

et on twelve acres of land, this country estate in Rathfarnham has been meticulously restored, having been left to fall into a state of complete disrepair over the past decade. Turning a bleak situation into a restoration triumph, Isabelle and her husband took ownership of this extreme blank canvas, sympathetically reconstructing the interior, taking mouldings of original architectural features and having authentic design painstakingly returned to this unique and gracious country residence. The interior has been custom designed with a contemporary twist, reflecting the couple's individual style and inspired by their love of travel, to create a striking juxtaposition of old and new.

Spending a huge amount of event, time and money, the couple have created their dream forever home, with a team behind them to ensure that every detail was addressed sympathetically and to the greatest benefit of the architecture and character of the house. The house was essentially a cleaned out site when the couple's interior designer, Tonya Douglas of Little Design House got involved. Still a building site with temporary structural walls, no windows and no floors, the house required pretty much everything and only retained its essential external structure. Working with the couple's architect, Tonya took care of every interior design finish, also taking into account proposed layouts and door positioning to maximize every aspect of the interior.

Getting to know the couple's personal tastes, Tonya achieved a balance between clean contemporary lines and timeless classic design. While Isabelle prefers a contemporary, linear aesthetic, her husband was drawn to more traditional finishes, so the interior scheme is very much a balance of both. As well as providing a blank canvas to design a new interior scheme, the condition of the house allowed the couple to start completely from scratch, installing all the modern elements for luxury living, such as underfloor heating throughout, giving them the opportunity to create a brand new luxury home within a beautiful historical façade.

The kitchen is one key area where the couple decided to go all-out contemporary, which stands as a striking contrast to the period architecture. Originally going traditional with the kitchen furniture, the couple found it wasn't quite giving the edge they wanted, so they made a swift turn and set their hearts on a contemporary bespoke Bulthaup design. A concealed pantry is accessible through double doors, which acts as a more classic style cook's kitchen, giving them the best of both worlds, and amazing extra prep space perfect for entertaining. Double doors connect the kitchen and dining area to the living room allowing these key spaces to be either zoned or interconnected, depending on the occasion. Such is the carefully considered design and layout that another door leads off the kitchen to the orangery and onto an atmospheric bar, allowing these rooms to flow almost seamlessly – a dream party house!

On a really practical level, the children's playroom can be viewed through a glass door from the kitchen, allowing Isabelle to keep an eye on her two young sons. This glass opening incorporates a window seat with storage, another hugely functional design concept by the couple's interior designer.

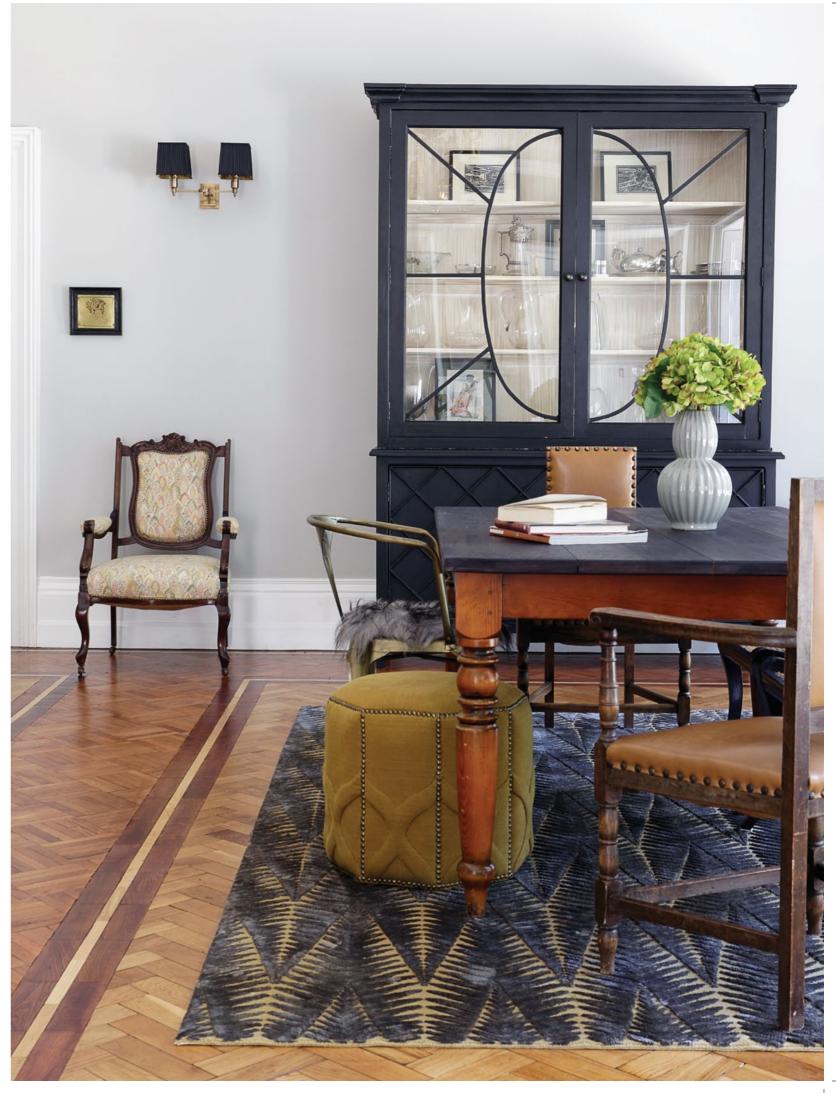
While reinstating sympathetically designed architectural detail was paramount in this substantial restoration project, so too was creating a contemporary and super sociable new layout in tune with this family's needs. Interconnecting rooms, a versatile playroom to adapt to the children's needs as they grow, a glamorous bar and bathrooms of divine opulence, this outstanding home is a stunning reflection of this family's style and lifestyle.

