

**DON'T
MOVE
IMPROVE!**

nla

2021 EDITION

CELEBRATION OF HOME

FEATURING

**LONDON'S 100
MOST INSPIRING
SCHEMES**

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We engage the broadest possible audience across government, business and the public to educate, challenge, connect and drive positive change.

NLA's activities include research, events, publications, exhibitions, walking tours, learning programmes, websites and social media platforms, awards and competitions, the world's largest architecture festival and public galleries that feature large interactive scale models of London.

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DON'T
MOVE
IMPROVE!
2021 EDITION

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A CELEBRATION OF HOME

This year, our homes have played a bigger role in our lives than ever before. With so much time spent inside we have asked a lot more from our domestic spaces; from office to gym, from school to studio, home has been the place to eat, sleep, work, learn, relax, and play.

Don't Move, Improve! celebrates the homeowners and architects pushing boundaries to create spaces that improve liveability of homes and contribute to London's rich character. Across the programme we explore projects that show us innovation, creativity, daring and careful consideration of materials, as well as a clear strategy for the efficiency and longevity of the buildings.

It's fascinating to see how design trends evolve over time. This year, bold use of colour and pattern remains an ongoing theme. Yet, we've also seen a lot more projects heroing raw materials and finishes, with bare plaster walls, pigmented concrete and exposed interior brick.

The full impact of the work-from-home revolution is still to be seen and we look forward to witnessing how the projects being developed now will respond to these changing work patterns in the coming years' entries. Alongside this, a renewed energy behind the green agenda is set to inspire new creative solutions to greening our homes and reducing waste, an area that is only just taking hold within residential scale architecture.

We can't wait to be able to get people back together. Our year-round *Don't Move, Improve!* programme grows every year. With design surgeries, social evenings, workshops, product displays and exhibitions, we look forward to being able to invite you back to discover and explore the exciting renovation projects being developed across London.

Amy Till, Programme Director, NLA



House Recast by Studio Ben Allen. Photography: French+Tye

ABOUT DON'T MOVE, IMPROVE!

Don't Move, Improve! is an annual programme and competition that encourages great design in everyday life and celebrates the newest and most innovative home improvement projects from across London..

This magazine includes all 100 featured projects of *Don't Move, Improve!* 2021, highlighting the winning and shortlisted projects with exclusive insights from industry experts on emerging trends and styles.

THE COMPETITION

The annual competition is open to practices and homeowners who have carried out extensions on top of, underneath and on the side or back of buildings, and/or interior insertions, conversions, and garden studios in Greater London in the past two years. This issue covers the period between September 2018–September 2020. Projects featured in the awards demonstrate:

- Exceptional innovation, creativity and originality
- High quality design that improves liveability of space and quality of life
- Cost-effectiveness
- Environmental consideration for the materials, efficiency and longevity of the building
- Contextual design that adds to London's character and the life of the surrounding neighbourhood

PRIZES

As well as the Overall Winner, this year we have awarded seven special prizes that celebrate emerging trends and key challenges within home improvement projects. These are:

- Unique Character Prize
- Urban Oasis of the Year
- Compact Design of the Year
- Best Project Under £100K
- Environmental Leadership Prize
- Materiality and Craftsmanship Prize
- WFH Design of the Year



JURY

Our jury includes experts from across the industry. This year's jury includes:

KUNLE BARKER, Melt Property, COO
MELISSA DOWLER, Director, Bell Phillips Architects
TOM FOXALL, Head of Region for London and South East, Historic England
PETER MURRAY, Curator-in-chief, New London Architecture
KAREN STYLIANIDES, Editor, Grand Designs Magazine
AMIN TAHA, Director, Groupwork
TAMSIE THOMSON, Director, London Festival of Architecture
SEBASTIAN WOOD, Founder, Whitby Wood

PEER REVIEW PANEL

Our Peer Review Panel was introduced this year to independently assess all of the projects submitted to the awards. The Panel, made up of the winning architects from *Don't More, Improve!* 2020, selected the top 100 projects to be featured in this year's programme. The Panel includes:

PHIL COFFEY, Director, Coffey Architects
CHRISTIAN DUCKER, Director, Gundry & Ducker Architecture
RICHARD KEEP, Principal, Richard Keep Architects
OLIVER LEECH, Founder, Oliver Leech Architects
MAN LUO, Architect and Co-founder, Manyu architects
MIKE SHAW, Director, Proctor and Shaw
SILVIA ULLMAYER, Founding Director, ullmayer sylvester architects

CONCRETE CONNECTIONS

HOUSE RECAST, HARINGEY

OVERALL WINNER



House Recast by Studio Ben Allen has been selected as the Overall Winner for the *Don't Move, Improve!* 2021 competition. The project pushes the boundaries of off-site fabrication for small-scale residential and creates a unique home specifically catering to the clients needs. The owners, a retired couple, approached Studio Ben Allen to reconsider the piecemeal rear facade of their end-of-terrace Victorian house in north London and to provide a new kitchen and two new bathrooms — one to be on the ground floor and accessible. Studio Ben Allen were encouraged by the client to use the project as a testbed for ideas. Led by architects Omar Ghazal and Ben Allen, they used the project as a vehicle to explore the limits of off-site fabrication — something that they felt was lacking in smaller-scale residential or alteration projects.





‘One of our favourite parts of the project is the use of light through the arched ceiling into the stunning kitchen.’

Russell and Alan, homeowners



House Recast is a spatially rich project to create an extension to a house in Haringey of in situ concrete made in Cornwall and craned into place, with all the time-savings that entails. But it is also a lesson in creating a ‘mature narrative’ through views that elegantly connect spaces, whilst celebrating materials at the same time.

