



UNLOCK YOUR HOME'S HIDDEN POTENTIAL

HOW TO GIVE YOUR HOME A NEW LEASE OF LIFE



“Our homes need to adapt to our changing life circumstances,” says Kathryn Meghan, CEO of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI), “from young couples and families to older people looking to future proof their home.



Kathryn Meghan

“There is so much hidden potential in our homes to adapt, and registered architects have the necessary skill-set, training and experience to help homeowners unlock this potential. Often people may not need more space, but a better use of their

existing space is to move a wall or door, which can make a huge difference. Other ways to transform your home include opening up a dark space to light, cleverly integrating storage to create a sense of space, and making a better connection with the garden.”

Kathryn says extending is also a useful way to change up your home.

“An extension should be bespoke for each home, as each client has different requirements and each house comes with different constraints and opportunities. Before arriving at a design, architects take these issues into consideration and develop a tailor-made solution. We always advise clients to prepare a list of functions or activities that will be housed in the new space.

“If you’re starting a new project, whether that’s renovating, extending or building, it is important to get the brief (i.e. your list of requirements) right from the start. Start by going through your existing home and making a list of what works for you and what does not work for you. You may also decide

Irish Independent

to put together an 'ideas board' of things that you've seen online or in magazines.

"Find a registered architect in your local area by visiting www.riai.ie. At the start of your project, you and your architect will meet to discuss in detail your requirements and aspirations. It is important that you advise your architect of your budget, timeframe and any other parameters, as these will impact on the design."

At the **permanent tsb Ideal Home Show**, the **RIAI** will be providing professional advice on extending, building and remodelling homes

at the **RIAI Build & Extend Theatre** (see the timetable on page 15).

"**RIAI** Registered Architects will deliver talks and take part in interviews and panel discussions on a wide range of topics," says Kathryn. "From how to maximise space and light in your home to ideas for extensions and home renovations for every size and budget, we will show you how you can unleash the potential of your home by working with a registered architect."



Keeper House & Lodge by Scott Tallon Walker



Dow House, Blessington, Co Wicklow, designed by Michael Kelly and Dan Costello



Folding House by A2 Architects



Metahide Interiors by Amanda Bone Architects



Hidden Garden by McCullough Mulvin Architects