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CIARA PETTY

Ciara Petty Design Studio



Ciara Petty returned to Ireland after spending almost 10 years in London working in interior design and branding for a retail design agency, where she led hospitality and retail projects for international brands across South Korea, the United States and Europe.

Her work there focused on translating brand identity into physical environments and creating customer experiences that connect design, storytelling and commercial strategy.

Moving to London was prompted by the financial crisis, as Ciara had just completed a degree in Interior Architecture, while managing a high-end furniture shop in the IFSC, and the economic situation in Ireland did not favour launching a career in interior design.

The Dublin native’s decision to return to Ireland, where she now lives in Ennis, Co Clare, was for personal reasons. “My husband and I had a baby boy in 2019, and we decided that we would come home to be closer to family,” she says.

When the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted employment prospects, she established Ciara Petty Design Studio.

“It’s something I had always wanted to

do, and I felt well prepared in terms of the extensive experience that I had in leading major retail and brand design projects for a wide variety of global companies,” she says.

Ciara Petty Design Studio specialises in commercial interiors for the retail, food service and hospitality sectors.

Ciara has found that the move to Ennis has greatly facilitated family life. “The lifestyle is brilliant. The pace of life is slower, and I find it really great to be able to have a mix of interesting and challenging work and family time,” she says. “I’ve also found it extremely positive from a professional point of view. Doing business in Ireland is a little bit more relaxed, and, essentially, it is more collaborative. Clients here are really involved in the detail from initial concepts through to developed designs.

Ciara says that launching during the pandemic presented challenges, but early projects came through word of mouth and client referrals. Since then, the studio has grown steadily, delivering commercial design projects nationwide for both independent businesses and established national brands.

“Our work spans a diverse range of commercial environments, from independent

boutiques to national retailers including Dunnes Stores, alongside brand rollouts and new retail concepts,” she says.

“With a strong focus on commercially driven design, we work closely with clients to create spaces that enhance the customer experience while supporting how their businesses operate. The business is also expanding further into the hospitality sector and is currently working on its first hotel project.”

In 2025, Ciara Petty Design Studio won the Professional Services Excellence Award at the Clare Business Excellence Awards, reflecting its growing reputation within the regional business community.

Ciara says that participating on the Back for Business course increased her network enormously and taught her invaluable lessons about running a business. “The main thing I’ve learned is to focus on working on the business rather than in the business,” she says. “I would definitely recommend the programme. In fact, I already have recommended it!”

Her plans for the future of the business include moving further into the hospitality sector within the next twelve months, and she hopes to increase the team size by the end of 2026.



POSITION

Founder and Director

WHAT WE DO

We design spaces to live, work, dine and shop in.

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