The primary exterior structure is expressed in a light green hue, itself a test of using pigmented, graduating-patterned concrete, partially to hark back to some of the Victorian structures in the neighbourhood, and offset by a salmon coloured-infill. The rear elevation includes a louvred window to bring light into a new ‘Hammam-like’ wetroom pod. The bathroom has bespoke brass handles and spouts and stripped back ironmongery setting off a green bench plus a concrete

bathtub pre-cast in Kent. Another louvred ceiling alongside brings dappled light from above onto many interior fittings and floors also made of concrete in the kitchen, with a small hatch connecting kitchen to living room.

The kitchen leads up some steps into a ‘light touch’ dining room with a table designed by the practice. From here there are views back out through another arch to the garden and up to a second arched window above at the top of a new double-height volume and mezzanine reading ‘nook’. This in turn connects to the house’s main stair, whose balustrade was also designed off site as a kit of parts. The motif on this balustrade relates to the pattern on the concrete. Yet another new archway leads back from dining room to entrance hallway to living room and back through the ‘peephole’ hatch.





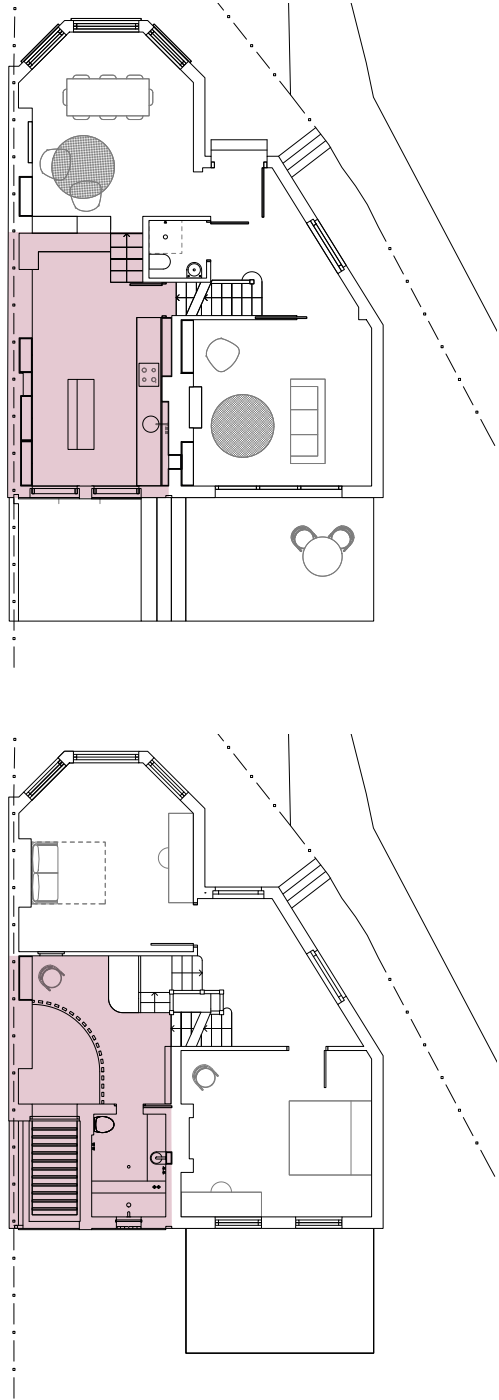
‘That was one of the themes; trying to create connection points throughout the house’, said architect Ben Allen. ‘The client gave us a lot of freedom. In our concepts we don’t talk about materials at all, but in this case we did talk about it being concrete, but we hadn’t investigated it. So it was more about making these connections with the double-height space and establishing both axial and diagonal views through the house’.

The scheme is also an exemplary case for a small, emerging practice investigating the advantages and limitations of using concrete — although building it in four days was ‘quite intense’. What is more, says Allen, it was also a way of furthering the practice’s interest in stretching clients’ budgets to what they did not think they could afford to build — in essence through using off-site and other ‘interesting ways of building things’. ‘It’s definitely been a journey’, Allen adds. □



ARCHITECT: STUDIO BEN ALLEN | STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: ENTUITIVE | LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT: DANIEL BELL LANDSKAP | CONCRETE SUPPLIER: CORNISH CONCRETE AND CONCREATIONS | PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE

New ground and first floor plans, highlighting the small but impactful extension



JUDGES’ COMMENTS

‘I love this house! It feels very much like a modern intervention, yet is completely in-keeping with the period of the property and original motives. I think they’ve played off that relationship really nicely, without falling into pastiche or cliché. It’s all that layering as you move through that is just so special.’ — Melissa Dowler

Getting started and keeping your project on track

Amanda Pollard, Editor at Houzz, gives us her four top tips for taking on your home improvement project and making sure it turns out exactly how you imagined



We've spent a lot of time in our homes this year, and how they function has become increasingly important. In fact, Houzz research recently found that three in five homeowners were inspired to start a home renovation or design project during the pandemic (68 per cent). Whether you're looking to tackle the jobs that lockdown highlighted, create more space for the family or add a home office, there are plenty of things to consider. It can be hard to know how to plan financially for a home improvement project and keep a handle on the costs. Houzz.co.uk, the leading platform for home renovation and design, spoke with professionals from their community to share some tips on what you could expect and how to keep projects on track.

1. Think ahead. If you haven't renovated before, you may not realise that the planning phase often takes longer than the construction work itself. It's likely that you will need to have decisions about style, layout, finishes and materials finalised before work begins to avoid costly delays during construction. The latest Houzz & Home Report found that UK homeowners took an average of five to 12 months to plan their projects, depending on the room. Kitchens, one of the most popular spaces to renovate, took an average of 10 months to plan, while construction took just over five months. It's tempting to rush into a project, but it pays to take the time to plan thoroughly and make sure you have everything prepared!

2. Communicate with your pro. Having clear communication lines with everyone working on the project will be vital for staying on track and avoiding any delays. When you hire a pro using Houzz Pro software, all your communications are kept in one centralised place. You can return to this history whenever you want to review what's been proposed and approved and keep on top of any outstanding questions. This way, both you and your pro have an easy-to-access, centralised record of all project decisions.

