If We’re Playing by the Rules, it has to be a Good Game

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O’Malley has made a triumphant return to Dublin from the City of Tribes with a development at Ardilea Crescent in Clonskeagh, writes Larissa Nolan.

The last time O’Malley Constructions encountered homes in Dublin was 2010, when the property market was in full swing and the company’s portfolio had soared to almost €70 million. O’Malley had to hire 140 extra people to build the homes, but by 2012 the world had gone into a recession and “the firm went back to the drawing board,” according to the company’s chief executive, director of O’Malley and managing director, Ken MacDonald.

“They were dark times, but we’re a conservative company,” he says. “The sales of our homes didn’t take a dive. We started selling homes to people who had been holding off, but in those dark days, we did have to look at our financial model and how we could best use our resources to make sure we had enough money to return to the market.”

O’Malley was established in 1971 and is an institution in Galway. Its second-hand, loved homes, described recently as an “O’Malley built home”, guaranteed to attract buyers, isn’t the only thing that sets the company apart according to MacDonald.

“Ardilea is a different story,” he says. “Not only do we have our own in-house team, we have brought in all the knowledge and expertise and know their stuff and advise accordingly. We’re in the game for the long term.”

The company started building in Dublin in 2010 and is building in Baldingbridge (houses), Blackrock Wood, Sandymount (Villas in Dorsey and Wyckham Point in Dundrum). How does a business 200km from Dublin get its eyes on the country’s most exclusive locations, next to Dublin’s most prestigious universities and a few years concentrating only on Galway.”

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