



Within The Village

Following a soft opening in September 2023, Within the Village, a new luxury accommodation offering in Roundstone, is heading into its first official tourism season

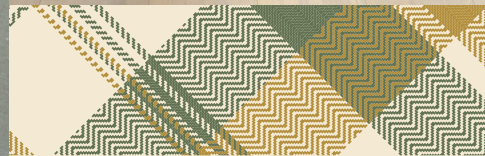
Within the Village is a collection of five boutique townhouses, showcasing the best of Connemara's materials and products. The concept for Within the Village came about in summer 2020 when Lorna Mayne, Keith Kissane and Maria Murphy saw a 'For Sale' sign on a building in Roundstone. As three Galwegians with combined careers in hospitality management, tourism development and tourism education, they saw the potential in the property and together set about creating a 'dream place to stay' to bridge the gap in the high end, luxury, short term rental market in Connemara and Ireland.

The project aims for sustainability, both in the

materials used and how it operates. It's also inspired by aspects of the Italian Albergo Diffuso (scattered hotel) hospitality concept, developed to revive historic villages and towns off the usual tourist track. Albergo Diffuso embeds guests in village life, in rooms or apartments with authentic local décor and with one manager and central reception.

"Whilst we are not a hotel, the concept is to create a unique accommodation offering in the area that will appeal to the traveller seeking immersive, pared back, design-led luxury. We want to be part of a year round luxury tourism offering that will help to further build on lasting sustainable benefits for the local community," said Keith Kissane.

The owners want to extend the Irish tourism



season across the region outside of the typical summer months. They hope to do this by providing a luxury offering in the middle of Roundstone village that's open for 12 months of the year. In turn, other tourism businesses and the local community can benefit from the additional domestic and international visitors to the West.

The three-year project involved the sensitive refurbishment of the three 200-year-old houses in the centre of the village. The original terrace and out-buildings have been cleverly reconfigured so that each house has kept its distinct character, including the vaulted ceilings of the original pub in Bog Cotton's living room, the arch from Connolly's pub in Lichen, multiple exposed internal solid stone walls throughout and stunning views over Roundstone Bay, Inishnee and the Errisbeg mountains.

From the outset, sustainability was at the core of the project and the owner's vision was to take inspiration from the beautiful surroundings of Connemara and instil simple yet rich finishes to all areas of the property. In terms of design, this is clearly visible with the natural materials used to

achieve the simplistic, yet luxurious feel in all five townhouses, both internally and externally.

Pieces and products from local makers including Paddy O'Mally concrete countertops, Letterfrack trained Joshua Gabriel bespoke furniture, Roundstone Ceramics, The Burren Perfumery, Inish Living and Northern Feather are found at every turn.

The whole building with the entire space is available to hire for exclusive stays for a minimum of three nights (up to 24 adults or 29 including children). It's the ideal venue to host small intimate events such as family celebrations, retreats, workshops, private dinners and for specialist groups.

www.withinthevillage.ie

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