3. Plan in a contingency fund. Budgeting for a project can be challenging, and, according to Houzz, just 51 per cent of renovating homeowners hit their budgets in 2019. Of the 46 per cent of homeowners who ended up over budget, the most common reasons for overspending were 'deciding to buy more expensive products or materials' (44 per cent) or 'products or services being more costly than expected' (39 per cent). When you're planning for a renovation project, it's important to always account for the unexpected. Professionals on Houzz recommend setting aside at least 10 per cent of your total budget.



4. Understand your estimates. When you receive a quote, it's important to be clear on what's included in the price. 'Typically, the contractor will not include items such as windows, kitchens, bathroom fittings or finishes,' says architect on Houzz, Denise O'Connor of Optimise Home. 'These are referred to as client supply items and are sometimes given what's called a provisional cost by the contractor in their pricing document. The provisional cost, also called a PC sum, refers to the estimated cost of something that the contractor assumes the client will supply.' Remember to read estimates carefully and query anything you are unsure about. Houzz Pro software allows professionals to build accurate estimates and proposals in minutes and to send them to you to approve digitally, making this process easier for you both! □



The creation of joy: why you need an architect

Christopher Moore and Dean McCauley-Bove from We Design Homes give their expert opinion to a common question within home renovations projects: 'do I really need an architect?'



Project by Neil Dushenko Architects. Photography: Agnese Savito



Three hundred and five words. That's how many you'll find in this story. It's not enough, of course, to answer the question of why you need an architect. It's a topic that could be subject for a book, we suspect. But in essence, perhaps it's plenty enough words.

It's a question we get asked a lot at We Design Homes. We are an online platform dedicated to showcasing the best residential architects in the UK and Ireland and matching them with potential clients to design better places to live. We also provide a complimentary briefing service that ensures those clients have a better chance of securing the right architect for their project. And vice versa. So the question of why you need an architect is central to what we do.

We could talk for pages about the benefits of commissioning an architect for your new home, extension or renovation. We could talk about getting a home that's designed just for you, not for the market. About using a highly qualified expert who can bring all of their creativity to design spaces that suit the way you live, now and into the future. About having someone on your side to deal with the vagaries of planning departments, contractors, budgets and material schedules.

But at the end of the day, you need an architect because they can collaborate with you to create someplace that brings you joy. A place where you can retreat to after a long day at work (or work from without feeling land-locked and put upon). Raise a family. Grow old. Watch sunlight creep across the floor on a winter's day. Accommodate friends for a long night in. Commissioning an architect is an exercise in the creation of joy. We could all use a bit more of that? □

PEAK PERFORMANCE

MOUNTAIN VIEW, SYDENHAM

UNIQUE CHARACTER PRIZE



This radical transformation of an Edwardian semi-detached, Mountain View by CAN brings together cultural, design and architectural influences into a colourful family home topped with a stage set mountain, its originality and personality making it an obvious choice for the Unique Character Prize. Materials, shapes and colours are intersected throughout to create highly textural and tactile spaces. The house takes its design cues from numerous pop culture sources including a Disneyland rollercoaster and a scene from the film *Trainspotting*.



ARCHITECT: CAN | STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: HARDMAN
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS | CONTRACTOR: CATALIN LONDON
LTD. | PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM STEPHENSON



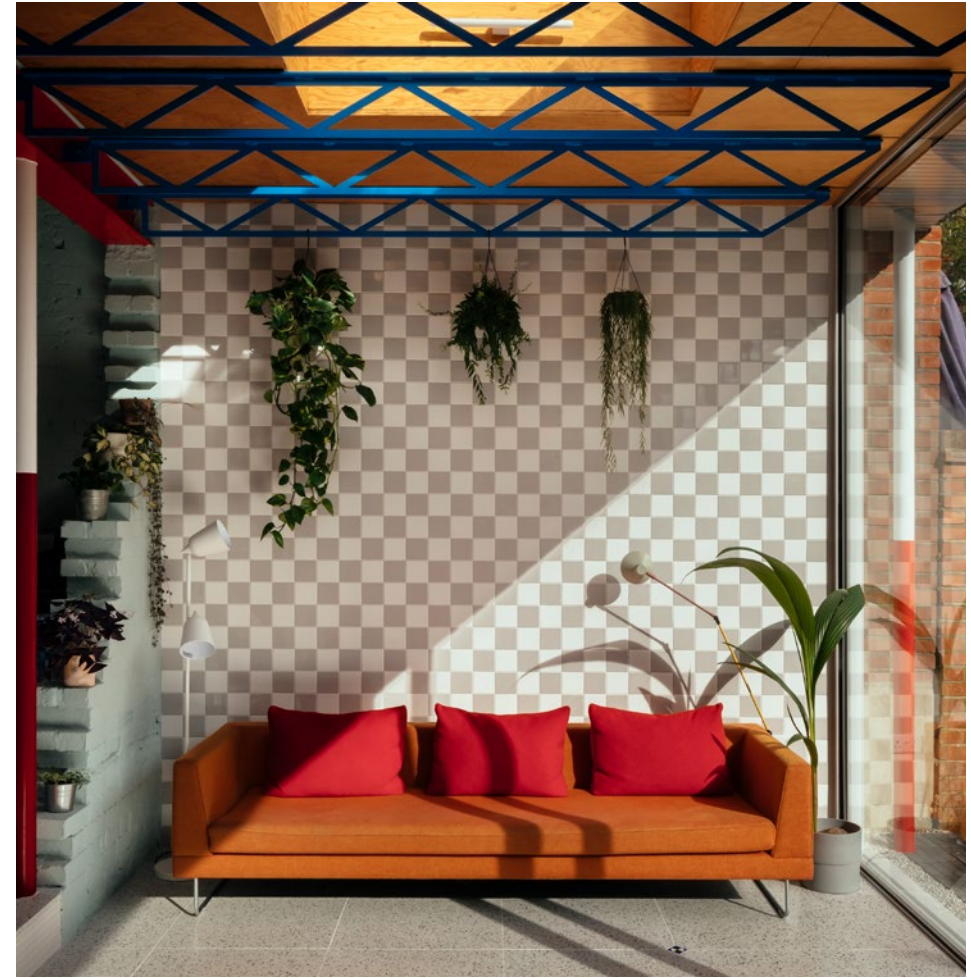
Mountain View is a project to transform what looks from its entrance like many of the other Edwardian houses that line the street it sits on in Sydenham, south London, until you glimpse its mountain...

