



DESIGN COHESION

The owners of this beautiful period property have renovated throughout, remodelling an extension and achieving a bespoke interior scheme with seamless connection fusing old with new

Photography INFINITY MEDIA

The room connects the front and back of the house and was a challenge to design with its long rectangular shape, three entry points and a fireplace. A canary yellow mid century Italian armchair adds a stunning pop of colour in this dark and dramatic navy scheme. Custom doors and bookcases, Clara Joinery; all furniture sourced by Ash Wilson Design; paint colour Fine Line, Dulux; flooring, Hardwood Floor Company.

Dating back to 1863, this elegant Victorian semi in Dublin had been extended and updated over the years, but the current owners felt something was lacking in the overall ambience and flow of the interior. Having added a contemporary kitchen extension onto the back of the house ten years ago, the addition had always felt somewhat disconnected, with the house feeling like two separate entities. The owners felt it was time to reconsider the extension, with the intention of redecorating the kitchen to connect it back to the original house and gain a greater sense of flow throughout. What started as a kitchen makeover soon evolved very organically into a much larger scale project, which has transformed the house room to room.

Having established a great working relationship with interior designer, Aisling Wilson (Ash Wilson Design) on previous projects, Aisling was the couple's go-to designer, with whom they initially discussed updating their kitchen. After the second consultation however, the couple fully embraced the concept of updating the house in its entirety, which involved a redesign of the existing extension.

Function and connectivity was the foundation of the project, with the aim to create a home that reflected the owners' style and personality, while catering for a busy family lifestyle with every corner of the house considered. Previously, the owners had lived in the extension with the two front rooms unused and disconnected, so the challenge was to create a more organic flow between the spaces that would invite the couple to use the whole house, rather than seeing it as two parts, old and new.

Starting with the kitchen, the existing extension was radically transformed. While the footprint remained unchanged, the internal structure was completely altered. Working closely with the builder, Adam of Edge Design & Construction, Aisling designed a new interior architectural plan, to maximise the space and layout in this multifunctional family space, with kitchen opening onto dining and living areas. The ceiling height was raised at the entrance to the kitchen from the hall and all the windows and back doors were removed and redesigned. There was also a wall dividing a room off the kitchen, which was knocked and open up to create the more spacious L-shaped layout.

The two front rooms have been designed to complement the timeless yet contemporary edge created in the open plan extension, giving the ground floor a beautiful continuity room to room. The front room is north facing and dark and had been designed in a traditional style with bookcases to either side of the fireplace, so this has been pared back and brightened with a light colour scheme, leading through glazed doors into the middle room which had previously been a dining room and is now the link room between the front room and the extension. This long rectangular room was previously furnished with an oversized hunting table and high back chairs, brought from the couple's previous home, so it has undergone a stunning transformation with a dramatic navy colour scheme and beautiful symmetry.

While a theme runs through the interior, each room had its own individual brief with an overall master plan to connect the spaces as one. Aisling's design inspiration was approached from a conceptual train of thought, keeping in mind the styles of her two clients, one being traditional at heart and the other favouring sleek and modern styles. As such, a diverse range of styles have been sympathetically fused, combining Art Deco influences and traditional elements to architectural simplicity and inspiration from the couple's travels to create the perfect blend of traditional and contemporary looks, unique to this client and their home.

The cornice and chandelier bring additional interest to this space. Custom doors and bookcases, Clara Joinery; all furniture sourced by Ash Wilson Design; paint colour Fine Line, Dulux; flooring, Hardwood Floor Company.





Furniture selected for this room was done over a six-month period, with each piece telling a story and having a connection to the owners. Paint colour, All White, Farrow & Ball; sofa and coffee table, Roche Bobois; rug, Rug Art; American metal wall sunburst sculpture, Vintage Hub; custom art, Chris O'Hara; 1950s Italian armchairs by Dassi, Michael Mortel Antiques; 1920s Art Deco drinks cabinet, chest of drawers and desk, Niall Mullen Antiques; flooring, Hardwood Floor Company.

Designed by Ash Wilson Design in collaboration with Jonathan Williams Kitchens. Kitchen handpainted in Farrow & Ball Off Black and Drop Cloth with Little Greene Grey Moss on the island; kitchen lighting, Hicken Lighting; Dekton work surfaces, Stone Surfaces; pendant lighting in dining area, Mullan Lighting; all furniture sourced by Ash Wilson Design; flooring by Hardwood Floor Company.



INSIGHT

The owners

My favourite room is the navy room. When Ash came up with the concept, I honestly couldn't comprehend such a dark space as a link between the front and back rooms. Ash said the navy would link the style and presence of the house and she was absolutely right – I was blown away with the result!

My advice is, make decisions early and try not to make changes. Ash and Adam (builder) were fantastic at project managing all of the decisions and drilling us on this. Any deviation was entirely our fault but I was amazed at how it could affect the timetable!

The best thing about living here is the presence and personality of the house, which is something it never had before Ash got her hands on it!

The house was... an original renovation 10 years ago. It always felt like two houses, so the brief was to make this one home. We now have a home full of warmth and everyone has a comfortable place to go.



The open plan living area features a bespoke fireplace designed by Ash Wilson Design, clad in Dekton by Stone surfaces. All furniture sourced by Ash Wilson Design; flooring by Hardwood Floor Company.

Kitchen - a collaboration between Ash Wilson Design with Jonathan Williams Kitchens, handpainted in Farrow & Ball Off Black and Drop Cloth with Little Greene Grey Moss on the island; kitchen lighting, Hicken Lighting; Dekton work surfaces, and Mont Blanc Quartzite splashback, Stone Surfaces.





The downstairs wc is painted in Little Greene Apple with Cole & Son wallpaper adding pattern and contrast. Panelling, Edge Design & Construction. *Bootroom*: Walls painted in Farrow & Ball Dead Salmon; woodwork painted in Salon Drab. Boot-room by Edge Design & Construction; flooring, Hardwood Floor Company. *Rear hall*: Channelling Art Deco design influences, a Greek key border has been used on the floor, with a striking hexagonal floral pattern. Tiling, Mosaic Assemblers.



AISLING'S DESIGN INSPIRATION WAS APPROACHED FROM A CONCEPTUAL TRAIN OF THOUGHT, KEEPING IN MIND THE STYLES OF HER TWO CLIENTS, ONE BEING TRADITIONAL AT HEART AND THE OTHER FAVOURING SLEEK AND MODERN STYLES.

The tall arched window is a stunning architectural feature. Pattern was introduced in the use of a detailed yet simple mosaic floor with a chequerboard border and bronze gold inlay. Arch, Farrow & Ball Oval Room Blue; bathroom designed by Ash Wilson Design, installed by Edge Design & Construction; mosaic floor, Mosaic Assemblers; B&A Red Artist Edition print, Maser Art.





Left: The master bedroom exudes grandeur with its high ceilings and original coving. Light, Hicken Lighting; rug, Rug Art; other furniture sourced by Ash Wilson Design. *Above:* All the hallways, stairs and landings feature bespoke panelling, designed by Ash Wilson Design.