

Mount Juliet MANOR HOUSE

THE HISTORIC MOUNT JULIET MANOR HOUSE WELCOMES VISITORS BACK AFTER A COMPLETE REDESIGN OF ITS BASEMENT AREA, INTO A LUXURY IMMERSIVE GUEST EXPERIENCE.



The space is nominated for a prestigious Fit Out Award in the Fit Out Project of the Year – Hospitality (Hotel) category. The awards are Ireland's premier event in design and construction and aim to celebrate excellence in the execution of world-class fit outs. The awards offer a great opportunity for companies from all over Ireland to come together, collaborate, and showcase their work.

L'Estrange Designs undertook the project, which completed in January 2022, transforming the vaulted basement of the manor house into a space designed to be discovered and enjoyed by guests. The refurbished basement area is complete with a bar, enchanting private cinema room, a conference space and luxury bathrooms. Careful consideration has been taken over every aspect of the design to exude luxury and relaxation, even down to the women's

bathroom, where a custom blush tone marble make up counter sits, accompanied by velvet seating, creating a serene space for a moment of self-care.

While maintaining the structural boundaries of the vaults, the bar was redefined in situ, with a new luxury red marble bar counter-top, complemented by a custom designed red leather and marble panel bar front. Bespoke oak whiskey cabinets next to the bar form a focal point on the guest journey, drawing them through the hallway to the bar directly. The 1757 bar is named so in honour of the year that the house was built, referencing the history of the manor house in its foundations. L'Estrange Designs described the delicate balance between transforming the space and retaining the house's historical features: *"As the designers on this project, we wanted to closely reference the history and culture of the building, while also creating a unique*

and contemporary balance to exude a 5 star guest experience. Our goal was to maintain the spirit of the estate, while entirely re-imagining the full level of the Manor House."

Throughout, a rich colour palette inspired by historic hues of deep burgundy, hunter green and elegant navy have been introduced, to bring warmth and heritage into the unique space. A key factor of the design was to highlight the beautiful architecture of the vaulted ceilings, with a focus on warm, atmospheric lighting implemented throughout. Functionality and usability were the starting points of design, with the layout of customer zones redefined by custom deep button back leather booth seats in earthy tones. The tactility of the space is further enhanced by tartan wool fabrics and aged brass detailing.

Rethinking the inner room of the basement was also a key aspect of the refurbishment project. Previously, this space served as a snooker room, but was not fulfilling the potential it had to offer. One of the early decisions on the project was to re-purpose this space, and to create a luxurious private cinema room for guests to enjoy. As a vaulted space, this was not an easy task, and many studies were undertaken to ensure when the floor was tiered and screen in place, every seat provided a 5 star view. This versatile space now offers experiences for families, for romantic date evenings, and even corporate presentations. ■





Nirvana

LIGHTING

*Best wishes
Mount Juliet Estate
& L'Estrange Design*

Castlecomer Business Park - County Kilkenny
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Dunbrody COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

IN 300 ACRES OF PARKLAND ON THE IDYLIC HOOK PENINSULA ON IRELAND'S SOUTH COAST, THE 1830S DUNBRODY COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL IS A LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL AND THE PERFECT YEAR-ROUND GETAWAY TO THE COUNTRYSIDE.



Relaxed elegance and country house chic with individually styled rooms, very much in keeping with the hotel's Georgian origins, coupled with late breakfast served until noon, make it easy to avail of long, lazy lie-ins at Dunbrody. The Georgian architecture of spacious, airy rooms throughout the house combined with the woodland and coastal walks located within the 300 acres. A long-time member of Ireland's Blue Book Dunbrody House offers an authentic Irish country house experience.

Located on the dramatic Hook Peninsula on Ireland's south coast, Dunbrody House is owned and operated by husband and wife team Kevin and Catherine Dundon. This hotel reflects their joint passion for excellence in all areas – fine food and friendly, relaxed service combined with luxury accommodation

all within the centuries-old walls of this beautiful Georgian property.

The hotel has just re-opened after completing Phase 1 of a major refurbishment and more development is planned for 2023. What began as a small refurbishment to freshen up the hotel's interior, became a huge reimagining of the interiors whilst following similar colour schemes so as to not lose the impression of the 200-year-old historical building. In the end around two-thirds of the suites have been renovated as well as the whole of the downstairs area and the public spaces.

Working with two separate interior designers, Kevin and Catherine wished to provide the interiors with a more mid-century art deco feel, choosing a lot of Liberty London prints and quirky soft furnishings. The couple also worked with a local antique company to help restore the antiques within the Dunbrody Country

House Hotel that needed care. Continuing the theme of restoration, the original floors of the country house have been uncovered, removing the carpet that previously ran throughout the hotel.

Some features of the hotel have been moved around to accommodate the new renovations and Kevin and Catherine worked with Hugh Wallace, the award-winning architect and founding partner of Douglas Wallace Consultants, on the technical engineering of this process, as well as the certifications and licenses of the building.

The work took place over four months, with the hotel being closed for business during this time and reopening in April of this year.

"The feedback from this project has been fantastic, our guests are constantly gushing to us about how wonderful the new renovations look. We have more pride than ever in our hotel, and love showing guests around. It has been 25 years since the last major refurbishment on the building, so we have been able to give it a whole new lease of life all at once. The house really lends itself to all sorts of designs, patterns and colours – we are really thrilled with the result," said Catherine Dundon, co-owner of the Dunbrody Country House Hotel. ■



BOURKE BUILDERS

Bourke Builders Ltd. was established by Patrick J. Bourke and his wife Bridget in Ballina, Co. Mayo in 1960 and over the years their children Brian and Emer have joined the business. Bourke Builders prides themselves in the quality of their work and attention to the finer details required to make each project right.

The company have completed a wide and varied range of projects over their five decades in operation. This family run business has expanded nationally and beyond, with completed projects extending from large scale residential developments to industrial and commercial projects.

At Dumbrody Country House Hotel, Bourke Builders acted as project managers as well as completing work on site including joinery, windows and doors, cabinets, bedroom and bathroom panelling and wallpapering – essentially completing a whole refurbishment.

Emer Bourke from Bourke Builders said: "We were very happy to be involved with Dumbrody House as it was a very exciting project with a quick turnaround." ■

For more information visit:
<https://bourkebuilders.com/>



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