Influenced by the Soane Museum and other cultural pointers, the scheme to create a colourful family home for its architect owners involved retaining the original frontage but adding new sash windows and retaining original openings to the front while remodelling the rear, opening spaces up and negotiating a level change that allowed for extra 'loftiness' in the ceiling height.

A rear extension acts as a living room or flexible space opening out onto the tree-lined garden through sliding glazed doors. A tiny side extension provides space for a child's desk area (where she can 'pretend to work from home') that will become a window seat in time. Viewed from the garden, the 'mountain' of the title becomes clear; the extension is capped with a profile like a mountain made of aluminium foam that draws inspiration from an exhibition and fake mountains of the sort created in Disneyland (as well as the real Fishtail Mountain in Nepal), supported by red and white columns and blue laser-cut metal trusses. The columns are loosely placed to resemble trees, with other 'landscape' features brought to mind like a lake in a reflective table and rocks in its legs.

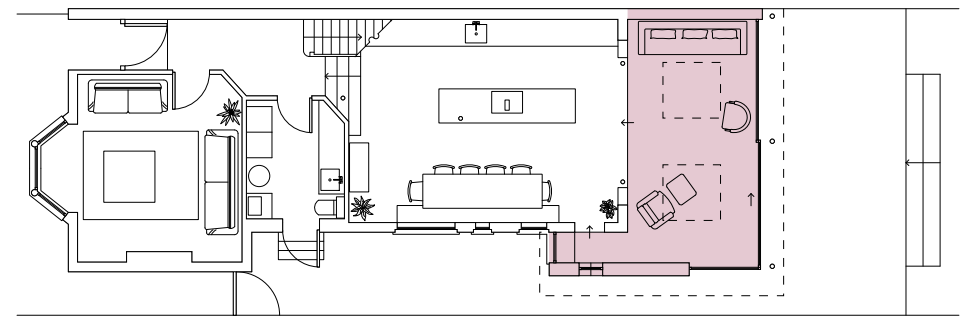
Between the extension and the kitchen, the architects also 'left a little of the old house in', by keeping part of the brick wall to 'emphasise the dereliction' of its former life, a move influenced by the film *Trainspotting*.

'We didn't have any context to respond to, so we created our own context... We were thinking of the idea of how we could emphasise the idea of the fragility of it. So, what's the heaviest thing we can think of? Obviously, a bit tongue in cheek, we thought of a mountain.' □



'The house is a direct reaction to the dominant beige and bricky aesthetic of UK architecture. There is this idea that you add art to the walls to bring out the character. Why can't the architecture provide the character?'

Mat Barnes, architect and owner



Ground floor plan highlighting the new extension

JUDGES' COMMENTS

'It's bonkers; like a complete stream of consciousness. But I love the project' — Melissa Dowler

BLENDING OLD AND NEW

With any alteration to a home, it is important that it sits comfortably in its context and blends effortlessly with the existing architecture. These projects highlight that whether you incorporate a bold extension or a more subtle addition the relationship between these elements deserves the highest design quality.



AMBLER ROAD, HIGHBURY
The homeowners of Ambler Road wanted to preserve the original character of the main house, but complement it with a modern new intervention. The ambitious structural design opened up the space with dynamic triangulated forms that allowed the rear annex to float over the kitchen.
ARCHITECT: THE GENTLEMAN ARCHITECT LTD
PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID BUTLER



EVELYN STREET, DEPTFORD
The exterior of this design introduces new elements onto the old facade. It incorporates sleek metal planters and an external staircase that acts as an integral connection between the interior space and the garden.
ARCHITECT: GRUFF ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE



HIGHSHORE HERITAGE, PECKHAM
Set within a conservation area, much of the original house is unaltered. Modifications have been sensitive and purposeful, such as enlarging a previously internalised window to connect the original lounge and new kitchen.
ARCHITECT: STUDIO 30 ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: JOSEPH TRAYLEN



HOUSE 101, PECKHAM
This project transforms the house with a modern extension at the front and rear, contrasting with the original regency architecture. The spaces now seamlessly flow together, working well for family life and connecting the house with nature.
ARCHITECT: SELENCKY//PARSONS
PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD CHIVERS



REES STREET, ISLINGTON
Replacing everything but the four walls, the modern interior now belies its Victorian frontage. Creating a seamless connection between old and new, the architects used a simple colour and material palette to allow the architecture to be clearly understood.
ARCHITECT: MAXWELL AND COMPANY
PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LANDERS



VAULT HOUSE, HARINGEY
A delicate vaulted ceiling casts a new light on this extension to a Victorian family home. The project strikingly contrasts the original spaces with traditional covings and Georgian proportions against the new modern additions.
ARCHITECT: ATOMIK ARCHITECTURE
PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNESE SANVITO



WHITE HOUSE, HARINGEY
The success of this project lies in the handling of the varied and contrasting elements. The reworking of the outrigger provides a number of modern rooms with a marked contrast to the historic spaces, yet without competing with the original features.
ARCHITECT: MW ARCHITECTS LTD
PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE



