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Small Spaces Big Living: a Community Housing Project

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students learning with communities

Small Spaces Big Living A Community Housing Project



The Project

1st year Interior Design and Furniture students studied Construction Studies as part of a second semester module. One of the briefs in this module involved working with residents of Dublin City Council (DCC) social housing schemes in Raheny and Kilbarrack, facilitated by Cathrina Murphy of DCC.

The students went to existing housing units in the Senior Citizen's Complex Kilbarrack, measured the spaces and identified how they were constructed.

The students then met with residents at Saint Anne's Court Raheny to ask about how they used their homes and the challenges that they faced. After that the students made a series of simple design proposal that the residents could undertake themselves for minimal cost and with maximum benefit.

Benefits for students

The students met real clients and found ways of understanding their needs and working with them. They engaged with the both the client and the process to develop simple changes that could be made which would enhance the quality of life for the residents. The students developed the idea that although the units may be small the lives lived in them could be expansive. Hence the title: Small Spaces Big Living

Benefits for community partners

The community partners benefitted from contact with young designers who listened to their needs and developed solutions that they could actually implement.

The ideas are simple to achieve, with low cost and will make a meaningful and positive change to the way the residents live their lives.

The students met with one group from the community but the principles developed for them can be applied to all.

