

STYLE

ROMAN HOLIDAY

FASHION
INSPIRATION
FROM THE
ETERNAL CITY

STUNNING DÉCOR
SUMPTUOUS
SEASONAL COLOURS

TIMEPIECES
COOL CLASSICS
& SMART
NEWCOMERS

WANDERLUST
OUR FAVOURITE CITY
ESCAPES IN EUROPE

ODE TO AUTUMN

DESIGN • CULTURE • BEAUTY • FASHION • CONCIERGE

Return to Form

A neglected period building is thoughtfully restored to become a much-loved and well-lived in family abode. With sophisticated contemporary details added to complement the rediscovered original features, this revived, modern home is truly where the heart is.

PHOTOGRAPHY RUTH MARIA MURPHY • WORDS KURT STAPELFELDT

MODERN LOVE
The downstairs lounge is the most contemporary space, with custom built-in shelves and the large-scale lighting that features throughout the renovated period home. A Nelson Saucer Bubble Pendant and oversized sculptural lamps create a sense of space and wonder.





ON REFLECTION
An original architrave was fitted with a tinted mirror and custom bench seat. The mid-century lamp is a Gino Sarfatti-style Italian chandelier from Vinterior and the round carpet is from WooDesign.



“The original floors had so much character, so we decided to embrace the imperfections.”



THE ART OF DINING IN
A restored marble, working fireplace sets the scene in the dining room for a long table from Forti Giorgio. On the lacquered dark red floating storage units are vessels by Laesse from Artemist.

CHARACTER RENOVATION

OLD MEETS NEW

The custom kitchen has wooden ML42 stools from Byflou, and the dramatic cupboard door design references the period details while still being contemporary. Stunning pendant lights above the island were sourced from Hicken Lighting.





“Light fittings play a big part in harmonising the journey throughout, with large-scale mid-century fittings leading you from zone to zone”



LET THERE BE LIGHT
Large mid-century lighting elements were introduced throughout the home which, with their bold elegance, act as a contrast to the structure, bringing balance.

The Dublin suburb of Kenilworth Square was first developed around 1858 and today is one of the more sought-after areas in the city, just five kilometres from the centre. Surrounded by good schools and close enough to nearby Rathgar Village – where there are plenty of fine restaurants, bars and boutiques – and with its plethora of period homes, the Kenilworth area is definitely a place to settle and raise a family. So when Kingston Lafferty Design were approached to undertake a project in the suburb, they were thrilled to get their hands on such a wonderful property, and deliver to their clients what would be their ‘forever home’, a place to grow old in.

“Our brief was to turn the dilapidated building into an opulent and sophisticated family home, and to elevate and restore the beauty and character of the building to what it should be... celebrating the generous proportions, scale and details,” explains Róisín Lafferty, founder and creative director of Kingston Lafferty Design. “The client wanted to maximise the formal rooms, located on the ground floor, by situating the kitchen, dining and main living space there, instead of in the darker basement, which is where they would have originally been. The first floor was to be the sleeping quarters, with a larger master suite created to provide a generous sanctuary for the owners, framing the best views of the property overlooking the square outside. They asked us to balance the formal and informal in a playful and contemporary way, accentuating the details but contrasting them with more modern shapes and forms. They wanted a design that hinged on the original elements including the original timber floors, which were retained, sanded and stained. They wanted their home to tell a story, frame the way they live now and provide them with a sanctuary to encompass their busy and bustling day-to-day lives.”

Lafferty and her team are experts at creating spaces that tell a story, their projects have consistency and a strong attention to

detail, thanks to a design style that has developed over many years and is based on some key principles. As Lafferty explains, “I think what is common to our projects is the sense of playfulness we bring, whether in the colour, the decoration or the scale. Each space is carefully considered, using deliberate framing with clear lines.” In this home the Georgian character and proportions of the property were very much what could be considered “masculine and rectilinear” so Lafferty wanted to emphasise the original details while creating a balanced interior.

“It’s a harmonious gallery-meets-home, with a base of sophisticated neutrality layered with contrasting richness, and over-sized sculptural elements. We wanted to bring an understated sense of drama to this home. It exudes confidence with its unexpected proportions and endless amount of natural light pouring in. Light fittings play a big part in harmonising the journey throughout, with large-scale mid-century fittings leading you from zone to zone,” says Lafferty.

The building, having previously been divided into numerous separate units, had to go through a rigorous process of removing not only partitions but also years of decoration and paint to reveal the gem of a home which lay beneath. The floors were stripped of their heavy, wall-to-wall carpets, with the initial intention to replace it all, but, as Lafferty explains, this didn’t eventuate. “The original floors had so much character, so we decided to embrace the imperfections and instead stain the floors a rich ebony. You can still see the gaps and scratches of the original floors.” The approach of emphasising the period details while offsetting them with contemporary elements was aided by millimetre-perfect joinery from the agency’s trusted carpenters, who had to make many adjustments on-site in this period home where there are “no rectangles anywhere”.

The joinery plays a huge role in the overall look of Kingston Lafferty projects and injects an element of linearity and rigour into this home. “Integrated joinery links and combines all spaces, with floating cabinetry and in-set bronze mirror walls reflecting the kitchen in the dining space. High gloss lacquer juxtaposed against putty-toned walls and rich ebony stained floors and contrasting curves add a femininity and softness to the majestic yet masculine structure of the rooms.”

Once again Lafferty and her team of creatives have created a home which is full of surprises and breathtaking moments. The lower floor living room with its terrazzo floors, contemporary built-in shelving and oversized sculptural lighting elements is different from the rest of the home, with no period details, yet it is part of the same story as the upper floors.

Colour, playfulness and a slight sense of drama around every corner – truly a forever home.

TIME TO RELAX

The bathroom is a dark-coloured but light-filled sanctuary, with custom cabinets from O’Gorman Joinery and a bath and faucets from Sonas.

LIVING INSIDE

“They wanted their home to tell a story ... and provide them with a sanctuary to encompass their busy and bustling day-to-day lives”

