



Modern Period Twist

In Kenilworth, Dublin, this Georgian home pays homage to the building's heritage while juxtaposing modern accents and aesthetically functional spaces, thanks to the craftsmanship of designer Roísín Lafferty.

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Marah Curtin, the owner of this stunning property and the name behind the new personalised skincare brand Frekkel, her husband, and their young family have, alongside designer Roísín, created the home of their dreams.

The single-fronted, double-depth Georgian house is a classic of its kind. Its generous proportions, high ceilings, and

intricate coving highlight its architectural integrity, while expansive windows flood the interior with natural light. Roísín explains, 'These buildings have so much soul and history. It's a luxury for us to harness that and play with colour, scale and style.'

The layout includes two formal conjoined rooms off the stair core, with bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. A powder room occupies the mid-landing, while the basement offers a more open-plan format, complete with a utility room, pantry, garden lounge, and guest suite.

While the homeowners provided a clear brief for functionality, they gave Roísín the creative



freedom to elevate the design. ‘Their hearts were captured by the character of the property,’ Roisín continues. ‘We used one main colour as the base palette — Green Street tone from the Prestige by Fleetwood collection — to blend spaces and highlight the detailing. The contrast came from playful lighting, sculptural furniture, and bold accents.’

The design language throughout the home has a cohesive flow, she says, like an ‘invisible thread linking each room and floor,’ while allowing each space to stand alone with its own distinct feel.

The hallway sets the tone for the real beauty of this home. It is a perfect example of Roisín’s attention to detail. Painted entirely in Green Street, the space feels enveloping and serene. ‘We wanted the recessed arch cut-out to shine,’ she says. ‘So, we designed a custom arched mirror and upholstered seat to echo its curve.’ She adds, ‘I can’t underestimate the power of a large mirror.’

In the double-door living space, the design shifts to a monochromatic palette. The room is anchored by the Ploum sofa from Ligne Roset, which Roisín describes as ‘fun, soft, and feminine — perfect for balancing the room’s Georgian structure’.

