

# TRANSFORMING *a house in* MEATH

Words: Emer Kelly Pics: Philip Lauterbach

Ruth Noble oversees a revamp in the countryside

“They KNEW what they were *ASPIRING* to.”

Interior Designer Ruth Noble has more than 12 years' experience in the area of Interior Design and Decoration, Ruth was based in London for six of these years.

Having qualified as an Interior Designer in 2006; Ms Noble has forged a successful career, engaging at project management level, co-ordinating and completing the interiors of high specification luxury properties at an international level. She has co-ordinated private residential interior projects from conception stage right through to completion in properties located in the UK and in Europe, namely Kensington Palace Gardens in London, Klosters in Switzerland as well as St.Tropez and Ramatuelle in France.

Ruth specialises in designing, specifying and sourcing unique, exceptional, bespoke and quality furniture, lighting, fabric and fittings which align with the style, period, purpose and aspect of each property. In 2016, having established a high level of experience in the Interiors and property market at an international level and having built a unique database of highly regarded and exceptional interior suppliers and specifiers; Ruth returned from London to establish the company Ruth Noble Interiors in Dublin. The objective of the service is to engage with developers, architects and private residential home owners, supporting them and collaborating with them in completing the interiors specification of the property both aesthetically and functionally.

Ruth identifies with the requirements of each individual property, she has a creative flair, a keen eye for design and a passion for interiors. Here she talks about a renovation project on a family home in County Meath which she worked on. “I was contacted by the homeowners in late 2016, early 2017 about refurbishing their family home,” said Ruth Noble as to how she became involved with the project. “The property had a small back door with a narrow corridor which led around in to the kitchen. The small utility room was on the left and the existing water closet was on the right. The area in this back entrance was awkward, very enclosed, stuffy and lacked suitable storage and natural light.

“Following exploration the client decided that rather than extend the property that they would maximise the use of the largely proportioned rooms and spaces they already had,” added Ms Noble. “The client had an allocated budget to undertake the interior renovations refurbishment. Having lived in the house for a length of time, they identified that they required much more storage. They also wanted to increase the functionality and purpose of the spaces while updating the overall aesthetic of the interior spaces of the property to align with their tastes and aspirations for the rooms, keeping in mind they have three growing children with changing needs,” she explained. “In advance of getting in touch to engage in the interiors consultancy service; the client had spent time saving and filing images of spaces she had liked, be it for the finishes and fittings, the furniture or the lighting and fabrics, she had taken a focused approach to identifying her likes/preferences for her home. “Aware that they were about to undertake the project they wanted to be sensible in the approach and ensure they were making the right choices and investing in the property so that the home would work for them over the years ahead as the family grew and their lifestyles developed/changed. “Like most homeowners with an interest in interiors and trends, the



client had spent time on various apps such as Pinterest, Instagram and Houzz saving images and collecting tear-sheets from magazines,” continued Ruth. “One of the homeowners had collated these images to allow me to review these in our initial consultation, this allowed me to ask questions and explore further her requirements and what she was seeking to achieve in the outcome of the project “She was able to provide a general direction with regard her tastes, her likes and dislikes but also her requirements for the home with regard to how the home functions day to day as a family home and the areas she required me to focus on and improve.

“The information provided in that initial consultation and through further exploration; I was able to obtain a clear sense of what the family were seeking to achieve allowed us to identify the clients requirements for the house,” imparted Ms Noble. “They knew what they were aspiring to with regard to the interiors of the space but required a clear direction with regard to layouts, schemes, storage in the various spaces and functionality as well as verification that we would source quality products and work with the budget provided to produce an impressive outcome for her and her family.

“Upon returning from living and working in London for five years and setting up the business, this was one of the first residential projects I engaged in back in Ireland following my time away,” explained Ruth. “Having engaged in the project, we visited the property and examined how the spaces were functioning as well as how they could function to better suit the client’s needs and requirements. We needed to obtain a clear sense of what the client was seeking to achieve within each of the spaces and how we could work within the allocated budget to achieve the requirements as outlined by them,” imparted Ms Noble. There was a developmental phase in which Ruth explored options for layouts in each of the spaces/rooms. There were areas within the house that she wanted to introduce additional natural light and she needed to come up with clever ways to introduce this natural light – this occurred by reconfiguring the layout of the utility/boot-room/cloakroom space, adding additional windows in the new utility space and through from the back entrance hallway in to the new boot-room. The addition of glass internal doors to the ground floor area and a more substantial back door allowed more light to pass in to these spaces.

There was a small box room on the first floor in the house, it served no real purpose and with no natural daylight, the landing felt dark as you came up the stairs. By removing the door and wall to that box room and adding the bannister to wrap around this space, the light from the front sash window on the first floor landing could pass through the landing and down through to the hallway. It is not a large window but the removal of the door and wall meant the introduction of natural light in to the landing and hall completely changed the feeling within the space “We created an office/study space by designing shelving (backed with textured wallpaper) and incorporating storage and display in to this space. This room now had a clear function. We added wall lights (agate and brass design) and we also repainted the bannister and all rooms and woodwork throughout in fact; what was a closed off, unused box room now has a very suitable purpose,” continued Ms Noble.

“We SOURCED and  
*SPECIFIED* the furniture.”



“Similarly in the attic area, we removed the door and wall to the top of the stairs added an additional Velux window which would flood light down from the third floor in to the landing space. “We divided the large attic space with a wall and double doors, incorporating handleless storage to one side and a guest bedroom which we wallpapered to the other. While one side feels clean and contemporary, functional as a general area to sit and relax, the other side is a comfortable, large guest bedroom. “We put a plan in place to address the project overall, we presented schemes for each space, we obtained quotes for all works relevant to the project and elected contractors to undertake the various spaces,” explained Ruth.

“I was aware that the client wanted to incorporate as much storage as possible in to most rooms in the house, there was a general focus on how we could incorporate clever but aesthetically pleasing storage to maximise the spaces but also align with the interior schemes we were creating. “We proposed layouts for the new back entrance/boot-room/utility space, specifying doors and fittings. We worked with Blackrock Kitchens/Country Kitchens to design and specify the fittings in this space and all the other rooms where we incorporated storage, namely the playroom, new office/library space, each of the three children’s bedrooms, the master bedroom walk in and the upstairs third floor guest space storage.



We specified the paint schemes, wallpaper, fabrics and window dressings throughout “We sourced and specified the tiling to back hallway area, the wool carpet to stairs and landing, all furniture, lighting, rugs, soft furnishings and accessories,” she imparted. “We sourced and specified the furniture relevant to the schemes to incorporate in with the existing furniture which the client wished to keep as well as lamps, art mirrors and we also sourced and specified suitable light fittings to lend a more contemporary feel to the spaces,” revealed Ruth.

As to Ruth’s thoughts on how the property turned out? “The property feels airy and uplifted but still comfortable and inviting. We introduced a great deal of natural light as well as creating and executing schemes which would maximise the use and function of each room but align with the aesthetic schemes presented at the outset,” she said. The spaces are comfortable, inviting and functional and create a home suitable for the family’s use. We also introduced colour and personality to the various spaces within the home. The clients and I are pleased with how the house is now and it flows very well for the home owners and their young family,” concluded Ruth Noble.

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