

the white book

Essential Interiors

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The Interiors Bible



festina lente

In her designs for one of the 70 courtyard residences which occupy the location of the former stable block, on the other hand, Miriam chose a more contemporary, though still classically elegant style. "Whilst I felt that the gate lodge begged an eclectic, cosy country cottage look, I wanted to do something different in the Courtyard house. Although these houses also utilise natural materials in-keeping with the ethos of the estate, they have a more contemporary exterior."

Designed by Brazil Lohan Architects as a traditional courtyard with a contemporary slant, the Loughmore Stud Courtyard houses are accessed via a formal landscaped garden to the fore and enjoy different views from their living room windows, looking over the golf course to the woodlands which encircle the estate, complete with a resident herd of deer. Natural stone, slate and timber have been used in their construction, inspired by the woodland whilst reducing the visual impact of each house against the backdrop of trees.

Again, therefore, the emphasis of the interior design was to bring the outside in. "The transition from outside to inside should be as easy as possible," says Miriam. "Maximising the amazing location was my aim and I felt that this objective could best be achieved if internal colour didn't obstruct the views of the surroundings."

Hence the interiors here have been kept light and airy in a clean Scandinavian style. A simple colour palette of white, grey, beige and taupe combine to create a tranquil space in which to enjoy the green charms of Killeen Castle. Pale walls are teamed with a smoked white oiled oak floor and sofas and chairs covered in white linen. An oak dining table and bookcase with a light grey wash provide a contemporary counterbalance to an antique Chinese coffee table and silver and gold leaf mirror with distressed glass. Small objects and interesting pictures, like the hand-painted Japanese prints on glass, catch the eye every now and again, but nothing is allowed to dominate or create great impact.





Until you venture into the lavatory that is – here, mirrored mosaic tiles covering an entire wall make this the most glamorous of understairs' loos imaginable. "It's a bit of fun," admits Miriam, "but there is a practical reason behind using these tiles. In a room without a window, mirrors will open out the space, making it less claustrophobic".



Claustrophobia, however, is definitely something the residents of Killeen Castle will not be suffering from, as they enjoy getting to know the 600 acres at their disposal. 'Festina lente' ... 'hasten slowly' says the Plunkett family motto.

www.killeencastle.com www.brazillohan.ie www.minniepeters.com
www.chalon.com



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