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SECOND ACT

Classic meets contemporary in this bold reimagining of a 1950s semi by designer Róisín Lafferty

PHOTOGRAPHY Ruth Maria Murphy/Living Inside

WORDS Marzia Nicolini/Kara O'Reilly

EXTENSION

'The architecture hinges on a strong angled structure and the contrast of diagonal lines intersecting into the rectangular forms,' says designer Róisín of the design for this two-storey rear addition. The large multifunction space includes a relaxed lounge, an informal breakfast area and a bar.

Two-tone terrazzo table, designed by KLD; made by PJ Ryan Terrazzo and Oikos. Blue circular artwork by July Adrichem. Perspective sofa, Roche Bobois. Wall in (lounge area) Mercer Grey, Fleetwood Paints



BREAKFAST AREA

Angled timber slats were set at a high level, resulting in a beautiful diffusion of light. Walls of voile curtains form a soft, tranquil frame enveloping the whole area, while a circular rug creates a spotlight effect on the casual seating zone.

Tearoom **chairs**, Menu at Minima. **Dining table**, HKLiving. **Rug**, Moooi Carpets. **Daybed** designed by KLD; made by Oikos. **Flooring**, Amsterdam Flooring Company





VIEW FROM KITCHEN

Róisín designed a full-height sliding wall that can close off the extension from the rest of the house. The transition between old and new is demarcated where the kitchen floor tiles meet engineered oak.

ED046 circular ceiling lamps,
Edizioni Design at Artemest



Just a few miles from the bustle and buzz of Dublin city centre and set on a wide tree-lined street is a 1950s

house that has been revamped in a rather radical way. The credit goes to Róisín Lafferty, founder and creative director of Kingston Lafferty Design (KLD), who teamed up with John Monahan of Sligo-based Noji Architects to transform the trad three-bed into this spectacular five-bedroom family home, complete with jaw-dropping modernist extension. 'We worked closely with John to merge his bold vision for the new, light-filled structure with our own creative interior approach,' Róisín says.

Neither designer nor architect were lacking in ambition, that's for sure. The interventions they made were numerous, but all were executed with the homeowners' needs front and centre. 'Collectively, we wanted to create an impressive and unique space that provides the owners with a delightful family environment, where all aspects have been considered to frame their lives,' explains Róisín.

As such, the project was wide-reaching. In essence, the layout of rooms you'd expect to find in this type of property has been completely reimaged to result in a much more creative organisation of space. 'The house is sectioned into different zones and atmospheres,' says Róisín. 'Downstairs, for example, is one part eccentric formality, one part playful contemporary.'

This translates into Róisín's reinvention of the original house coming together with John's soaring two-storey extension. The addition stretches across the whole back of the property to offer a ballroom-scale living space, while the existing rooms were redesigned so they can be opened up to the extension or

closed off to create contained areas, according to the owners' needs. For instance, the original living room is now a fully tiled Moroccan-inspired library which, when open, gives direct sightlines from front door to back garden; this also creates 'a dialogue between the front and rear of the house,' Róisín says. The dusky pink formal dining room, furnished with family antiques, can also be fully opened straight into the extension or completely separated, thanks to the striking wall of bi-folding mirrored doors designed by Róisín.

As the owners have three sons and a daughter of primary school age, as well as the much-loved family retriever, Rocky, the practicality of this flexible approach to the downstairs floor plan is certainly not lost on them. In fact, the abundance of room stretching across the extension lends itself to playtime: 'Without doubt this is the hub of the home; cue the children skateboarding and scootering through, while the dog curls up in the sun.'

Meanwhile, the more cossetting mood found upstairs is all about giving each family member their own private space. Safe to say they are completely happy with both solutions. 'The clients appointed us because they wanted to live in a space

that excited and delighted them,' notes Róisín. 'They wanted to savour colour, be challenged creatively, and ultimately to have a personal and unique home that was special for them.' Looking at the finished house, that list has definitively been ticked.

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kingstonlaffertydesign.com; noji.ie

the download

THE DESIGNER

Róisín Lafferty, founder and creative director of Kingston Lafferty Design (KLD), worked alongside architect John Monahan of Noji Architects to reinvent this house for a family of six.

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, 1950s suburban semi. On the ground floor is a playroom, dining room, library, kitchen, utility zone and WC, plus a two-storey extension with living, dining and breakfast areas. Upstairs is the main bedroom suite, plus three more bedrooms, two with shower rooms, and a family bathroom. A fifth bedroom is in the loft extension.



ENTRANCE HALL

'The hall is beautifully proportioned with a generous head-height,' says Róisín. 'We used deep panelling to add texture and detail to the walls and played with colour tones to achieve a timeless atmosphere.'

Walls and doors in Green Smoke, Farrow & Ball. **Brass mirror and console,** both KLD. **Soffio lamp,** Giopato & Coombes. **Vintage pendant,** 1stDibs. **Victorian-style floor tiles,** Original Style

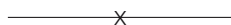
DINING ROOM

'This space was designed as a retreat, a sanctuary of luxury for the busy mum of four,' says Róisín. 'The pièce de résistance is the wall of custom, antique brass, double-sided mirrored accordion doors. When closed, they keep the area secret and contained; when open, they visually connect old and new.'

Walls in Burlwood, Fleetwood Paints. **Wallpaper** (in alcove), de Gournay. **Beetle chairs,** Gubi at Minima. **Cloud pendant,** Apparatus. **Custom doors,** KLD



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BEDROOM

Each child's room is unique with standout elements. 'This girl's room is a firm favourite,' says Róisín. 'We went to town designing arched etched wardrobes centred on a circular vanity space.'

Cabinetry designed by KLD; made by Oikos. Pink **wall tiles**, Ceramica Vogue at TileStyle. Pink **stool**, Finnish Design Shop



MAIN BEDROOM

This suite is moody and classic. Róisín focused on intricate elements, such as the patterned silk that forms the headboard and the sleek pendant lights. The smart symmetrical layout enhances the calming feel.

Walls in Green Smoke, Farrow & Ball. **Headboard fabric,** Lizzo. Vintage **bedside cabinets,** Vinterior. Ball **pendant lights,** Michael Anastassiades. **Cushions and throw,** all Artemest. Chevron engineered **oak flooring,** Amsterdam Flooring Company

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x

MAIN EN SUITE

'This is quite the marble dream!' says Róisín of this contemporary space that features a floating vanity with full-height mirrored cabinets above.

Azul Imperiale marble **vanity**, designed by KLD; made by Miller Brothers Stone. **Sinks and taps**, both Crosswater at Bath House