



Hudson house  
Navan, Co. Meath, Ireland

Sheila O'Donnell  
and John Tuomey

Project team  
Sheila O'Donnell, John Tuomey  
with Fiona McDonald

Construction  
1997-98



A narrow, linear garden behind an existing restaurant on Railway Street is the site for the Hudson house. The house was designed in response to the clients' particular requirements: they needed to be near to, but separate from, their workplace. Previously, they had been living over the restaurant and using an existing courtyard – the hollowed-out shell of a disused workshop – as an outdoor room.

The house is organized around three courtyards with external circulation between living and sleeping zones. The living space and bedroom tower are positioned on either side of the footprint of the former workshop. Storey-height retaining walls hold back the higher-level neighbours' gardens on either side of the court while the living-room roof is at the same level as the adjoining gardens.

The cast-in-situ cranked roof gives the living space a cave-like character. Glazed screen doors connect living and courtyard spaces and the stone floor runs from inside to outside. Access to the three bedroom floors is across the sunken courtyard. The upper bedrooms have views across the gardens to the Navan skyline. Concrete steps lead from the courtyard level along the side court to the existing raised garden at the rear. The house is built from concrete and lined internally with plasterboard and plywood. The external joinery is of untreated iroko.

## O'Donnell and Tuomey Dublin



