mosaics, Mosaic Assemblers; black tumbled marble border tiles, TileStyle. Chase chandelier, Eichholtz. Custom pouffe in Clarke & Clarke fabric, Kingston Lafferty Design

STUDY

The custom joinery includes storage, display and integrated 'floating' desk with bronze mirror wall. Masculo chair, Gubi. Trave pendant light, Bert Frank. Triangular Prism pendant light, Square in Circle. Popham Design Hex Zulu floor tiles, House of Tiles

BEDROOM

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Striking custom bunk beds in birch ply have shelves and desks to create a play/work area. Bunk beds designed by Kingston Lafferty Design and made by O'Gorman Joinery. Atrium rug. Finnish Design Shop. Artwork (on fireplace) by Kelvin Mann. Walls in Inchyra Blue, Farrow & Ball

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