



Left: The Red House, whose exterior would have delighted William Morris, father of the Arts and Crafts movement. Above: the dining room. Below: The dual-aspect drawing room



Fairytale appeal of a detached Edwardian residence in Killiney

The Red House to the south of the capital is a real beauty, inspired by the work of designer William Morris. It costs a hefty €2.95m and needs a little updating, but it's worth it



Ros Drinkwater

Standing on an acre of glorious gardens in a rural coastal setting, the Red House on Seafield Road is a magnificent, detached Edwardian residence in the heart of Killiney in south Co Dublin, half an hour's commute to Dublin city centre. Spanning the reign of Edward VII, the Edwardian era was the last hurrah for the "haves" before World War I changed the global order.

So what inspired this beautiful house, that looks like something out of a fairytale? The answer is probably England's most acclaimed 19th-century "new build", also named the Red House, in Bexley Heath, outside London. It was the first Arts and Crafts building, built by William Morris who was hailed as having initiated a new era in housebuilding.

Heavily influenced by the philosophy

of art critic John Ruskin, Morris favoured a return to medieval Gothic architecture and its emphasis on hand-craftsmanship. The buzzword of the day was revivalism, and his Red House sparked a demand for red brick, Tudor half-timbering, turrets, towers and imposing tall red brick chimneys. A Grade 1 listed building, it is now owned by the National Trust.

Returning to Ireland's Red House, while it has been well maintained over the years with a new kitchen and new bathrooms installed 20 years ago, it is in need of considerable updating to bring it up to modern-day standards.

Once through the gates, the immediate sight is one that would have delighted William Morris, from the red brick, wisteria-clad exterior and bay windows to the tower and distinctive pitched red pantile roofs.



Arranged over two levels, the 452 square metre interior begins in the parquet-floored entrance hall, which opens to the country-style breakfast room. There, imposing redbrick arches separate it from the kitchen, where flooring is of natural stone tile.

The painted presses are by Dalkey design, and the worktops are marble. There's a large centre island, a prep sink, a dual bowl London sink, an integrated Zanussi dishwasher, a Samsung American style fridge/freezer, a wine rack, display cabinets, a Zanussi oven with a four ring gas hob and a bright red Aga with a two-hob dual oven. To the rear is the utility room, with fitted shelving, a London sink, marble top, digital heating

controls, recessed lighting and a door to the rear courtyard.

From the kitchen, multi-paned double folding doors open to the most modern room in the house: the family room, with its white Jotul solid fuel stove and double doors to the sunroom. The latter is a lovely space with its vaulted ceiling, and exposed brick walls face an entire wall of glazing opening to the front garden. **to page 2**



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