



Meeting The Brief

This once derelict cottage has been transformed into a modern masterpiece that sits seamlessly in its Co. Kerry surroundings.

Built to house farmhands at one end and animals at the other, old photographs of this once-thatched Irish cottage date back to the Great Potato Famine when it was razed in a fire.

The cottage, a self-catering hideaway with Unique Homestays, sits in an enviable position at the top of a long valley behind Glenbeigh village just off the famous Ring of Kerry. Resting on the Iveragh Peninsula, the area is enveloped by deep blue bodies of water, the largest being Coomasaharn Lake which glistens at the end of the sloped garden, sheltered by rocky mountains on three sides.

RUSTIC RETREAT

The property was in very poor condition when owner Catherine bought it but it was





her vision to not only restore it to its former glory but to transform it into a modern rustic space that would make an ideal base for those searching for a space to completely relax and unwind amidst nature.

The exterior walls of the original cottage were stripped back to the stone and were then lime rendered and the interior lime plastered. The roof was also replaced and it and the walls were insulated using hemp.

EXTENDED LIVING

Two extensions were added; the first was built mainly of glass to take in the stunning vistas and ever-changing landscape. The second extension is in the shape of a barn and clad in green corrugated iron - its inspiration comes from the barns found all over the countryside in Kerry.





NATURAL WARMTH

Catherine's idea for the interior was to let the rawness and the organic nature of the natural materials shine through. A gentle colour scheme of yellows and greens was chosen to give a warm feel. The walls are painted in the traditional white of lime plaster, and the floor throughout is a light grey polished concrete. Rugs add texture and tone to the scheme.

Materials have been sustainably sourced where possible such as the kitchen salvaged from London's docklands. The open-plan living space centres around an open fire, with vaulted ceilings and wooden tie beams. In the curved-roof bathroom, a window runs the length of the bath allowing scents of the meadow to seep inside: wild flowers, fennel and coriander all combining with the intoxicating views. There is a large outdoor stone bath too where users can feel at one with nature.



SENSE OF SPACE

'I wanted to keep the space simple so that the lovely curves and feel of the lime plaster could be the focus,' explains Catherine. 'I also wanted to keep the materials organic so the space feels natural. The high roof gives a lovely sense of space too. The glass box extension then opens up more to take maximum advantage of the stunning view. The bathroom extension is more rounded to give the cosy feeling of an enclosed space.'

The completed cottage is now a beautiful bolthole that's the perfect base for getting back to nature, exploring the surrounding countryside, taking a dip in the lake or just gazing at the stars by the fire pit.

Limehouse Cottage is available to rent via uniquehomestays.com, T:+ 44 (0)1637 881183.

