

ONE TO WATCH

LOUISE NORTON, DESIGNER GARETH NIHILL, BUILDER



Gareth and Louise: natural materials

INTERIOR designer Louise Norton and builder Gareth Nihill saw a niche in the property market and set up Nspace, offering a complete design and renovation service for residential and commercial properties.

How did you start?

Louise: I started my career in fashion, while Gareth studied electronics. Gareth set up his own building company two years ago, while I came on board last year.

What services do you provide?

An interior design service that includes room design and planning – from soft furnishings to colour schemes – and a full renovation service that includes slabbing to dry lining, tiling, flooring, kitchen installations, storage solutions and painting. There is also a personal shopping service. Gareth is also available to project manage or consult on building projects and design schemes.

Do you have a signature style?

Gareth: We love working with natural materials, such as wood – particularly maple, oak and cherry – and stone. Louise hand-makes curtains, blinds, cushions and embroidered bed linens to order and she also designs furniture so nothing we do could ever be described as off-the-peg. Maximising light in a space in important and both of us

whatever we do has to answer the needs of the client and we work closely with them to make sure we fulfil the brief.

What has been your most interesting project to date?

Louise: Every project has its challenges. Recent projects have included the complete renovation of a Victorian house in Ringsend; design and renovation packages for townhouses in Donnybrook, Sandymount and Glasnevin and the renovation of a cottage in Stoneybatter.

Do you have any tips for home improvers?

Gareth: Don't scrimp on repairs in old houses – you will only spend more money in the end. If you have to replaster a wall, do it now rather than later.

Louise: If you want to give a room a facelift, think carefully before you throw away a piece of furniture or accessories – certain pieces can look wonderful if used differently, either in another room or displayed in a different way.

What are your plans for the future?

We want to expand the business and work more as project managers. Ideally we would love to buy and renovate properties ourselves – we both love old houses, particularly Georgian houses. Our dream home would be an old house in the country.

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