House by a Lake

Description
The project comprises of the re-ordering and extension of a 19th century country house in the extreme south west of Ireland. The original house is what can be termed an Irish house of the middle size. A common typology in 19th century Ireland the classical house of the middle size is characterised by a highly ordered plan containing a variety of rooms within a square or rectangular form. A strategy of elaborating the threshold between the reception rooms of the house and the garden was adopted by wrapping the house in a notional forest of columns creating deep verandas to the south and west of the main living spaces. The grid of structural columns derived its proportions directly from the house. The columns became analogous with the mature oak and pine trees in the garden beyond while the floor and ceiling were considered as landscapes in their own right, with the black floor forming hearth stone, kitchen island and basement cellar and the concrete roof inflected to hold roof lights, a chimney and a landscape of pleasure on the roof above.

Aims / Objectives / Questions
1. To restore and extend a “house of the middle size”, a historic Irish typology, in a sympathetic manner.
2. To address the new build accommodation in a sustainable manner through strategies associated with orientation, micro climates, materiality and engineering both mechanical and structural.
3. To explore and develop an understanding for two spatial orders, the enfilade room and non directional space of the grid.
4. The creation of deep threshold space.
5. Marbling as a finish in fair faced concrete
6. Concrete as a sustainable building material

Research Dissemination
1. Winner of Architectural Association of Ireland Award 2010. The project was chosen for award by a peer review panel of national and international jurors including Charles Jenks (USA, Critic, Writer, Architect), Andreas Deplazes (Switzerland, Professor at ETH Zurich, Beart & Deplazes Architects), Yvonne Farrell (Ireland, Grafton Architects, Visting Professor, Louis Kahn Chair, Yale University). A written, drawn and photographic description of the scheme and the peer review panel was included in the publication New Irish Architecture 25, Irish Architecture Awards 2010, Gandon Editions. The project formed part of the exhibition of awards which travelled nationally with venues including the National Gallery of Ireland.
2. Winner of Royal Institute of Architecture Ireland Award 2009. This Project was chosen for award by a peer review panel of national and international critics. A written, drawn and photographic description of the scheme was included in the publication Irish Architecture, The RIAI Annual Review, A compelling Volume of the Best of Irish Architecture 2010 / 2011. The project formed part of the exhibition of awards at the Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin.
3. The project was chosen by author and concrete specialist for inclusion as a chapter in his book Sustainable Concrete, RIBA Publishing, 2010.
4. A lecture describing the project was given as part of the Concrete Elegance Symposium at The Building Centre, London, UK.

Media of Output
Building, written publication, photographic, exhibition.

Authorship
Design Clancy Moore Architect, Colm Moore & Andrew Clancy
Consultants Malachy Walsh & Partners Engineering
S&T O’Shea Limited
David Bennet, Concrete Consultants
Alice Clancy Photographer