



# THE LOST COTTAGE

An isolated dwelling in County Kerry, Ireland, has been extended with a new building that mirrors and updates its original footprint

PHOTOGRAPHY RUTH MARIA MURPHY/LIVING INSIDE. WORDS KURT G STAPELFELODT







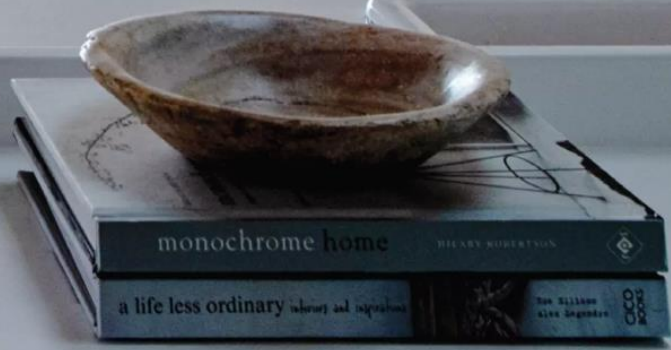
## WILD WORLD

Restaurateur Brian Spain rescued this derelict building, which had been left abandoned for 40 years. Built in the early 1800s, it had a basic rammed earth floor, the roof had collapsed, it had no water or electricity and had been used as a refuge for goats when he discovered it. After carefully restoring it, Brian added a new structure, designed by architect Maxime Laroussi of Urban Agency, linking to the original building and repeating its simple silhouette

## TRUE SPIRIT

Most of the original cottage has been transformed into a surprisingly airy, open-plan kitchen and dining area with softly hand-plastered walls and exposed beams that honour the original building. Built-in bench seating and an L-shaped kitchen maximise space.







## A HAPPY FUSION

The house's dramatic setting, overlooking Lough Caragh, has spectacular views across Killarney National Park, a Special Area of Conservation, to distant mountains. The new section has been designed to optimise this dramatic outlook







### SACRED SPACE

Inspired by a chapel in the Alps, the latest structure (opposite) has a simple silhouette and pitched roof. It was constructed from a concrete formwork, cast with wide Douglas fir boards and finished with iron sulphate to give it a distinctive, naturalistic appearance



## VIEW TO A THRILL

Big picture windows (opposite) blur the line between indoors and out, while the spare, minimal decoration inside helps further focus the attention on the vast changing landscapes and spectacular skies, day and night.

*Lost Cottage is available to rent through [uniquehomestays.co.uk](http://uniquehomestays.co.uk)*



