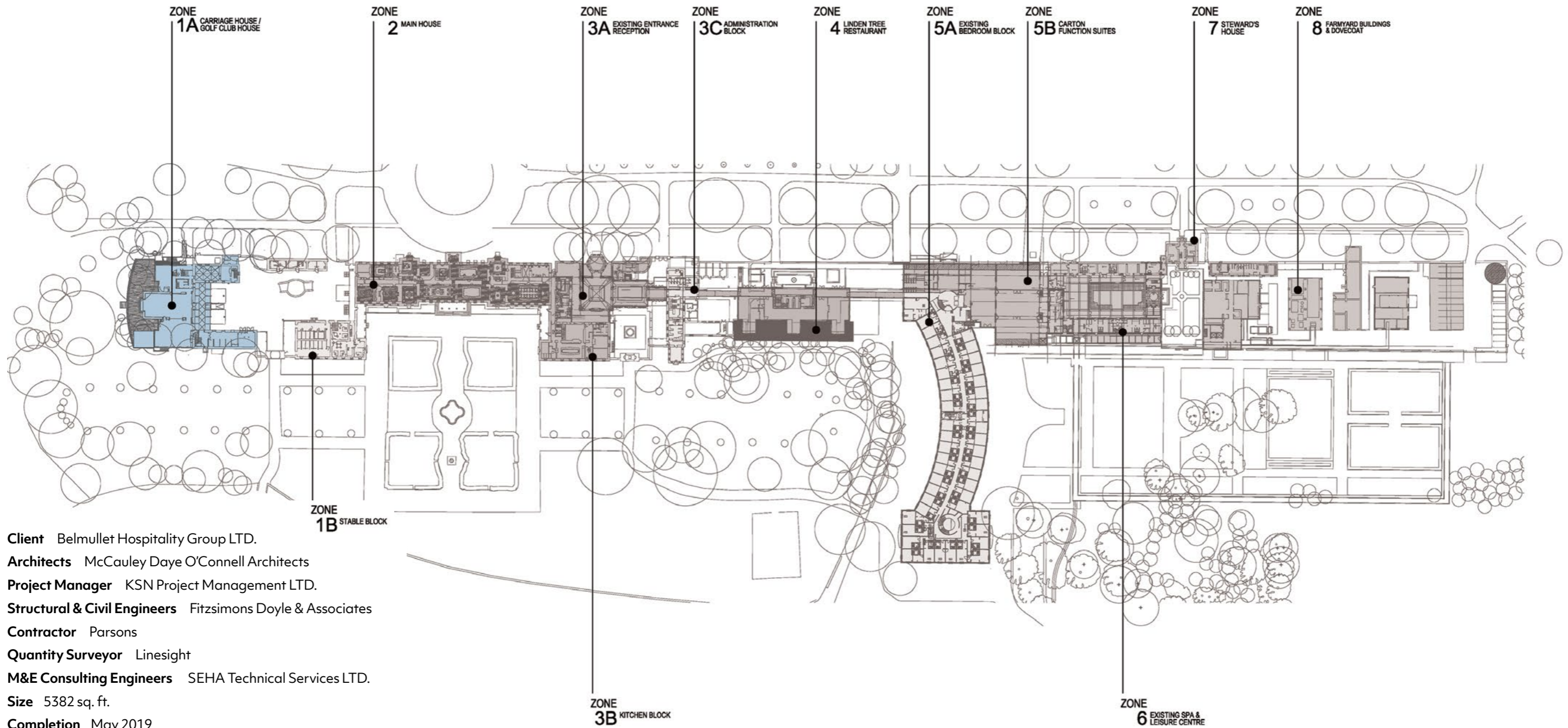




THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

CARTON HOUSE, MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE



Client Belmullet Hospitality Group LTD.
Architects McCauley Daye O'Connell Architects
Project Manager KSN Project Management LTD.
Structural & Civil Engineers Fitzsimons Doyle & Associates
Contractor Parsons
Quantity Surveyor Linesight
M&E Consulting Engineers SEHA Technical Services LTD.
Size 5382 sq. ft.
Completion May 2019

PROJECT

The Carton House Hotel, a four-star luxury estate in Kildare, is steeped in history. Once home to the Earls of Kildare and Dukes of Leinster, it has operated as a hotel since the year 2000. Recognising the historical charm of the estate, an extensive refurbishment was undertaken to reactivate the hotel's lobby, conference rooms, hotel rooms, and

historic Carriage House, merging modern needs with old fabric. Operating across all scales, from structure to décor, the refurbishment adopts a rigorous approach to include details such as colour, patterns, materiality, and furniture, using historical references as a cue for a heightened human experience.

CLIENT

The refurbishment of the Carriage House is the second completed element of the new owners works at Carton. The design marks a milestone in Carton's repositioning as a traditional country estate. The vision behind the remodeling process was deeply informed by the building's history. Commissioned in 1739 to architect Richard Castles, the estate

has passed through Earls and Dukes, hosted Queen Victoria, and came under its present ownership in 1977. The hotel was established on the site in 2000, and today represents one of the finest Georgian estates in the country, with 1,100 acres of private parkland including two Championship Golf Courses.

CHALLENGES

The extensive refurbishment works to the hotel included the estate's Carriage House, a grand structure with seven carriage bays featuring beautiful stone vaults. Once a service building with a simple robust character and beautifully-proportioned form, the refurbishment has sought to bring new life to the old structure.

The former Racquet Hall to the rear of the carriage house has been reactivated as a restaurant area, with newer areas of the structure becoming a bar and members' lounge, all featuring Irish-made, high quality furniture.



EVOLUTION OF THE COUNTRY ESTATE

The former carriage bays have become areas to host loose seating overlooking the historic courtyard, while a remodeling of the Racquet Hall interior has allowed for the expression of its high ceiling and dramatic timber trusses, complimented with new metal chandeliers. The interior décor

has been altered to reflect the centuries-long history of the estate, with wall paneling painted in a deep blue inspired by the main house's 18th century Chinese Boudoir. In an act of modernity, this paneling also incorporates acoustic paneling that combines with partial carpeting to create an optimum acoustic

environment. The upper walls and ceiling of the Carriage House are expressed through a dark forest green echoing the large mature trees framed by a large window at the end of the space. This creates a rich, dark, personable interior that contrasts dramatically with the bright, natural exterior.

Meanwhile, artwork adorning the restaurant walls reflects the evolution of the country estate, echoing the artwork of the main hotel building with depictions of carriages, follies, gatehouses, and pedestals.



CONNECTION WITH HISTORY

Anchoring the interior is a large square central bar, spanning between the restaurant and bar areas. The bar features a green marble top with oak paneling and a Victorian Minton tile floor, hosting large leather bar stools and solid brass lamps. Here, artwork reflects Carton's more recent history as a

prominent golf venue. The golfing theme continues in the Member's Lounge, reimagined with a new fireplace, timber paneling, and crafted furniture, with access to a refurbished external decking area. Combining the refurbishment of the hotel's lobby, conference areas, hotel rooms, and Carriage House,

the resulting estate has been reactivated as one which rises to modern demands, while maintaining a strong connection with history. Shaped by an architectural process that operated across several scales, from restoration and remodeling of major rooms to detailed choices of furniture and material patterns,

the scheme is an example of how architecture and interior design can combine to craft a user experience that includes the spatial, the tactile, and the functional.



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