‘Daniel Coyle Architects sought to create a link to

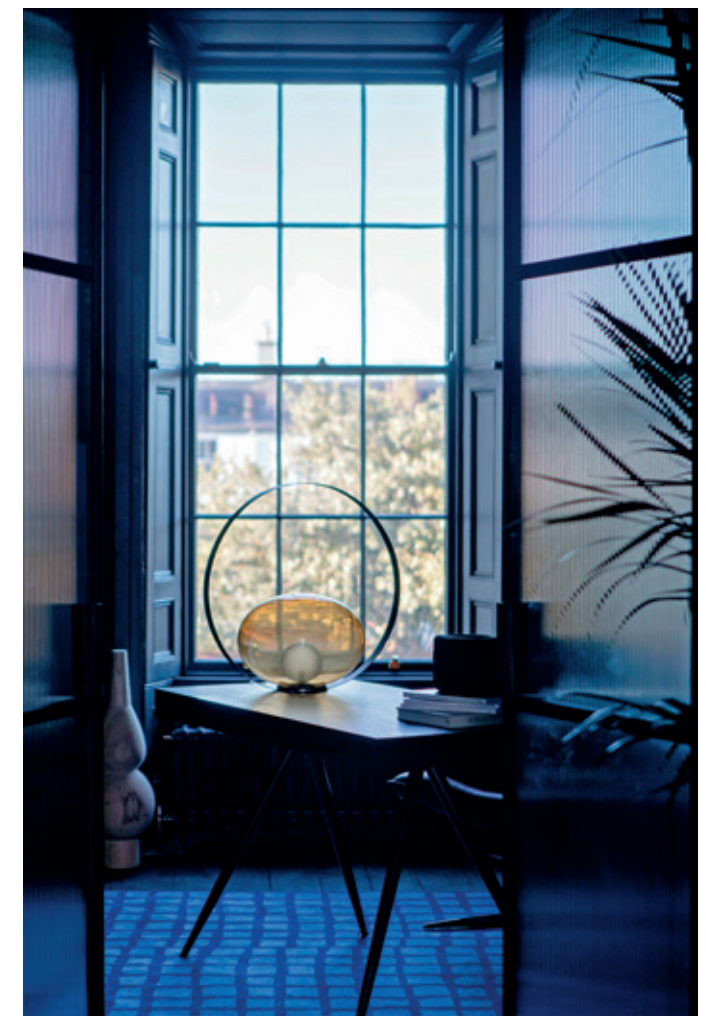


the garden at this level and was able to get permission to change the window to doors, which really benefits the day-to-day use of the space. I truly love this room. It is deliberately monochromatic and sophisticated, balanced with enough fun and playfulness,' she says.

A rug from Rug Art, designed by Jan Kath, takes on its own art form, anchoring the space. The giant vintage Italian Sputnik chandelier also grabs the eye. 'A key part of the design was to keep as many original elements as possible, so we had the original floorboards re-stained dark and kept them on show to add a worn and character-filled layer to the space.'

Throughout the home, lighting fixtures are more than functional; they are sculptural, bold, and transformative. 'Decorative lighting is the jewellery of the house,' Roisín states. 'With high ceilings, it was crucial to select oversized pieces to fill the space.' Sources include Acquired.ie, Soho Home, First Dibs, and Square in Circle, complemented by mid-century vintage finds.

The dining area features a custom Miniforms table from Minima, accented with a striking pop of red. 'We wanted to balance sophistication with unexpected elements, like the bronze-mirrored alcoves and gable end of the custom kitchen.'





Art throughout the home adds creative depth, with pieces sourced from Sol Art Gallery, Solomon Art Gallery, Jan Cools, and Saatchi Online.

The kitchen, crafted by Stephen O’Gorman of O’Gorman Joinery, combines practicality and aesthetics in one space. ‘The client wanted navy, and we used this rich tone to blend seamlessly with the space,’ Roisín says. The island serves as a hub for family and entertaining, while stone surfaces with a subtle vein, from Leinster Stone, add softness and timeless appeal. ‘There’s a classic feel here, offset by the fun of the dining room and oversized Square in Circle feature lighting,’ Roisín adds.

The basement’s garden lounge is such a whimsical space, flaunting polished concrete floors and a muted palette to create a contemporary yet cosy room. ‘We wanted this space to bounce natural light, and it has a very deliberately different feel to the upper levels,’ Roisín says. Furniture from DFS and Soho Home pairs beautifully with playful Roche Bobois



balloon lamps. Shelving, backlit with mirrors, enhances the connection to the outdoors.

Upstairs, the master bedroom ‘exudes a calming charm with its muted greens and deep blues,’ she says. She wanted this space to feel like a cocoon. ‘The ceiling, painted in a richer, darker shade, adds a sense of intimacy while accentuating the room’s architectural artistry.’ It’s a move that really gives the ceiling rose its moment to shine.

The bathroom continues the restful palette with darker tones and a striking deep-vein stone floor from Sonas Bathrooms. The freestanding bath takes centre stage, framed by these rich materials.

In the guest suite on the basement level, light tones and airy furnishings create a welcoming atmosphere. A sculptural lamp by Ligne Roset and supplied by Arena Kitchens adds a

contemporary touch set against the bubble chair from Roche Bobois, while the green-painted fireplace offers a subtle nod to the Georgian heritage.

Asked about that juxtaposition of old and new, Roisín emphasises the importance of a design that is in keeping with its history. ‘This property has so much character; we felt some antique pieces throughout would offset the design beautifully.’ Everything in this home has been carefully curated, whether it’s the bespoke joinery or antique finds. ‘I am somewhat of a magpie,’ Roisín confesses. ‘I always collect treasures, awaiting the right project and client to re-home them.’ 🏠

If you have any questions or queries relating to this reader’s home please contact Heather Withers.

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