WILTON WAY, LONDON FIELDS
This new simple design has an inherent common language to the existing building, where brick meets brick and timber meets timber, each time with a clear distinction between old and new whilst maintaining a shared celebration of craft.
ARCHITECT: FREEHAUS
PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNESE SANVITO

We Design Homes

We connect enthusiastic homeowners with exceptional residential architects.
Whether you're renovating, extending, or even building a new home, we're here to help you find the right practice to create a truly special place to live. www.wedesignhomes.co.uk

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AN INTERLOCKING PUZZLE

TWO AND A HALF STOREY HOUSE, STOKE NEWINGTON



Two and a Half Storey House by Bradley Van Der Straeten Architects has been selected as the joint winner for Compact Design of the Year, for its ingenious interlocking design which introduces another bedroom to a house with difficult planning constraints. The project was completed for a family having a second baby on the way and who didn't want to move from their two-bedroom home, located on a housing estate in Stoke Newington. After unsuccessful attempts to get planning for a new full-height roof extension, the solution was to work within Permitted Development guidelines and add a half-height box dormer, invisible from the street.

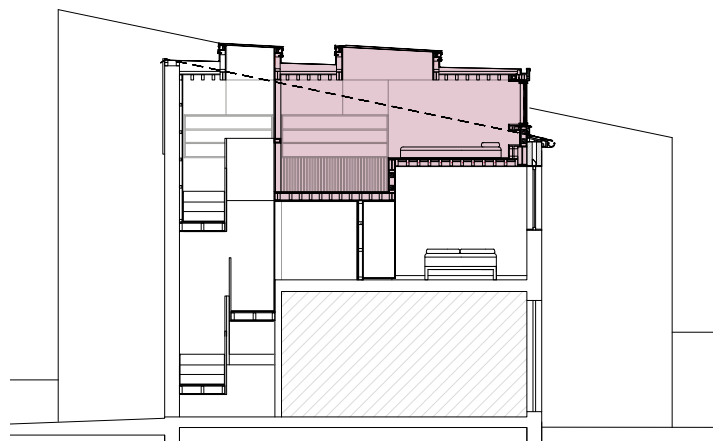


ARCHITECT: BRADLEY VAN DER STRAETEN ARCHITECTS | STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
CONSTANT STRUCTURAL DESIGN LTD | CONTRACTOR: GREGOS BUILDERS AND
DECORATORS | PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE



'It's a really easy family house to live in and we love being able to see our eldest son playing in his room, using the hallway window. From the moment my son saw his room he loved it and will play for hours in there!'

Beth, homeowner



Section highlighting the new bedroom with raised mezzanine level



This clever, complex, geometric challenge of a project sits on a Stoke Newington housing estate — on which the architect also lives. Many of the homes in the area are two-storey houses with long, thin layouts, and many have taken advantage of permitted development to create long, thin dormer extensions to get an extra floor.

But the scheme's wider and shorter form meant that the architect needed to opt for a different, ingenious proposition. The clients were seeking an extra bedroom, with the solution being a half-storey addition that fits within regulations. This was achieved by stepping (in section) interlocking rooms, Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation being something of an inspiration to architect George Bradley.

The scheme includes making the ground floor open plan and creating a new kitchen, plus new full-width glazing onto the garden, with the beginnings of the language of the upstairs work expressed in the plywood clad stair. The stair continues past two bedrooms and a bathroom at first floor and on to a new level with interlocking volumes and storage within, squeezing out as much space and head-height as possible. 'The aim of this project was to accommodate an extra bedroom within a small amount of additional space, without making the whole house feel cramped and constricted', said Bradley. 'We actually wanted to result in adding more space within a similar volume but to make the house feel bigger'. □

JUDGES' COMMENTS

'This was clever geometry. A perfect solution to fit the needs of the family, I think a lot of ex-council houses could benefit from ingenuity like this.' — Peter Murray

TOGETHERNESS

With space being at a premium, especially within London, these projects highlight the importance of maximising spaces so that everyone can come together. Taking into consideration views out and the privacy within, they all create great social hubs at the heart of each home.



MUNSTER ROAD, FULHAM
This scheme makes full use of the limited available space with a very fluid relationship between the internal and external spaces. It uses a series of vertical and horizontal flat planes, to introduce the staircase as a focal point, and convert this former double garage into a spacious family home.
ARCHITECT: ALCANTARA EVANS ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK GUTTRIDGE



BRICK LINTEL HOUSE, HERNE HILL
The ground floor of this renovation is arranged with a 'core' of supporting functions, a grand L-shaped room wraps around accommodating the living, kitchen, dining, and snug. Leading onto a semi-submerged courtyard, the space captures southerly light whilst maintaining privacy.
ARCHITECT: PROCTOR AND SHAW
PHOTOGRAPHY: STÅLE ERIKSEN

‘We love the drama of our living space. The expansiveness connects us with the outside, be it the patter of rain on the roof lights or the misty winter mornings obscuring the train tracks.’

Sinaed, homeowner,
Room in the Roof



CHARRED HOUSE, LADYWELL
With a complete reconfiguration of the ground floor, internal spaces are now linked in an open plan way that suits modern living. They benefit from a strong connection to the rear garden through an oriel window and glazed pivot door.
ARCHITECT: RIDER STIRLAND ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: ADAM SCOTT



LEVERTON STREET, KENTISH TOWN
The scheme includes two self-contained, duplex flats for a brother and sister. Each has its own entrance to the street, stairwell and identity through colour and materials, and shares social and amenity space on the ground floor.
ARCHITECT: ROAR ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: OLLIE HAMMICK



LONGFIELD, EALING
A transformational re-configuration of the interior connects living, kitchen, hallway, and dining spaces through from the front of the house to the full-width warehouse-like extension at the back of the house.
ARCHITECT: THE VAWDREY HOUSE LTD
PHOTOGRAPHY: SIOBHÁN DORAN



