

Life by the Canal.

Extension to bring the indoors outdoors for Family Home



01. The house and its new extension overlook the Eglington Canal in Galway



- 02. Large windows allow for maximum daylight in this house
- 03. The roofs have been treated like gardens, creating a continuous landscape surface that 'flows' from the house to the Canal

Architects
LiD Architecture

Location
Galway City

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Photography
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Splendid appendage

An extension is more than just a new limb growing from the torso of your house. The days of jarring lean-to extensions or glass boxes awkwardly stuck on are thankfully behind us. A good extension gives the home extra space; a great extension enhances what's already there, maximising the potential of the site. This is precisely Evelyn and her husband, the owners of a 1920s two-storey townhouse on the Eglington Canal in Galway city centre, wanted when they approached LiD Architecture.

The brief

The brief for this Canal House extension was to create a larger kitchen/family/dining area for the couple and their three kids aged 13-20. Communal indoor and outdoor space was very important, "The kids hang out in the living area together and not their bedrooms in the evening" Evelyn added. The whole family enjoyed cooking meals together so sheltered space for eating outdoors was also on the list of must-haves.

Complex geometry

The extension is semi-subterranean which was achieved by excavating the ground level and building retaining walls. This was to create descending living spaces and interesting changes in height levels in the area that connects the old with the new part of the house. Viewed from the canal the rear elevation is a continuous storey with the roof folding up to give a discreetly elevated vantage point over the boundary wall. The changes

in roof level relates to the canal banks and its shifting edge conditions. Nature is continued from the canal side to the sedum roof.

Concrete chic

Materially this extension is a fantastic conversation of bold statements, expressing its walls in concrete and its floors in brick! This is softened by the use of beech ply window in partition walls, stairs and the handle-less kitchen drawers. The in situ concrete makes a visual connection between the existing mass concrete house and the civil engineering works of the canal. The interiors are animated by board-marked exposed concrete walls. Concrete was also used to form a kitchen bench-top that, when the large bi-folding doors are opened, operates as an external kitchen in the covered "outdoor room" perfect for entertaining.

The outdoor space is complete with corner fireplace formed of concrete and a large glazed opening in the exposed concrete roof above. The use of concrete in this outdoor room and kitchen blurs the boundaries between indoors and outdoors as does the brick floor which spills from the kitchen to this space too. Brick can be cold underfoot so underfloor heating was installed. Bricks store heat well, slowly releasing the warmth uniformly across the floor. Evelyn joked that the builder referred to the bench-top as her "altar". From here Evelyn can evangelise to all the water birds with the ever-changing view of the canal and their timeless stylish extension.

3 Client Must Haves

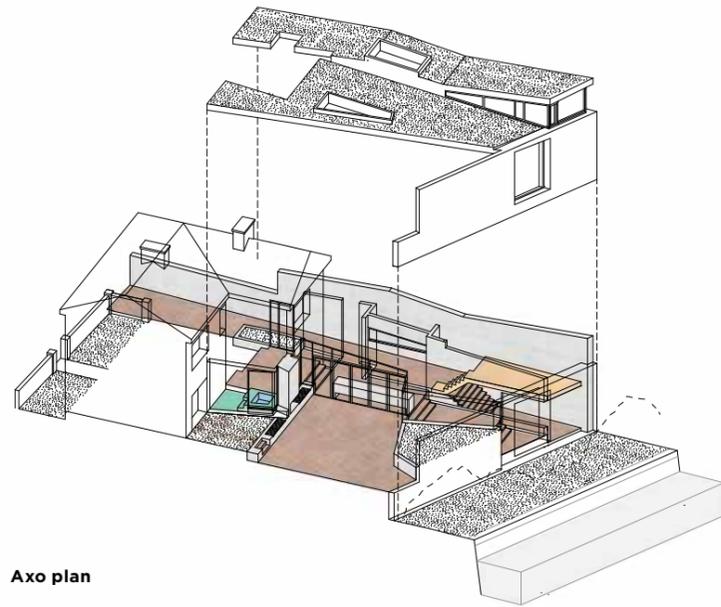
- + Extend house to provide for kitchen/family/dining space while taking full advantage of canal views.
- + Plenty of storage space for coats, wellies, bikes and sports equipment.
- + An outdoor fire for dining outdoors.



- 04. In fine weather the kitchen becomes an outdoor room. The brick floor continues from inside to outside
- 05. The concrete kitchen counter doubles up as an outdoor kitchen



Floor plan



Axo plan



About this Home

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LiD Architecture have an interest in user experience, ranging from the pragmatic to the poetic. How can simple everyday activities be rich and evocative experiences? In their projects, LiD Architecture endeavour to bring these two conditions together.



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