

Designer Genevieve Hurley couldn't believe her luck. Having previously designed the interior of a beautiful London home for discerning Irish clients, she discovered that the family were on the move again, and wanted to recruit her expertise to decorate their new home. "They owned a beautiful Victorian house, and were only in it for five years when I got the opportunity to work with them again," she recalls.

Initially, the owners thought they might like the same style replicated in Ireland, but Genevieve, who is also from Dublin and has a successful interior design business in Putney, discouraged them. "Aside from the fact that there's no challenge in that, I pointed out that it's a different space – a different house with different proportions and features."

It's rare for clients to be so decisive, but Genevieve describes the owners of this large home as "dream clients". "I was delighted to work with them again, as they know what they like and are confident in their decisions." The fact that she had completed a full refurbishment of their former home, she admits, really helped: knowing their taste was a distinct advantage.

The house had been in poor repair when the couple purchased it, with damp problems and a dark basement kitchen, among other issues, but they could see beyond the negatives, falling for the generously proportioned rooms, intact period features, feature windows and a lovely, leafy location.

Architects de Blacam and Meagher were signed up to realise the house's potential, and came up with two innovative options. One comprised a glass-box extension out the back, the other a series of extra rooms that would bring the rear elevation of the house into perfect symmetry. The new owners settled for the latter, gaining a playroom, office and large ensuite bathroom from the plans.

Genevieve designed boards for each room in the house, from the smallest cloakroom to the biggest reception room, and they flew over to Dublin, where she presented her concept to them. "The process was very



ABOVE BoConcept's Imola swivel chair and matching footstool bring a dash of contemporary chartreuse to the sitting room, alongside a smart console table, one of a pair in the room, from Helen Turkington. **LEFT** Interior designer Genevieve Hurley beside one of a pair of gold-pitted lamps with rich navy shades from Tyson London. She had the shades lined in gold. **OPPOSITE PAGE** The kitchen was relocated from the basement to the first floor to maximise light and create a hub in the home. Streamlined and minimalist, the stained oak cabinetry and marble countertops were designed by Andrew Ryan. A Catellani & Smith Fil de Fer light illuminates the island.