

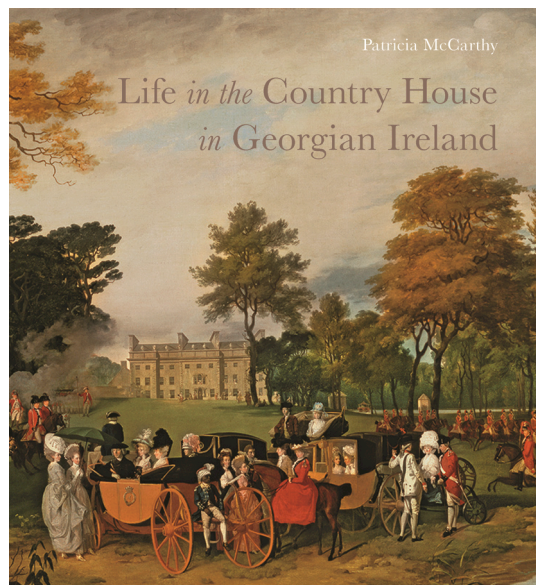
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Life in the Country House in Georgian Ireland

Patricia McCarthy

Did married couples sleep in the same bed or in separate rooms? Why did it become prohibitively expensive for some to accept dinner invitations from their friends? Did many of our female forebears relieve themselves by using a bourdaloue? And how did servants make extra cash?

For aristocrats and gentry in 18th-century Ireland, the townhouses and country estates they resided in were carefully constructed to accommodate their cultivated lifestyles. Based on new research from Irish national collections and correspondence culled from papers in private keeping, this book provides a vivid and engaging look at the various ways in which families tailored their homes to their personal needs and preferences. While remarkably flexible, these houses were arranged in accordance with their residents' daily practices, demonstrating a distinction between public and private spaces, and the roles and arrangements of the servants in their purposeful layouts. With careful consideration given to both the practicality of everyday routine and the occasional special event, this book illustrates how the lives and houses of these people were inextricably woven together.

Dr Patricia McCarthy is an independent architectural historian based in Dublin.

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