A more formal scheme can be seen in the drawing room with elegant decor and dramatic dark wall detail. Julien Chichester sofa; Porta Romana wall lights; Jan Kath rug from Rug Art. Interior design, Tonya Douglas of Little Design House.

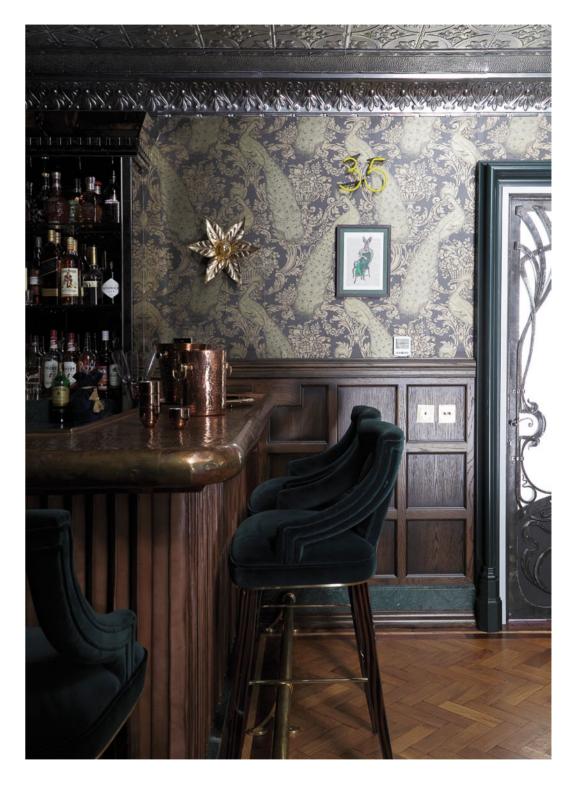
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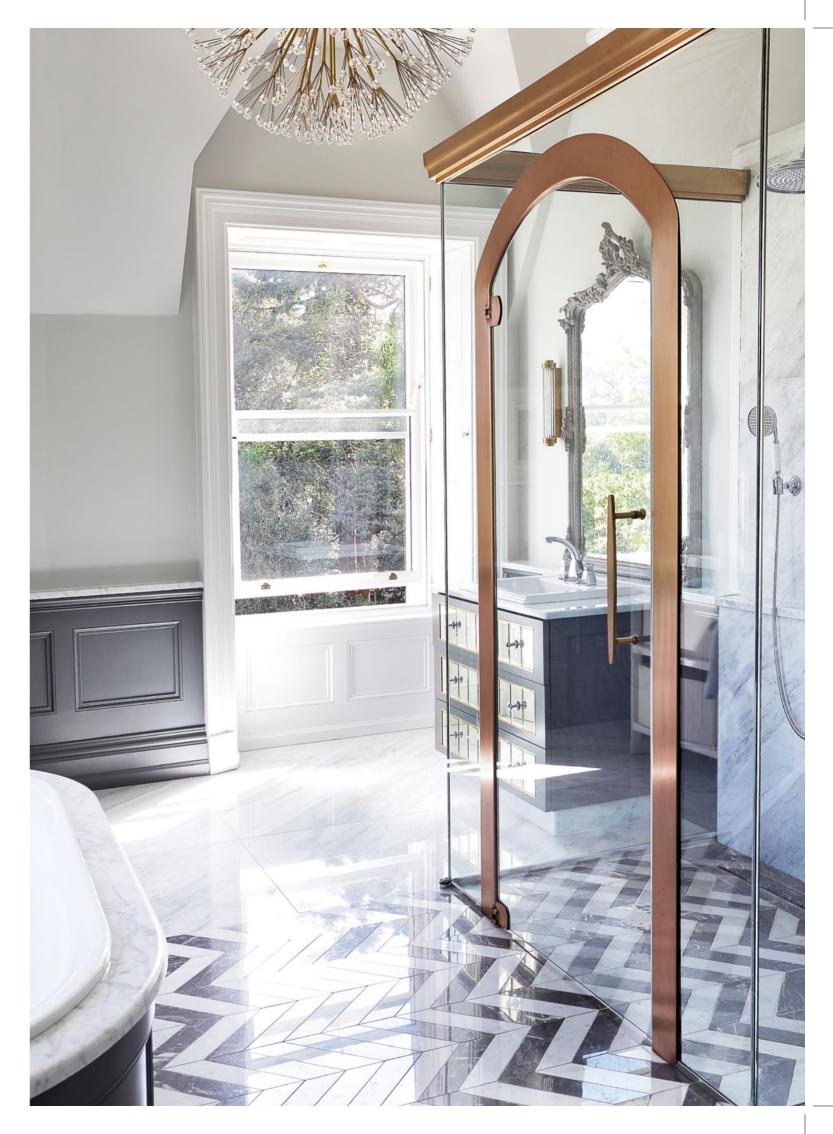






The bar is an opulent and atmospheric den located off the orangerie, both rooms a new extension to the original footprint of the house. Featuring three different wallpapers, paneling, tin tiles and vintage finds, this room adds great character. All joinery, fitted furniture, panelling and window seats throughout from Dunmore Joinery.









The guest bedroom fetaures Jessica Zoob wallpaper and French style furniture. Contemporary family bathroom featuring Carrara marble and Fired Earth tiles.



Featuring a bespoke window seat with pull-out storage, this children's bedroom's colour scheme evolved from the Harlequin rug.