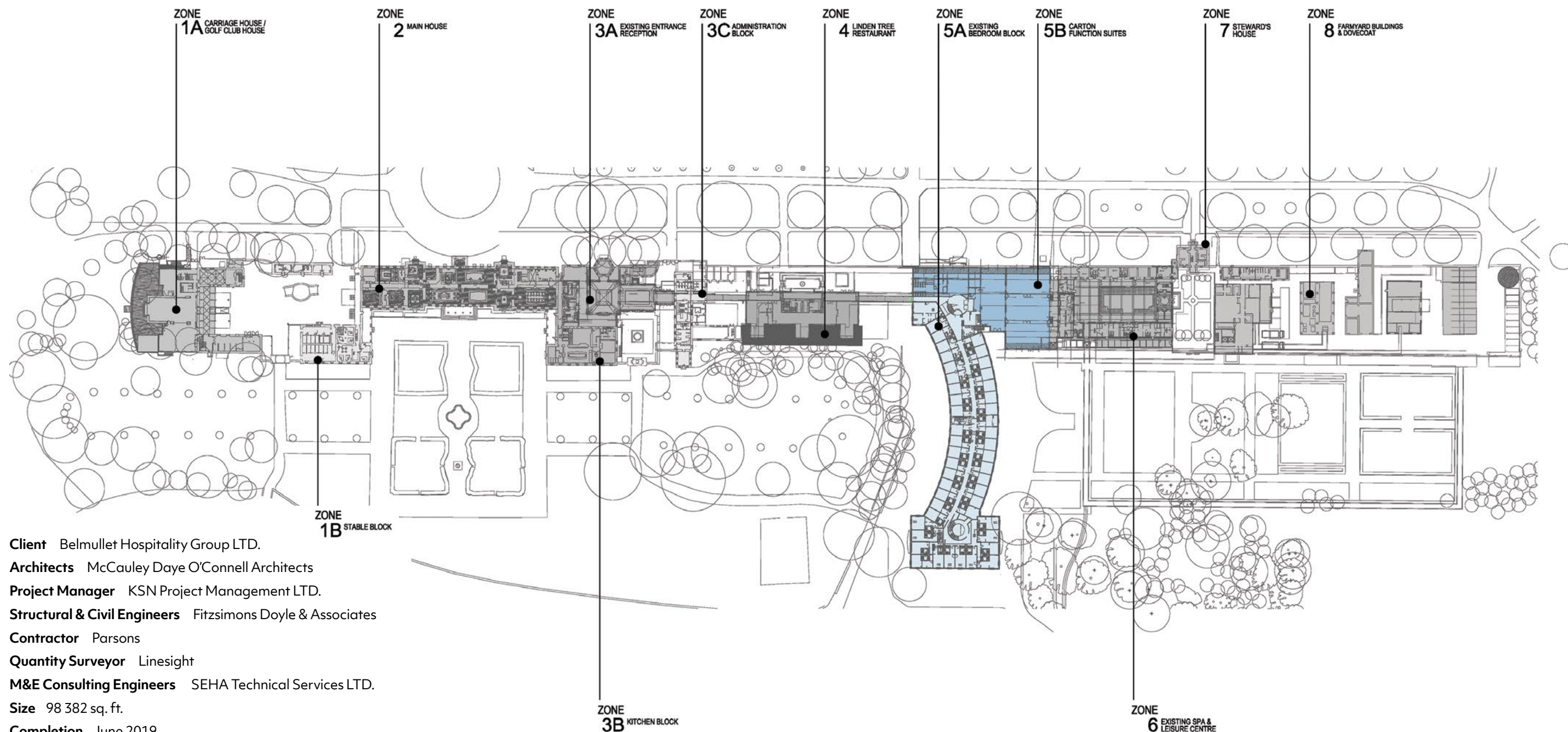




# **CARTON HOUSE**

MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE





## 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refurbishment adopts a rigorous approach to include details such as colour, patterns, materiality, and furniture, using historical references as a cue for a heightened human experience.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

As part of repositioning the hotel and in order to raise the achievable room rate the bedroom block was selected as the first 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

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.





## BEDROOM BLOCK

The newly-refurbished 150 bedrooms seek to convey the atmosphere of a country estate, rather than a traditional hotel, with a richness of colour and texture, elaborate furnishings, and walls lined with paintings and fabrics. A custom-designed carpets were inspired by the elaborate patterning

of William Morris. Special attention was given to interior furniture, with rooms containing a polished oval table with a composite stone top that simulates marble but provides the requisite stain-proofing for the hotel use. A large ceramic lamps in traditional blue and white, and comfortable armchairs

with a William Morris pattern and contrasting cushions sit on the other side of the bed. Embroidered cushions with a contrasting, aged, velvet rear face enhance the bed along with a profiled headboard that echoes previous centuries. Meanwhile, artwork in the rooms are selected to reflect the country

estate, showcasing a series of previous designs and architectural drawings for gatehouses, pedestals, and follies. The bedrooms therefore form a central point of engagement for guests, where the rich history and architectural character of Carton are expressed through a blend of colour, materiality, and texture.





# CONFERENCE & EVENTS

The hotel's 300-seat ballroom has been extensively refurbished, along with the associated pre-function and bar area, first floor meeting rooms, and boardroom. The completed spaces evoke a rich colour palette on walls and floors taking inspiration from the historic blue and gold Chinese Boudoir at Carton House.

A custom-designed carpet was inspired by the Pre-Raphaelite John Millais' painting of Ophelia drowning. It was developed with Ulster Carpets and combined with a new rich colour scheme to entirely revitalise the function and meeting room area. New artwork from Clíodhna Doyle and Jean Bardon

is paired with antique refectory tables and porcelain lamps to complete the decorative elements. Meanwhile, high-output, low energy light fittings make all function and meeting rooms more suitable for conferencing.



Custom-designed carpet





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