

Transforming a house in 5 MONTHS

Words: Emer Kelly Pics: PG Construction

Homeowners are astounded by the difference a nip and tuck makes!

“We COMPLETELY renovated the HOUSE.”

More than one year ago, Suzanne and Dean Hickey decided that they were literally going to turn their family home in County Dublin on its head as they needed more living and bedroom space. Within five months, they were back living in their new home and they are astounded by the difference a nip and tuck makes! The lead designer over this project was Michael O’Brien who is an Architectural Technologist with Joe Fallon Architectural Design who have offices in both County Dublin and County Wexford. Mr O’Brien graduated from Waterford Institute of Technology with a 1.1 BSc (Hons) in Architectural Technology.

The team at Joe Fallon Architectural Design has great experience in both domestic and large-scale housing developments as well as landscape design.

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“We would have quite a few builder friends who we consulted and one of them actually recommended Joe Fallon to us. We had actually met with quite a few Architects as we went to a home show that was aimed at people who were

looking at building,” said owner of the property, Suzanne Hickey. “We did our homework but when we met Joe we knew he was the man we wanted to work with because he knew what we wanted, he was easy to talk to and he wasn’t imposing his ideas as to what we should do with our house on us. We also got a good feeling from him so that’s how we ended up working with him and his practice.

“We completely renovated the house. Our house was originally a three bedroomed house and we converted a garage room and built on top of that to create a bedroom. We went and converted the attic and built another bedroom up there and we added a family bathroom as well as adding on a big extension to the back of the house,” added Mrs Hickey.

“I was dreading the work before it began but the work went so well and everything was finished a month early. It wasn’t stressful whatsoever and the builders were absolutely superb! The builders held our hand all the way along. There was nothing about this project that was stressful at all, it all ran really smoothly,” she enthused.



“The *HEATING* could
NEVER be regulated.”



“The design for the house came from us needing more space. When we moved into the house our children were much younger and for us, we didn’t need that much bedroom space or living space as we were fine with the traditional kitchen, dining room and sitting room which were all separate but as our children have got older we realised that if they had their friends over you couldn’t be in the sitting room when they were hanging out with their friends and everyone was on top of each other so we figured that we needed to change the layout of the house to give us more living space as well as bedroom space.
“It was great to come in and see the progress that was taking place with the house as obviously we had to move out for a few months when the work was going on.
“It’s important that your house is practical because you can’t live in a showroom or a show-house especially when you have a family,” imparted Suzanne.

Work began on this project in January 2017 and the work ended at the end of May.



“It’s *IMPORTANT* that
your house is **PRACTICAL**.”



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"We're delighted with the house. It's lovely to be able to see the outdoors from inside now and to see the changes during each of the seasons.

"The house has now got a B2 rating of two which is excellent. This house is completely different to when we moved in eight years ago; the difference between the front of our house to the back of our house is incredible. The new extension is always warm and when the heat comes in it stays in there. When you come into the front of the house you can feel the difference in temperature straight away," she added.

"We would never have had thermostats in the house either and now we have three different zones and it is great to be able to regulate the house because before we would have noticed that if the heating was on downstairs, we'd come upstairs and it would be absolutely roasting, the heating could never be regulated," concluded Suzanne Hickey.

"We're DELIGHTED

with the HOUSE."



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