

# ELLE DECORATION

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Kitchens volume 8

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kitchens

Style like a rebel

# Arcadian rhythm

*Built with future generations in mind, this reimagined Irish farmhouse reveals a contemporary take on traditional values*

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**PHOTOGRAPHY RUTH MARIA MURPHY**

**Living room:** Suspended above this space is a giant 'Moon' pendant by Davide Groppi that measures two metres in diameter – it's so big it had to be craned in through the roof! The equally supersized sofa is the 'Connery' by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti. It is joined by a wooden coffee table by Louise Lijencrantz for The Invisible Collection, a 'Hippo' lounge chair by Norr11, and a marble plinth that was designed by Kingston Lafferty Design and made by Miller Brothers Stone. It is all placed on top of a rug from Restoration Hardware, which lends some cosiness to the limed oak flooring from Trunk – the same material is used on the ceiling cladding. On the back wall hangs a painting by Struan Teague from Richelid's Fine Art Gallery. The brass floor lamp in front of it is the 'Metropolis' by Jan Garncarek. Sheer curtains, made using fabric from Clarke & Clarke's 'Natura' collection, allow natural light to lend the whole room a magical glow ▶



**T**here's an extra layer of responsibility when you decide to design not just for yourself, but for future generations. That was the task that the owners of this property in a rural part of Leinster, Ireland, set themselves after making the decision to return, with their two sons, to take over the family farmhouse. 'The deal was that if they were going to relocate, the home had to be world-standard,' recalls Róisín Lafferty, founder of Kingston Lafferty Design, the interior architecture studio charged with delivering the literal definition of a 'forever home'.

Before Róisín and her team began what would be a mammoth four-year project, DMVF Architects had already been hard at work for two years, creating a vast T-shaped extension inspired by the forms of the surrounding outhouses. It was this cavernous space that it became Róisín's mission to soften and divide into liveable zones. Key to her approach are vast, transitional portals, clad in industrial mild steel, that disguise pocket doors – they allow the large living room, kitchen, dining area and snug, with its window seat (the spot that's now a family favourite), to be closed off at will.

When you have such a modern addition to a period property, it can be the transition between the two eras that is the hardest to manage. For Róisín and her team, the secret lay in 'creating a repetition of materials that would lend familiarity and comfort'. Oak is used throughout, from the floorboards and abundance of

custom-designed cabinetry to the panelling – contemporary versions in the extension and a more traditional, painted alternative in the farmhouse's original drawing room. Marry this with the steel, plenty of diaphanous linen curtains, and Róisín's primary love, marble, and you have a quality-first palette with a timeless feel.

For an interior design studio that's been lauded for its fearless use of colour in the past, this is perhaps a more pared-back look. The shades here are muted – 'straw colours, greys and faded greens, like the Irish countryside in winter'. And at the centre of it all stands a showstopping spiral staircase that appears to grow organically out of the walls. Made from many layers of mesh covered in polished plaster, it is, says Róisín, 'a kind of translucent sculpture that emits calm from wherever you stand.' Most shockingly, though, this triumphant centrepiece is white. Completely white. 'The fact that there is no colour is possibly the bravest thing for us, because it's the opposite of what we would normally do,' she concedes.

The most involved and lengthy project Kingston Lafferty Design has been involved in to date, this home, Róisín feels, has had an effect on her life as well as her clients'. 'I have a new appreciation for the impact a softer choice of materials can have on your mood,' she tells us. Of course, she's not about to forego fun and full-on maximalism completely, though. As Róisín adds, 'it's all about balance'. [kingstonlaffertydesign.com](http://kingstonlaffertydesign.com); [dmvf.ie](http://dmvf.ie)

**Dining room** In this shot it is possible to see one of the mild-steel portals that conceal pocket doors (designed by KLD and made by local firm O'Gorman Joinery) more clearly. The table is a customised version of the 'Ostinato II' by Materia Studio, while the chairs are the 'DC09' by Kyoko Inoda and Nils Sveje for Miyazaki. Apparatus's 'Synapse' pendant light is suspended above. **Snug** The busiest spot in the house, where kids and adults alike love to curl up on the custom-made window seat, this room also features a 'Standard' sofa by Francesco Binafaré for Edra and another 'Hippo' chair by Norr11. The coffee table, carved from wenge, is the 'Automa' design by Martin Massé from the Kolkhoze gallery in Paris. Adding a subtle note of pattern to the natural scheme is Kelly Wearstler's 'Tableau' rug by The Rug Company. Lighting is provided by the decorative 'Raku' wall lamp by Emmanuelle Simon ▶

