

Introducing the Barn House

Words by Sarah Petersen, Dan-Éire Designs Visualisations by My3D.ie



Ave you ever wondered what your new home would look like, without even breaking ground? Can you picture the space you're potentially going to spend a lot of money to build and that you're hoping to spend the next 10-30 years living in? Not quite? More and more, people embarking into the world of Self-Building are investing in professionals and services to make sure that the substantial amount time, energy and money is being spent in the best possible way. Introducing The Barn House – designed by Sarah Petersen of Dan-Éire Designs, with creative and architectural input from Dwayne Higgins of MyEngineer.ie and 3D Visualisation Drawings brought to life by Dwayne and Darren at My3D.ie – all based right here in Galway.

With the amazing advances that have been made in software and technology, no one has to imagine what a building will look like from sketches or descriptions. Everyone looks at the exact same vision. 3D renders are a great bridge between architectural language and the client's understanding. There's less room for misunderstanding because the key to discussions is so visual. Clients can make changes easily to the exterior and interior – changing colours, finishes, layouts without too much hassle. Architects can find potential flaws using 3D renders that may not become evident until building is well underway and they can correct these flaws at the design stage. While these services are an investment, ultimately it results in a saving of both time and money. It also means that everyone involved in the project from the architect through to the



designer, builder and client has a clear vision of the end result. By taking it to the next level and also working on the interiors, a lot of decisions on the finishes and materials chosen for the house can be made at a very early stage. Again, this is a practical way to avoid costly mistakes, be assured in your decisions and stay on track with your overall vision for your home.

The Barn House came about when Dan-Éire Designs were contacted by a friend of the business to design their new home – planned for a wild and wonderful site in Spiddal, Connemara. The client outlined a brief/wish list of what they were looking to achieve overall in their new home – a welcoming entryway and statement staircase, a practical utility/laundry room, a main bathroom/wet room designed for pure relaxation, large open plan living – this client wanted to make the most of the sea and Burren views and create a space that they would want to spend all of their time in, with friends and family, luxurious master suite and a spacious home office that could double as a guest room. Sarah





constructed basic floor plans of the house to incorporate all the spaces that the client needed and brought this plan to Dwayne Higgins of MyEngineer.ie – a personal friend and architect. The client had shown an interest in agricultural building styles; a gentle nod to the vernacular in Connemara, Co.Galway. The overall brief for the home was to create a Scandi, contemporary barn-style house (complete with barrel roof and agricultural corrugated cladding on the exterior). Bringing this vision to life and being able to convey the whole experience to the client would have been impossible without the services of My3D.ie – a 3D visualisation business based in Co. Galway and a part of MyEngineer.ie. Before any renders could be created, an extensive list of materials, colours, finishes, furniture pieces, kitchen design, custom design, soft furnishings and accessories had to be carefully chosen and







put together by the team at Dan-Éire Designs. This was carried out, taking the lead from the client and developing their ideas and adding some bespoke and unique features. All elements were reviewed and approved by the client before any visualisations were generated.

Once the list was sent to My3D.ie, Dwayne and Darren took Sarah's ideas for the home (right down to the finer details) and brought it all to life – exterior, interior and all fixtures and fittings. Each space has been considered for the type of person living in the home and the lifestyle/hobbies/interests they have. How they will use the home and how they will grow in the house has been taken into account. The house features, polished concrete floors on the ground floor, laminate flooring from The Door Centre on the first floor, all paint colours from Colourtrend, pieces from WooDesign, SKLUM, Lights.ie, S.Alternative Furntiure, IKEA, DFS and Kukoon Rugs to name a few. The home also features some original artwork from Galway artists Tory Irvine, Lola Donoghue and Anne Harkin-Petersen, the perfect way to pull a room scheme together.

People who are thinking of building a house often need to visualise the finished product to ensure that they are making the right decisions in terms of spatial planning, layout, kitchen design, bathroom design etc. It's worth investing in the services of an Interior Designer who can bring plans to life in 3D. By being able to see what the overall space will look like at the beginning, it saves the clients time, money and stress – avoiding potentially costly mistakes down the line. By finalising your interiors at an early stage of the build, you can also allow for sourcing furniture/ lighting/accessories (often taking advantage of sales etc.) and plan your space perfectly for how you're going to live in the house.

