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DESIGNED TO BE DIFFERENT

Audrey Gaffney and her team at 'be design' create unique designs and project manage developments for bars, nightclubs and hotels throughout Ireland and have been acknowledged by the Institute of Irish Designers at the IDI Design Awards for their work.

"The experience our clients have of our distinctive design advice and project management skills in the past has meant that when they are planning other projects they call on us to work with them," explains Audrey.

'be design' works with its clients to develop concept design schemes, compile budgets for complete jobs and is involved in the design planning of the project as well as all drawings and documentation required for tendering and local authorities.

The experienced 'be design' team will manage all elements including the main contractor, the various sub-contractors and consultants during the construction works as well as managing the entire fit-out process, ensuring budgets are adhered to and that its design concepts and details are observed through to completion. **LCN**



Audrey Gaffney

'BE DESIGN' PROJECTS

THE OLD ORCHARD INN, LETTERKENNY, CO. DONEGAL:

Owner Mark Crossan has previously hired 'be design' to design and project manage the Pulse Venue project which was completed in March 2012. On the most recent project, the 'be design' team was tasked with changing the top floor of The Old Orchard Inn from an existing nightclub to an elegant function room.

Audrey Gaffney, managing director explains, "There were a lot of existing items that we felt we could up-cycle. One of the bars was treated to a new bar front and had a redesigned back bar installed which is spectacular with its crystal display, antiqued mirror, mosaic arches and glass shelving. Unique copper ball pendant lights with crystal internal detail were sourced for over the front bar."

Siobhan Murphy, senior designer on this project continues, "The main feature in the room is the amazing, large centrepiece located over the dance floor. This centrepiece was originally a circular lighting structure for the nightclub. We used our creative skills to transform it into a stunning focal point. Miniature LED lights give the sparkle above a draped canopy with breath-taking results. Moulding panelling decorates the room along with embossed textured wallcovering in a metallic copper finish. Specially designed carpet was commissioned for the complete room and entrance stairwell."

"We planned and managed the entire refurbishment ensuring that the project was completed within the agreed time-frame and budgets", explains Audrey. "It's important to have enough time before a project goes to site to ensure every item and detail have been confirmed. This ensured that we had the project completed for our client in time for the Christmas party season."



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MANTIS NIGHTCLUB, MAIN STREET, OMAGH:

When asked to design a new nightclub as part of the Omagh complex, Audrey Gaffney was delighted with the opportunity to work on this prestigious project and the 'be design' team successfully worked the brief from owner Michael McElroy.

Mantis Nightclub is stunning and needs to be seen to be believed. 'be design' used seductive images throughout the club, playing on a theme from the Moulin Rouge but with a modern twist. A dark red metal ceiling as you enter has been used with halo lighting and directional pin spots for a dramatic effect to the corridor, framed at the end with more elegant swagged red velvet curtains.

Asked about the finished design of Mantis, Audrey Gaffney said: "When you enter Mantis you are immediately absorbed into a different world, one of sultry glamour and seduction. Dark textured wall-coverings are mixed with glitzy golds and silvers. Soft velvet swagged curtains frame the entrance where a dazzling crystal shaded pendant adorns the silver-plated ceiling. The main bar is crowned with five large basket crystal chandeliers that dramatically reflect in the polished black granite bar countertop. The bar is draped with gold embossed velvet curtains, the back wall is adorned with large ornate gold mirrors & the whole wall has been treated to a gold shimmering, hardwearing foil; a unique new product to the market. The complete bar has a dropped ceiling that is wrapped with a 3D gold reflective finish. An eight metre long LED screen dominates the nightclub and a four-metre diameter crystal chandelier has to be seen to be believed. It is made up of thousands of crystals which give it its amazing sparkle and incorporated in its centre is a large revolving disco ball."

Designed to impress any guest, the luxurious VIP room offers table service to celebrity parties for the night in opulent surroundings. Ornate gold-framed sofas dressed with flock printed leathers, bespoke gold embossed chairs with decorative studding and a unique 'knocker' detail, ornate gilt mirrors and moody wall lights and the crowning glory is an elliptical crystal chandelier centred in a gold ornate tiled ceiling.

There is a second bar located at the opposite end of Mantis Nightclub which is just as impressive. Upholstered in a shiny silk-like fabric with silver studded deep buttons and a purple shimmering hardwearing foil, this bar takes on a life of its own. The countertop of this bar has been treated with a gold glittering material that 'be design' sourced specially for this venue. Colour changing lights are encased within and this works really effectively, drawing your eye across the long expanse of this gold glittering surface.

Audrey Gaffney added: "We could not be happier with the finished project, it is every adult's Disney World. We wanted revellers to have a memorable experience and leave Mantis anticipating their next visit."



A BUSY YEAR AHEAD...

This year is going to be a busy one for the 'be design' team. Not only are they finishing the suites in the City Hotel, Derry but they are also working on a number of refurbishment projects within the hotel itself.

Work also continues in Counties Cork, Louth, Cavan, Westmeath and Derry with the reconstruction of Voodoo Niteclub in Cork City, the renovation of Castlebellingham Hotel in County Louth and the revamp of bedroom suites in Cabra Castle Hotel, County Cavan. And the 'be design' team has recently completed a renovation of Viva Nightclub and The Piano Bar in Athlone and have created a new reception in Seagate Technologies in Derry City.

The last word goes to Audrey Gaffney: "2012 was a great year for us with the creation of many nightclubs, bars, restaurants and corporate projects and we are now looking forward to creating more amazing interiors in 2013 that we cannot wait to reveal!"

THE CITY HOTEL, DERRY

Derry made history after winning its bid to be the first ever UK City of Culture. This means that this year, Derry will play host to a year-long celebration of culture in the city, opening its doors to visitors from across the world. The management of the City Hotel is looking forward to welcoming national and international guests and to showcase their newly refurbished hotel. They have once again called in the services of Audrey Gaffney and the 'be design' team to design and project manage the complete renovation of the top floor in the hotel.

Audrey Gaffney said: "For the past number of years we have designed and project managed a number of design developments for the City Hotel in Derry. The experience they had of our unique design advice and project management skills has meant that when this large project was being planned, we were brought back on board."

With its amazing views of the city, the seventh floor is being fitted out in bedroom suites with each suite being named after different people involved in Derry's history. It will incorporate references to the city in the form of artwork and fabrics. Keeping the classic modern look of the hotel but ensuring that it reflects the 21st Century with modern fittings and technology.

Carpets have been custom-designed, fire-rated hardwearing surfaces have been sourced and the 'be design' team presented the owners with elaborate schemes and 3D visuals showcasing the end results.

The experienced 'be design' team managed all elements including the main contractor, various sub-contractors and consultants during the construction works as well as managing the entire fit-out process, ensuring that their design concepts and details are observed completely.



THE DESIGN TEAM AT 'BE DESIGN'

Audrey Gaffney BA Int Arch,
interior architect and managing
director

Orla McAdam designer manager
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