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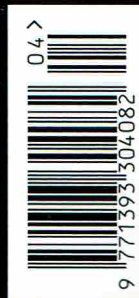
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HOUSEANDHOME.IE

THE TOP IRISH *architects* FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT

If this is the year you're planning to build your dream home, renovate the one you're in or extend, here's 20 of our favourite practices who can help you realise your vision, whatever your budget

WORDS **RÓISÍN CARABINE**

HOW TO... FIND THE RIGHT ARCHITECT

5 steps to success

1 Before you even think about approaching an architect you'll need to have a brief in place. Collate inspiration to convey the designs you have in mind, as well as a list of wants and needs for the finished space.

2 You'll find a comprehensive list of architects by county, skill and building type on the dedicated Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland website (Ria.ie) as well as lots of other information. A good architect can help you with building design, survey drawings, applying for planning permission and co-ordinating with other consultants. They may also have specific qualifications in areas such as conservation and urban design.

3 Make a shortlist of those whose projects you like. Ask to see their portfolio, check out their website and, if you can, meet them in person to make sure you get along.

4 A personal recommendation is always a good starting point, so too is seeing completed projects in person.

5 Compare fees (which is either an agreed lump sum or a percentage of the build cost) and then consider the amount of involvement you want. It's good to have one point of contact (whether that's you or a contractor) to prevent confusion and mixed messages. This will also help to keep the project on track and right on budget.

Photography by Ste Murray & Aisling McCoy



ROBERT BOURKE ARCHITECTS

There's a quiet, understated luxury to Robert Bourke's material rich work. Projects like Pavilion House (above, winner of the Wood Awards Ireland 2020), Tenters Triangle and Portlands (pictured top) may look simple (at least on the outside), but they are as multi-layered and complex as the sites in which they sit. Set up in 2010, Robert's Dublin-based practice is underpinned by a desire to create architecture that is "socially conscious, environmentally responsible and timeless in aesthetic." Rba.ie