Once the home to former Archbishop of Dublin, John Charles McQuaid, and more recently, the former South African ambassador, Melanie Verwoerd, this grand Victorian Gothic mansion recently underwent a £1 million refurbishment.

Set on a sprawling private woodland, the 9,600 sq. ft. Ashurst House was the preferred residence of the Archbishop of Dublin who renamed the home ‘Notre Dame des Bois’. The Archbishop lived in the stately home from the 1950s until his death in 1973.

Built in the 1860s for the MP William Dobbs, the home saw dramatic structural changes, most notably the addition of a large belfry tower to allow the Archbishop undisturbed panoramic views of Killiney Bay and the Sugarloaf.

To ensure the longevity of the building’s roof, Dublin-based architectural firm Brazil Associates chose Icynene spray foam insulation. The architectural firm selected Icynene due to its ability to help stabilize the roof slates against wind-driven rain and degradation as well as for its ability to allow the existing lime render parging to breathe. Furthermore, the insulation’s air sealing qualities were a welcome advantage.

Licensed local Icynene spray foam insulation contractor, Western Insulations Ltd applied open cell Icynene Classic to the entire sloping roof - 4,200 sq. ft. in total - to a thickness of six inches.

The spray crew had to work carefully to remove the old, existing fiberglass insulation while making sure that the integrity of the delicate roof slates remained intact.

The insulation work was completed successfully allowing other trades to carry out additional restoration work. The mansion now is protected and well insulated by Icynene spray foam ensuring its continued performance for years to come.

Footnotes/Sources:
1. Icynene Inc. would like to thank Icynene distributor GMS Insulations and contractor Western Insulations Ltd. for their assistance with this document. Photographs supplied by GMS Insulations and Western Insulations Ltd.