

AT HOME

An Eclectic Touch



LITTLE BY LITTLE, THIS GEORGIAN HOME
SHED ITS TIME-WORN 'WONKINESS' TO
ASSUME AN ELEGANT NEW PERSONA

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The modern white table is by Made.com and teamed with Calligaris Bay chairs. Behind it, an antique sideboard displays layered canvases, leather-bound books and over-sized bell jars

Fact file

THE PERSON Roisin Lafferty, interior architect and designer, of Kingston Lafferty Design

THE PROPERTY A Georgian house in leafy Ranelagh, Dublin 6

THE PROJECT An interior remodelling and style makeover; complex rear excavation and a life-changing garden makeover

“There are no right angles in this whole house!” Interior Architect Rosin Lafferty says, only half-joking. Indeed, Roisin and her former business partner, Susannah Kingston, had their work cut out for them when they were commissioned to revamp this 1817 Georgian house in Ranelagh. Having just graduated with a master’s degree in product and spatial design from London’s Kingston College, Roisin took on what was initially meant to be a straightforward job – to correct any disrepair: “I think because of that, the builder originally quoted us a small







fee." Three years of planning, tendering, interior designing, execution (and too many conservation-related delays) later, the house is not only structurally improved, but elegantly flooded with light.

The home strikes the balance between strong and delicate, classical and cutting edge. Essentially, the house oozes the taste of a young designer with an eye for quality and longevity of style.

"The house kind of dictated the decor. It's such an old house, so I wanted to respect that. I wanted it to represent the family too and I didn't want it to be old for the sake of it; I wanted to have fun with it. It's a fusion of old and new," Roisin says. The scattering of decorative accessories, such as the taxidermy butterflies in the study, looks like a shopping haul from a trip around the world and as many of the pieces were antiques sourced abroad, this is almost the case.



Just when you think one room is English classic, a mid-century Eames DSW chair pops out to change your mind. "It's such an over-used word, but my style here was definitely eclectic," Roisin says. "I don't like to buy all of my furniture and accessories in the same place. I don't want a living space to look like a shop." In the kitchen, a feature wall of hanging plates, both vintage and modern House of Fraser designs, serve as art. Each piece is cleverly chosen to create a sense of harmony between the house's traditional aspects and its contemporary design. The bistro-inspired glass lighting fixtures, cup drawer pulls and Silestone countertops work wonderfully at merging these two styles.

Even the most practical parts of the home are bursting with the "wow factor". Part of the Mac's Salvage spiral staircase was constructed bespoke to fit the space.

It is now painted in a deep teal. Dried food is neatly displayed in tall Ikea flip jars, which give the kitchen a brasserie feel. Irreparably crooked walls are hidden behind faux pantry doors, cleverly designed by Rosin and Susannah and fitted by John Mooney Kitchens and Wardrobes.

The house is filled with furniture spanning several eras. In the study, an antique gold-finished Chesterfield sofa (a steal from a discount manufacturer found online) anchors the room while beneath it lays an ombre blue rug by Bluebellgray at John Lewis. In the seating area off the dining room, there's a modern Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance Ottoman chair and beside it, a mid-century Tulip side table.

Any feminine moments in the house, particularly the bedrooms and garden, are cheerful but never twee or juvenile. Roisin has a knack for clever repurposing. Not



Kitchen

The kitchen has casual French bistro flair and beautiful vintage finds teamed with mod cons and bespoke joinery





Bedroom

Art Nouveau-style stained glass panels inserted into the bedroom walls are a stylish way to trap light

only do the leaded windows – salvaged from a defunct French cosmetic shop – provide aesthetic interest, and are mirror-lined to reflect light. Another salvage yard find, an old door, rests on inexpensive Ikea trestles to serve as an outdoor dining table. It is coupled with tractor seat stools, which Roisin picked up for €80 each at Architectural Salvage.

Because the kitchen is in the basement, artificial lighting was a must. LED strips were added into the kickboards and cabinetry in the kitchen. The pantry was mirrored to reflect light and the joinery, designed by the duo, was kept simple and lightly toned.

A skilled graphic designer, Roisin even turned her hand to making the wallpaper for an internal doorway.

“We used Spanish tiles for the kitchen backsplash and thought they’d be great for the doorway too. Before we got around to searching for more, I had made up some

wallpaper myself using photographs of each tile.” It wasn’t the only DIY wall feature in the project. In the study, gold gilt was hand-applied to the wall trim, a tasteful contrast to its pistachio base.

The garden was sunken in and built over three tiers to draw in as much natural light as possible. Now, the sun funnels its way through the garden and into the conservatory space.

The house looks as though it would make the perfect backdrop for a party: there’s a lovely flow between the dining and outdoor areas, and conversation pieces galore.

“The kitchen was in the basement, and we wanted to keep it there. But it was so dark and nobody ever wanted to spend time there. Our main priority was to add light and a sense of space. The clients have family abroad that they would’ve loved to be able to cater for. Now it’s a big entertainment space that everybody loves to hang out in.”

Kingstonlaffertydesign.com



Bathroom

Cool tones keep the space airy and cheerful.

The texture of the mosaics and distressed vanity unit keep the space from feeling too clinical or precious



Pastel painted Ikea planters brighten the garden's dining area. A salvaged wrought iron mantle casually rests against the wall for an 'indoor outdoor' feel