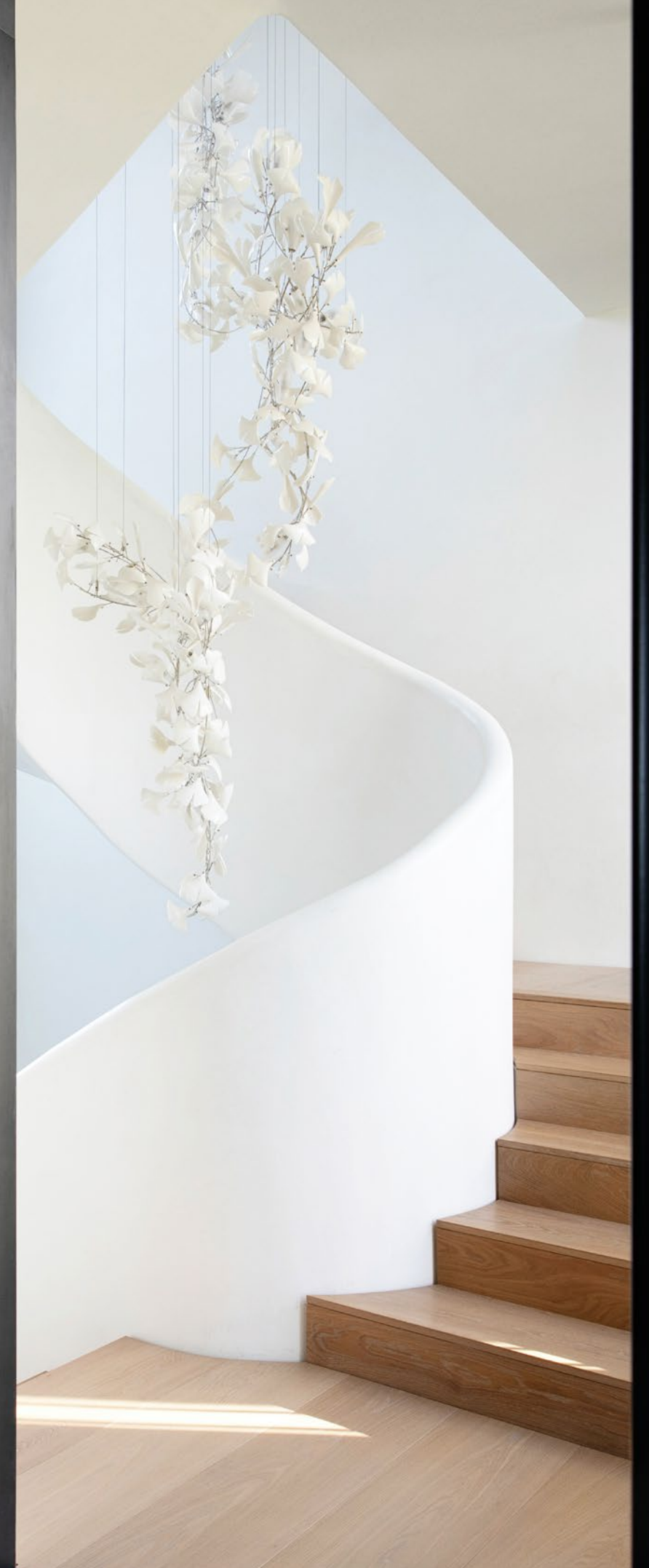


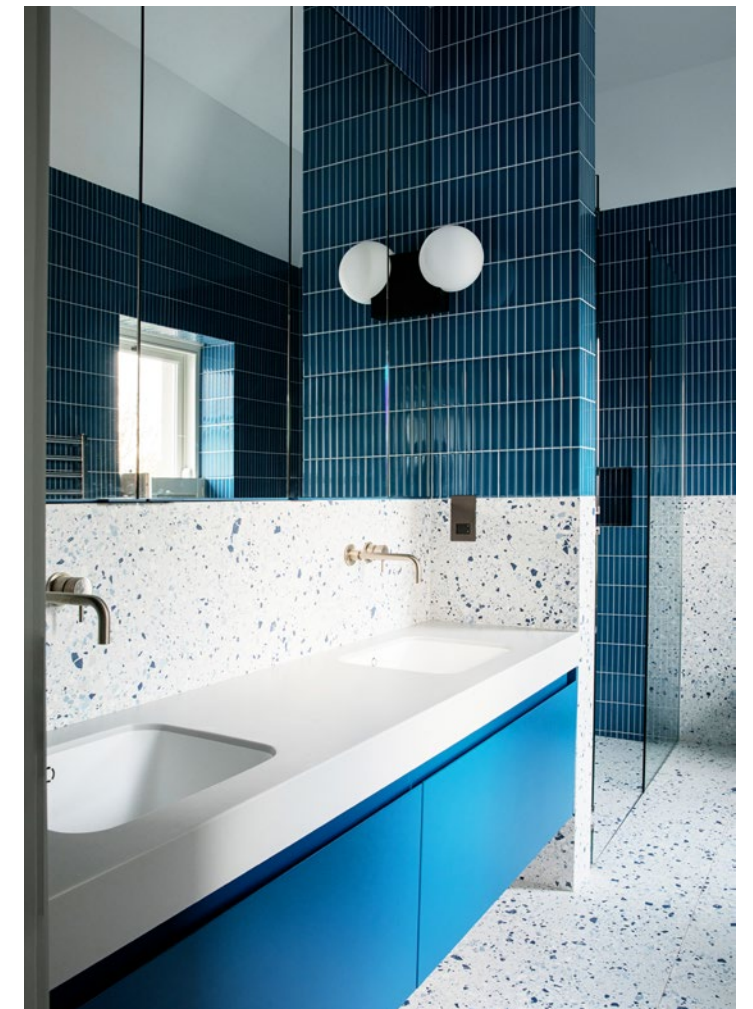
**Kitchen** A wall of bespoke limed-oak cabinetry at the rear of this room conceals kitchen appliances and a door to the adjoining pantry. To the left, the cabinets, also designed by KLD, are slightly more traditional in style, with an oyster marble countertop – the same material used on the large kitchen island. The bar stools are from Miyazaki ▶



**The staircase appears to grow organically out of the walls – ‘a kind of translucent sculpture that emits calm from wherever you stand’**

**Drawing room** Located in the original old farmhouse, this space has an intentionally more traditional feel than the rest of this project. Key to its look was the chandelier, a family heirloom that the clients were keen to integrate with their new, more modern pieces – a ‘Chester Moon’ sofa by Paola Navone for Baxter, ‘Cubo’ lounge chairs (just seen) by Jorge Zalsupin for Espasso and a ‘UFO TT’ coffee table by Ferruccio Laviani for Emmeobili. The ‘Mainkai’ floor lamp by the window is a piece by Man of Parts, and the ‘Triad Dyad’ wall lamp, placed beside the large circular mirror by KLD, is by Apparatus. The painting is a Patrick Scott original from Stoney Road Press **Staircase** Designed by KLD in collaboration with architects DMVF, this impressive structure is clad in polished plaster by PD Marlow. Adding a textural difference, the bespoke lighting installation by Andreea Braescu is made of delicate glazed porcelain ►





**Róisín has 'a new appreciation for the impact a softer choice of materials can have on mood' – but she's not about to abandon fun completely**

**Boys' rooms** The clients' two sons are great friends, so Róisín designed a fully upholstered tunnel to link their bedrooms – it's the ideal spot for their parents to read