ROOM IN THE ROOF, MAPESBURY CONSERVATION AREA, KILBURN
Maximising the grandeur of the opened-up mansion house roof space, this scheme creates an airy kitchen and living space. Birch ply joinery with blackened steel accents, oak floors and tiles required little onward processing so kept costs down.
ARCHITECT: VARIANT OFFICE
PHOTOGRAPHY: RACHAEL SMITH



WORKING FROM HOME, NUNHEAD
An office at the heart of the home became a pivot point between living room and kitchen extension, making different activities feel more connected and inclusive. Internal spaces were reconfigured to allow light to flood deep into the plan.
ARCHITECT: MESH WORKSHOP | PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK WOODFORD

SPACIOUSNESS

Cleverly playing with light and height, these homes create a sense of spaciousness that stretches each room up and out, often connecting it with the surrounding greenery. By introducing these additional lofty features, they have been able to exaggerate the sense of openness and allow each space to breathe.



BRIXTON HOUSE, LAMBETH
Strategic placement of rooflights throughout ensures daylight protrudes deep into the house from all sides. A small courtyard links the extension to the garden, giving the rear part of the house a feeling of depth despite the small footprint of the garden.
ARCHITECT: R2 STUDIO ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDY STAGG



GROVE PARK HOUSE, CHISWICK
On entering through the front door of this home, a sculptural light-filled extension with a minimal colour palette is revealed. Its generous staircase leads to the kitchen and dining below and landscaped garden beyond.
ARCHITECT: BEASLEY DICKSON ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNESE SANVITO



KERSLEY ROAD, STOKE NEWINGTON
This offset pitched roof of the wrap-around extension creates a sense of drama as you move through the house. The glazed section takes advantage of the east-facing aspect, flooding the space with natural light throughout the day.
ARCHITECT: RUSSIAN FOR FISH
PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LANDERS



LANTERN HOUSE, PUTNEY
A modest extension on the ground floor unlocks a double-height space, connecting the new open plan living ground and first floor. Both are flooded with light through the solar-treated, glazed facade.
ARCHITECT: NIMTIM ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM STEPHENSON



PREBEND STREET, ARLINGTON SQUARE CONSERVATION AREA
A compact roof extension creates a bright new master bedroom and a cantilevered steel stair brings light down into the hall below.
ARCHITECT: CIARCELLUTI MATHERS ARCHITECTURE
PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM STEPHENSON



VISTA HOUSE, TWICKENHAM
The extension provides a generous and multi-levelled space with double-height void, suspended walkway and mezzanine. The large glass box above floods this new space with natural light.
ARCHITECT: STUDIO 30 ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: JOSEPH TRAYLEN



VAULT HOUSE, DE BEAUVOIR TOWN
This project re-imagines the internal layout to make the home feel more spacious. The design creates a new 'utility corridor' by moving the existing staircase. The move introduces a new visual link between all floors whilst also improving the liveability of the home.
ARCHITECT: BRADLEY VAN DER STRAETEN ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE



WANDSWORTH HOUSE, WANDSWORTH
A series of interventions were designed to maximise space and bring light through the house. A suspended net floor opens up one of the loft rooms to the shared living area below. This gives the project a 'wow factor' without the need for complex structures and interventions.
ARCHITECT: CATJA DE HAAS ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM ROTHERY

SHORTLISTED

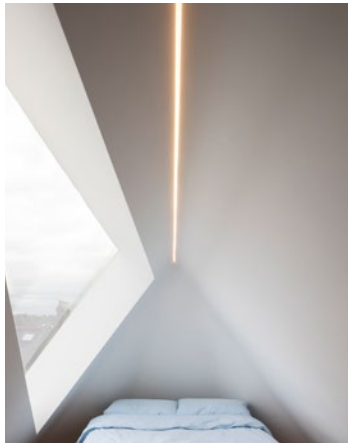
'We love the double-height space, it's made our home feel so much more spacious. We love waking up and looking out of the triangular window, it's like our little viewing tower in the sky!'
Peter, homeowner



ELEVATING DIGITAL DESIGN
UMFREVILLE ROAD, HARRINGAY GREEN LANES

D Haus have refurbished a two-bedroom maisonette to form a triplex home, extending into the loft of a period property using digital design as part of the fabrication process. In the loft a dormer was created with an external terrace. A frameless glass double-height space was inserted, so that when entering the apartment, the room is completely opened up to the sky with the giant up and over glass. To access the top level, a perforated plywood staircase was inserted, which allows natural light to filter through the levels of the building, made from only two sheets of plywood and fabricated off site.

ARCHITECT: THE DHAUS COMPANY LTD



SHORTLISTED

'From my temporary home-working seat at the head of the dining table I can see clearly through from the front of the house to the back of the garden, but I haven't sacrificed the utility of a more traditional layout.'
Lewis, homeowner



A TALL TRANSFORMATION
HOUSE IN HACKNEY, DALSTON

A playful re-imagining of a Victorian terrace with a large rear extension. The project was designed for a very tall client, so was particularly focussed on how to best adapt a house with existing low ceilings and small spaces in the area of the house that was most used, the lower ground floor. A double-height staircase void and lots of rooflights were added, which introduced light and volume to the space.

ARCHITECT: YARD ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD CHIVERS





Creating a bathroom sanctuary

We caught up with Erdem Akan, Vitra's design director, to understand how we can bring wellness into your bathroom, no matter how small the space



For many of us over the past year the home has become a constant foreground, rather than somewhere we left early in the morning and only returned to at the end of the day. I'd say the last 12 months have really fast forwarded a shift in thinking about our home bathroom spaces, with a new level of focus on emotional wellbeing and the bathroom as a space of sanctuary.

