



Roisin Lafferty

Kingston Lafferty Design

GOING FOR GROWTH PROFILE

NAME:

Roisin Lafferty

BUSINESS

Kingston Lafferty Design

POSITION

Founder and Managing Director

WHAT WE DO

We provide a full interior architecture and interior design service, offering a fully furnished and styled end result.

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There was never any doubt about the direction that Roisin Lafferty was going to take in life. Even from a young age, growing up in Goatstown in Dublin, creativity was in her blood. "I always loved art and was creative. English and Art were my best subjects and I was always the one at school doing arty things, making gifts for people," says the interior architect behind Kingston Lafferty Design (KLD).

While still at school, she completed work experience at Lafferty Architects, and worked part time, while completing her four-year degree in Interior Architecture and Furniture Design at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT).

After achieving a first-class honours, she went to Kingston University, London to complete a Masters in Product and Spatial Design, in which she was also awarded a first-class honours and went on to present her final project as part of renowned design exhibition, Tent London.

"I did put all my eggs into one basket but I didn't want to study something that I wasn't interested in," says Roisin. "I am extremely ambitious and I only wanted to work in the very best firms in London."

After gaining experience, she returned to Dublin and set up Kingston Lafferty Design in 2010 with classmate and friend, Suzanne Kingston. After three years, Suzanne decided to move back to London and Roisin continued with her dream of building a strong business.

Setting up during a challenging time for the construction industry never daunted the now award-winning designer. *"At the beginning I was working on three different projects. I worked until 3am and every day was extremely intense but I knew it would be a success."*

And it is. Roisin quickly built up the company to become one of the most respected interior architecture and design agencies in Europe. She now has a team of eight people working in KLD, based in Ranelagh, with Roisin taking on the role of managing director.

It is hard to pigeonhole Roisin's style as she approaches each job as a bespoke project, using the space and the desires of her clients as central to the design.

She always puts human behaviour at the core of her designs. Her main objective is to create spaces that enhance people's lives in a way that is both functional and beautiful. *"All of our jobs are bespoke and unique and we also design individual pieces of furniture which fit the spaces we are designing," she says.*

Roisin has become a familiar face through her work as a Design Judge on RTE's Super Garden for the last three years. In 2015, she was awarded the Fit Out Young Designer of the Year as well as picking up the award for Residential Project of the Year in both 2015 and 2016. She has also been shortlisted in the Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI) awards this year.

Roisin participated in the 8th cycle of Going for Growth in 2016 with Louise Phelan of PayPal as her Lead. *"Louise was unbelievable; so helpful and reassuring. It was an honour to be with so many successful female entrepreneurs and to listen to their issues and realise you are not on your own; that these women also experience the same pressures and challenges I am facing," she says.*

Roisin's resolve to continue to grow a world-class business has never waned and, last year, she was nominated in the international Restaurant and Bar Design Awards in London. *"Next year I want to win one," she says determinately.*

KLD completed a number of residential and restaurant projects in London this year and she plans to expand further into the UK and the rest of Europe over the next five years. Her eye is also on building the company's brand recognition even further as well as the introduction of a specific furniture line.

