



# Tipperary Star

DH Ryan Architects

## Full service, from plan to build

DH Ryan Architects run by fully qualified Architect brothers, Donal and Hugh Ryan offer full service, from plan to build, on domestic and commercial properties.

Since establishing their business in Thurles almost 15 years ago, they have successfully completed projects like the Thurles Community Enterprise Centre on the LIT Tipperary campus, Sensory Gardens for the Community Hospital of the Assumption and Suir Haven Centre, the refurbishment and extension of the Cabragh Wetlands Centre, Childrens Centres in Tipperary, Kilkenny and Dublin and are about to complete works on a new funeral home on Slievenamon Road in Thurles. A new state of the art Medical Centre is also about to break ground before the end of the year.

These projects are in addition to the many one off houses, extensions and refurbishments satisfactorily completed.

While it is always advisable to employ the services of an **RIAI** Registered Architect when designing your home, you can check the register on [www.riai.ie](http://www.riai.ie), for those wishing to go the extra mile with their design and save money in the long term, DH Ryan Architects are also registered with the Passive House Institute in Germany.

The Passive House concept is a low-energy building standard that has been consistently refined. The standards are way ahead of the current Irish Building Regulations without being necessarily more expensive to build than conventional houses.

A passive house combines high-level comfort with very low energy consumption. Good planning and the careful implementation of details are essential. It is very well insulated and virtually air-tight. It is so well thought out, planned and executed that what little extra heat is needed can, for example, be supplied by the

comfort ventilation system or by passive solar gain and by internal gains from people, electrical equipment etc.

Donal has recently completed building his own house on the Dublin Road which was designed to Passive House principles. The house is open plan over 4 levels with all the living spaces facing south and into the trees. Large areas of glazing flood the interior with natural light and allow the house to benefit from solar gain. The public side of the house faces north and has minimal openings to reduce heat loss. The utility, plant room, toilets etc are accommodated to the north so require less natural light.

The air tight house was constructed from Insulated Concrete Formwork supplied by Integra Spec in Moyness. There is a grass roof which will be completed in the next few months. The grass roof will improve thermal performance, air quality, sound insulation, biodiversity and wildlife, protect the roofing membrane and provide stormwater attenuation.

Anyone interested in finding out more about low energy or passive house design is welcome to call them at their offices in No.1 Liberty Square/WestGate, Thurles on (0504) 28850.



Donal Ryan's low energy house, Dublin Road, Thurles