



Designed For Living

Serpentine Interiors worked alongside the owners of this family home in Co. Waterford to update the interior and exterior to meet their lifestyle needs.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DONAL MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY



Originally built by its owners in 2005, 18 years on, this family home was no longer meeting the owners' lifestyle needs. Having worked with Limerick-based design studio Serpentine Interiors on a smaller project a few years before, in 2021 they approached them again to work on this larger renovation. With teenage children, a lack of functional storage and a love of entertaining, it was time to make significant changes while still respecting the beautiful site and its location.

As interior designers Tracey Collins and Helena Grimes of Serpentine Interiors explain, 'This home is the owners' forever home and as their family has grown and their needs have changed, they wanted to update the space. They love cooking daily, have frequent unexpected (but expected) guests for dinner and an active family life. They needed a dynamic space that could handle what everyday life throws at it, as well as all those big family gatherings.'

In order to make the kitchen work better one of the rear facing windows was closed up to allow for more storage and a breakfast/coffee bar. This allowed Tracey

and Helena to maximise the full kitchen area without having to interrupt the open-plan dining room. As they explain, 'We wanted to keep the dining area light and calming, allowing the views of Whiting Bay to be the main focus when enjoying your meal.'

As they go on to explain, 'The kitchen is inspired by the beach and discovered driftwood on a summer evening. We wanted the island to appear almost like sand, and although a sizeable 3.2 metres long, it stands quiet, textured and soft within the space.'

As well as aesthetic design considerations, the kitchen had to be a functional space for the family. 'One of the most important functional factors within this kitchen brief was to keep the owners' serveware conveniently to hand. They always have people dropping over and they like to be able to throw together a delicious dinner for an unexpected visitor.'

Tracey and Helena designed bespoke kitchen units which are 3.1m high and painted in Farrow & Ball Dimity. The dresser, which houses the serveware and keeps smaller kitchen appliances out of site when not in use, is painted in Farrow & Ball French Gray. A charcoal





rangemaster freestanding cooker adds a timeless and practical addition in this hardworking space. A Dekton Aura worktop by Cosentino is used on the kitchen counter and dresser, and Dekton Sasea for the island countertops, all of which came from Dtops & Tiles. The island stools, dining table, dining chairs and consoles were sourced from Neptune and the new solid engineered herringbone floor adds warmth and character throughout.

Next to the kitchen, the existing utility no longer was adequate for the family. With active lifestyles and living by

the beach they needed lots of storage. 'We ripped out the old utility and started again, designing a functional space that also complemented the adjoining kitchen which is separated by a hanging door, allowing for a soft transition between both busy spaces,' explain Tracey and Helena.

'In the hallway, the owners wanted a gallery wall with character so we felt this sideboard we sourced had qualities that would anchor the overall look. We love the smoked wood trellis pattern on the doors all topped with a blue marble which we emphasised with the single



sculptural table lamp. It was important that this piece was a beautiful statement piece as it is seen from the kitchen. We choose Mizzle by Farrow & Ball for the walls to warm up the space with its subtle, soft green tone to work with the clients original tiles.

'In the master bedroom we stained all the solid floors in a black monocoat oil which gave a great unique character and depth to the floor. It was fitted out with carefully considered furnishings and a bespoke headboard in rich evergreen velvet from Zoffany that we designed and had made. The owner dreamed of a restful haven to recharge from busy days and comments, 'I love it so much! Every

time I walk in there I feel like I'm in a luxury hotel. It puts such a smile on my face.'

Tracey and Helena had the end of the bed stool made and upholstered in a Zoffany Richmond Park linen in Midwinter. The curtains are made from Zoffany Odell White Opal and feature twisted cotton-blend yarns embroidered on a luxurious heavy linen fabric. The Plume wallpaper from Cole & Son with its soft feathery brush strokes adds another subtle element of interest in this elegant bedroom.

'In the main bathroom, which was a complete fit out, we wanted to create a feeling of luxury like you



would experience in a boutique hotel bathroom, so we incorporated wall panelling painted in Lamp Room Gray by Farrow & Ball and Sanderson Waterperry wallpaper. We enjoyed playing with the repetitive watercolour motifs in the wallpaper and how they echo the veining and variations in the new marble tiles.'

Last but not least, making the most of their beautiful surroundings and the areas to cook and entertain, the owners also wanted to make the most of their outdoor living with this renovation.

'They went with a full outdoor dining area, cooking and bar station complete with Guinness tap and Dekton

Kelya worktop by Cosentino from Dtops & Tiles. There are a variety of seating areas and a sunken firepit to absorb the final views of a summer evening wherever on the site you may be. The wild, meadow style landscaping was beautifully done and we feel it really reflects the homeowners' love of nature and outdoors.

'We implemented a complete turnkey service on this home. We created concepts, designed and then project managed the entire project from start to finish, right down to the final styling. The owners and their family lead busy lives and after doing it all the first time round, they felt they wanted a professional to handle it for them



to remove any unnecessary stress, avoid any mistakes and to ensure their investment in the property was carefully considered for a long lasting, timeless finish.

As the homeowners conclude, 'We fell in love with the site in Whiting Bay 18 years ago, and now with the help of Serpentine Interiors, we have fallen in love with our home all over again.' 🏠

If you have any questions or queries relating to this reader's home please contact Heather Withers. Phone +44 (0) 28 9147 3979 or email hwithers@ihil.net