Because our domestic spaces have been under scrutiny like never before, it's inevitable that we've been asking some big questions: 'is my home fulfilling my needs; is it responsive to the way I want to live?' The bathroom is no exception, and I don't think this is just because we've been thinking a lot more about hygiene and cleanliness. I think it's part of a broader trend towards being open about wellness on physical and emotional levels, and the importance of self-care.

For what's sometimes referred to as 'the smallest room' for good reason, these might seem like rather overblown questions. But space restrictions by no means preclude a shift to less fixed, more fluid bathroom spaces. My role at Vitra involves looking to the future, and one of the ways we do this is through developing close and highly collaborative relationships with designers from around the world. These collaborations always aim to create exploratory dialogues with designers to discuss and research what the bathroom is, and what it can be.

Most recently we've been collaborating with Paris-based artist and designer Arik Levy. A big influence on Arik was his

time spent living and working in Japan, and he focuses on the bathroom as a place for immersion in the daily rituals of self-care. On a practical level he brought two big agendas—the idea of personalisation and a toolkit approach.

Our collaboration produced the *Voyage* collection, which offers a way out from the era of the clinical bathroom. All the elements of the collection are designed to work together and can be grouped in conventional or unexpected configurations—regardless of the size and limitations of the bathroom 'canvas'.

Another example of our collaboration process was working with Milan-based American designer Terri Pecora on *Plural*. Terri's starting point was about fundamentally rethinking the bathroom as a social family space at the heart of the home. Her concept challenges fixed thinking about bathroom spaces, while referencing ancient cultural traditions of the *hammam* and communal bathing. The neutral colour palette and wood finishes, which are not usually seen within a bathroom environment, bring a sense of warmth and domesticity. *Plural* offers a new level of freedom and flexibility, bringing water to the centre of the experience. The furniture-based concept is ideally suited to making the most of smaller spaces because it enables free-flowing layouts.

We worked with Terri really closely at our Innovation Centre to develop the innovative plumbing syphon behind her flexible configurations. So behind the scenes, too, it's a sort of quiet revolution. Terri has done a lot to liberate the bathroom from the confines of the back-to-wall layouts of the past. I think future generations will thank her. □

CALM AND COMPACT

COUNCIL HOUSE RENOVATION, BERMONDSEY

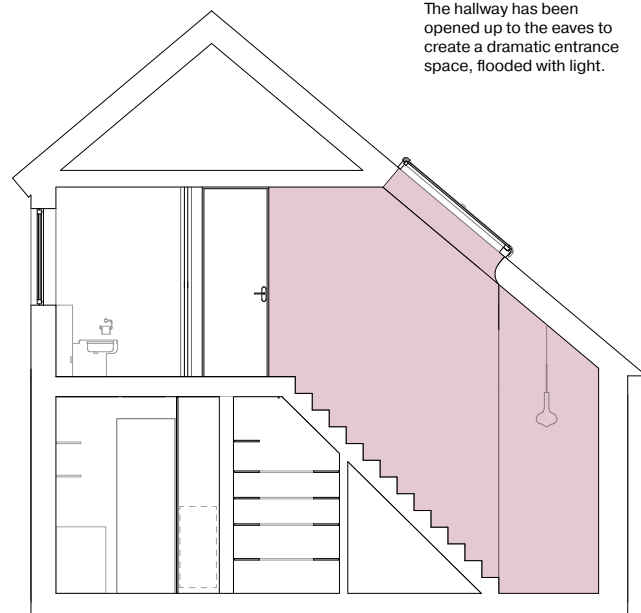
COMPACT DESIGN OF THE YEAR JOINT WINNER



By turning constraints into opportunities, the second joint winner for Compact Design of the Year, Council House Renovation by VATRAA, adds a sense of space to the house without increasing the footprint of the building. The aim of the project was to preserve the discrete appearance of the outside while becoming warm, protective, and spacious on the inside. A tall entrance lobby marks the start of a journey through different spaces and atmospheres, each tailored to the function they serve. The project transformed a disregarded house into a home with a distinctive character, now proud to tell its story through space, light and materials.

ARCHITECT: VATRAA | STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
STRUCTUREHAUS | CONTRACTOR: TOMASZ ZMELTY
BUILDING LTD | PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM STEPHENSON





The hallway has been opened up to the eaves to create a dramatic entrance space, flooded with light.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

'I thought this project was the essence of the competition. It did so much with so little. It is an inspiration for people who live in smaller houses and shows you what you can do within the footprint of a normal house. It was so well done; and is just beautiful.' — Kunle Barker

This is, as its title suggests, a renovation of a council house. But it is far more than that. Situated on a Bermondsey estate with little in the way of interventions on the outside, a stylish, warm, characterful transformation awaits within.

The architects created a new 'event' entrance with storage—including for the client's Brompton fold-up bicycle—opening the eaves to create more headspace and connect to a rooflight above the stairs. The roof was raised in the living room by removing a ceiling and pushing insulation and plasterboard between joists. This added character alongside the plaster walls used throughout the ground floor.

Bespoke, architect-designed joinery and furniture adds warmth, while a new warming room is used to both dry clothes and heat the floor above.

More plastered walls continue up the sky-lit stairs, setting off minimalist handrails and contrasting with the treatment of the calm, white-walled bedrooms. The eaves in the master bedroom are used as a walk-in closet space, with a spare room including an ensuite.

The dining area connects with the kitchen, unified principally by the ceiling treatment, with more wooden furniture including a bench with storage and table, again designed by the architect. □



'From the first meeting, I saw VATRAA's ambition to unlock the true potential of my ex-council house. After an exciting collaboration, we obtained a result that became my definition of a home: discrete on the outside, but warm, protective and spacious on the inside.'

Bernadetta, homeowner

IS BIGGER ALWAYS BETTER?

This selection of homes demonstrates that bigger isn't always better. Space can be far more beneficial when it is carefully considered and designed. These projects have made the decision to reconfigure or in some cases reduce sqm of the house rather than add an extension.



