

PROPERTY, CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE MEDIA RELEASE

Brace of Design Awards for Douglas Wallace

Irish architecture, design and project management practice, Douglas Wallace, won the top award for a residential development, and was also highly commended for its work on the prestigious Cliff House hotel development, at the 2008 Irish Design Institute Awards.

Martin McCormick of Douglas Wallace won the Best Residential Interior Design Award for his creative design and restoration of a 1940s terraced house in Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Meanwhile, Douglas Wallace's Garry Cohn was Highly Commended for his interior design of the unique Cliff House Hotel at Ardmore, Co. Waterford.

Cohn's cleverly designed interiors of the Cliff House Hotel draw the landscape inwards, using natural materials and warm and inviting furnishings which create an extremely relaxing and luxurious environment. A palette of deep marine blue, fuchsia, aubergine and sea green instantly evoke the surrounding coastline and countryside.

The interior design and fit out of the Cliff House combines sophisticated details and natural materials along with warm and inviting furnishings. With its imposing granite stone façade, the entrance to the hotel, also designed by Garry Cohn for Douglas Wallace, acts as a gateway to the breathtaking vista of Ardmore Bay, rolling out to the Irish Sea.

As IDI Residential Interior Design Winner, Martin McCormick, faced a challenging task working with a typical 1940's terraced house in Dundalk town. He won the national accolade for his reinvention of the house using intelligent and creative design. As developer, designer and also occupier of the house, his objective was to create a unique home while also improving its potential resale value. The house was designed in line with his specific requirements as well as considering prospective future residents.

McCormick created a bright and spacious two bedroom home suitable for a modern day lifestyle. With natural light being a priority, a rear extension to the premises was positioned to maximise afternoon sunlight both internally and externally. "My main influence was my experience of living in Australia," he commented. "I gained an appreciation of light, space, form, texture and colour. I used these elements carefully to produce an inspirational place to live, work and relax."



For Gary Cohn of Douglas Wallace, the Cliff House was an inspiring project: “Designing a hotel is as complex a task as any designer can have because you have to imagine how the visitor will feel as they inhabit the space that you will create for them. With the Cliff House Hotel, what we wanted to achieve was to constantly ‘bring back memories’ for the guest, long after they have returned home. Guests want to ‘escape to a real place’ where they feel an authentic and uncontrived experience.”

He adds: “It’s about the comfort and cosiness of being there. A combination of physical elements and the personal experiences of the overall ambience combined to such an extent that guests don’t have to realise consciously that they are having an enjoyable time. However, they should feel it afterwards, having been uplifted by the entire experience.”

The judges certainly agreed and Hugh Wallace, Chief Executive of Douglas Wallace, is delighted with the awards achievement as testament to the quality of work being produced and Douglas Wallace’s commitment to visionary design.

“It is a wonderful achievement for the team at Douglas Wallace to win. It is a testament to the highly skilled professionals at Douglas Wallace and reflects the expert approach we take with our clients on a daily basis”.

Ends.