

Simply Clad

Architect Gemma Ginty talks about the journey to creating her family's west coast forever home, and why Cedral cladding was the perfect fit.



GEMMA'S HOME Eight years ago, while living in London, Gemma Ginty and her husband Cian, bought a Spiddal site overlooking the Burren and the sea. "We didn't even have a family then, but we knew we wanted to come back," she says. "Holidays home were spent walking the site, making models, and working out how to make the most of the light, the views, and the contours of the land." From the start, the design was shaped by the natural rhythms of the area: "All the trees here bend in the same direction from the prevailing south-westerly winds, and I wanted our roof lines to echo that. The form is broken into three pitched volumes, inspired by traditional farmyards where a cluster of buildings gather around a sheltered space. A single, solid block would never have felt right here."



A HOME IN THE LANDSCAPE The sea is a constant presence. "The rhythm of the waves, the sailing boats, the undulating rocky terrain – all of that influenced the sketching. As you move around the building, the forms shift, and the light changes them. I wanted the house to sit with the flow of the land, almost sculptural, rather than imposing on it," she says. The house is cleverly organised so that every space has a view: a vaulted living and kitchen space frames the Burren; an upstairs office looks straight out to the Atlantic; and a calm bedroom wing. The children share one large room that opens onto the garden, designed to evolve with them.

WHY CEDRAL Once back in Ireland, the couple chose a timber frame build for speed and efficiency, and Cedral facades to weatherproof it. "We needed something low-maintenance that could stand up to the wild Atlantic conditions. Cedral's smooth finish and hidden fixings give a contemporary, solid look, and the pewter grey ties beautifully into the granite, the sky, and the zinc roof. It changes constantly with the light," Gemma explains.

LIFE INSIDE Two years on, the family is thriving. "It's calm, practical, and connected to nature. Even a neighbour recently told me that the rooflines remind them of Black Head across the bay – that's such a compliment. We wanted to add to the landscape, not fight it."



CEDRAL: IRELAND'S LEADING FIBRE CEMENT CLADDING AND SLATES PROVIDER

Irish-made for Irish weather, Cedral is Ireland's leading manufacturer of fibre cement facades and roof slates, and is a proud member of Guaranteed Irish. Cedral facades are low-maintenance, durable, and sustainable alternatives to timber cladding, perfect for creating beautiful exteriors that harmonise with Ireland's natural landscape. Cedral also manufactures a full range of beautiful slates, ideally designed for the changeable Irish climate.

The Cedral collections – a refreshed cladding colour range featuring 21 colours across four inspiring ranges – are designed to suit various lifestyles and aesthetics, allowing homeowners to bring their personal style to renovations or new builds.

THE FOUR COLLECTIONS:

The Design Collection: Sleek monochromatic tones for bold, modern designs.

The Natural Collection: Earthy colours for homes that want to harmonise with their natural surroundings.

The Classic Collection: Timeless, calming shades for a warm, inviting aesthetic.

The Expressive Collection: Vibrant hues for blending old and new, ideal for extensions and renovations

GEMMA & CIAN USED: Cedral Lap Facade, Smooth finish Colour: Pewter Grey C54 (Design Collection).

GEMMA'S TOP TIPS

ORDER SAMPLES, VIEW THEM OUTSIDE

Cladding colours shift in different lights, check them in sun, shade, and against your landscape.

LEAN ON THE CEDRAL TEAM The reps are super-helpful, with samples, advice and ready-made details that simplify the process.

INVEST IN WHAT LASTS Prioritise windows, insulation and cladding, the things that won't change with trends.

ENGAGE EARLY WITH PLANNERS Show your plans, share models, and talk to neighbours, for a smoother planning process.

Visit [Cedral.ie](https://cedral.ie) for more information and free samples. Gemma Ginty Architects, gemma.gintyarchitects.com



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