to both of them at bedtime. Pocket doors also allow the spaces to be closed off for privacy. The individual bedrooms almost mirror each other, with matching bunk beds designed by KLD. The 'Tidal Isle' rug is a CC-Tapis design and the stool is the 'Wu' by Egg Collective, bought at Radnor. The pendant light is a 'Moon' design from CB2. The large 'Miffy' floor lamp is a piece from Mr Maria **Boys' bathroom** More brightly coloured than the rest of the home, this space pairs terrazzo-effect 'Venice Villa' tiles from CTD with petrol-blue piano-key-shaped tiles from Cinca. The vanity unit is a custom design by KLD ►



**The secret to this home's success was 'creating a repetition of materials that would lend the scheme familiarity and comfort'**

**Main bathroom** Mirrored wall cabinets, framed with mild-steel edging and designed by KLD to match this home's doorway details, are placed above a vanity unit topped by python quartzite – the same stone is used on the floor and wall. The sanitaryware is from Versatile Bathrooms and the tub is from Lusso Stone. **Dressing room** Designed by KLD and made by O'Gorman Joinery, this walk-in wardrobe has space for a growing clothing collection – as well as a ladder to help the clients access everything. It is separated from the main bedroom by curtains created using Clarke & Clarke's sheer 'Natura' fabric. The ceiling light is the 'Aballs T' by Jaime Hayon for Parachilna ►





**Main bedroom** Floating above the 'Ziggy' for Porada bed by Carlo Ballabio, a 'Cloud 37 XL' pendant light by Apparatus makes a dreamy statement. The bed's large headboard has been upholstered in Aldeco's 'Friset' bouclé fabric, and in front of it hang a pair of 'Aballs T' pendant lights by Jaime Hayon for Parachilna. The bedspread and cushions are from Zara Home. See Stockists page for details [ED](#)