AC RESIDENCE, LONDON FIELDS
This project has looked to improve the quality and efficiency of the existing property without the need for adding extra space but instead by reducing the floor area through the introduction of a double-height dining space.
SIZE: 225 SQM | AREA ADDED: -14 SQM | AREA REFURBISHED: 239 SQM | ARCHITECT: DEDRAFT | PHOTOGRAPHY: STÅLE ERIKSEN



BOOKEND HOUSE, HARINGEY
This design is a modest addition on a very constrained site, located in a Conservation Area. It uses the maximum volume within the developable envelope and draws on this as a design prompt, setting the timber cladding orientation in response to the angled form.
SIZE: 96 SQM | AREA ADDED: 5 SQM | AREA REFURBISHED: 38 SQM | ARCHITECT: 2X2 ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTIAN BRAILEY



Slatted Extension by YARD Architects. Photography: Erianaelis Stasaitis



CASE STUDY TERRACE, CLERKENWELL
On the ground floor of this project, views between the sculptural elements of the architectural composition provide glimpses visually connecting different spaces. This allows natural light deep into the house, where previously it was dark or wasted space.
SIZE: 141 SQM | AREA ADDED: 0 SQM | AREA REFURBISHED: 141 SQM | ARCHITECT: WILLIAM TOZER ASSOCIATES | PHOTOGRAPHY: WILLIAM TOZER ASSOCIATES



FORMER ARTIST'S STUDIO, CHELSEA
The brief for this project was to convert the one-bedroom city pad into a three-bedroom family home whilst retaining its unique character. This was made possible through the extensive use of structural glazing to create a glass stair and bridge connecting the two first-floor bedrooms.
SIZE: 160 SQM | AREA ADDED: 0 SQM | AREA REFURBISHED: 160 SQM | ARCHITECT: RODIC DAVIDSON ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: MATTHEW DAVIS



LEOPOLD ROAD, WIMBLEDON
The internal layout of this house has been re-configured to bring the kitchen into the heart of the home, while a large skylight draws light deeper into the property.
SIZE: 281 SQM | AREA ADDED: 8 SQM | AREA REFURBISHED: 39 SQM | ARCHITECT: ABHRA LTD | PHOTOGRAPHY: CHUN YUE CHIU



SLATTED EXTENSION, ISLINGTON
The original house had wonderful high ceilings, but the kitchen was compromised. The layout was completely reimagined, knocking out a side wall and chimney to create a large lateral space overlooking the garden.
SIZE: 182 SQM | AREA ADDED: 0 SQM | AREA REFURBISHED: 57 SQM | ARCHITECT: YARD ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: EMANUELIS STASAITIS

'I particularly love the external detail to the extension — it's both practical and aesthetically in keeping with the house and in general the neighbourhood within which the house is situated.'

Brendan, homeowner, Bookend House

WORK/LIFE BALANCE

TERRAZZO STUDIO, HACKNEY



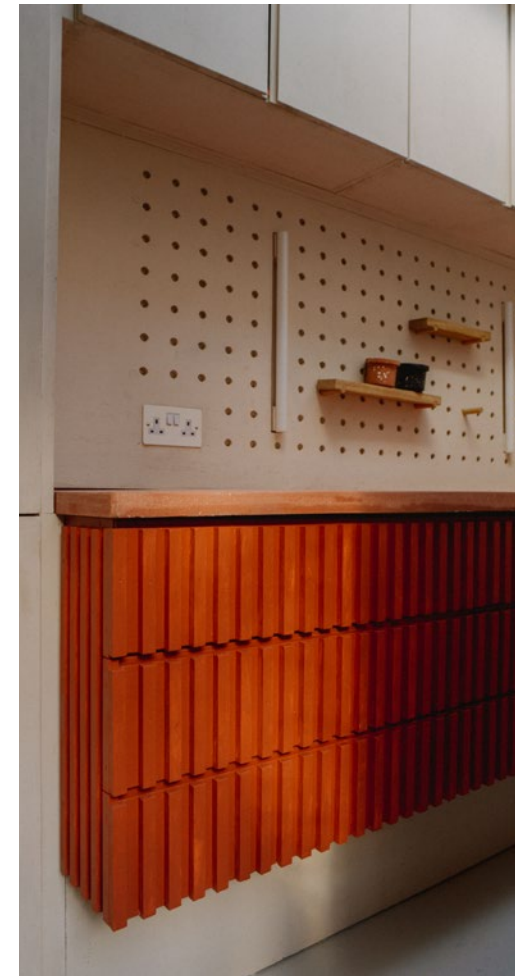
Our new prize for 2021, WFH Design of the Year, sponsored by Day True, has been awarded to Terrazzo Studio by Sonn Studio for the striking end-of-garden studio, which cleverly adapts to accommodate working, sleeping, making and entertaining. The project in Hackney, designed and self-built by the architect, aimed to add an additional space to a one-bedroom garden flat. The build resulted in a tropical oasis within a Victorian terrace street, consisting of a studio space that doubles as a guest bedroom and a hidden functional workshop to the rear. Bespoke forest green terrazzo cladding wraps around the building, grey micro-cement flooring, dark stained cork and dense tropical landscaping result in an urban tropical haven.



ARCHITECT: SONN STUDIO | PHOTOGRAPHY: SARAH BURTON FIELDING

‘A lot of the inspiration for the project was around Mayan and Mexican-type architecture, but the Terrazzo was an exploration of an Italian-type monism. I wanted to test and experiment and try out different ideas in the design.’

Tim Robinson, architect and homeowner



JUDGES' COMMENTS

‘It’s extraordinary. This is the energy and enthusiasm of youth, made from creativity, skill and determination!’ — Tom Foxall

Terrazzo Studio is a project designed by architect and owner of Sonn Studio Tim Robinson for himself at the end of his garden in Hackney.

This would provide both a place in which to work, but also extra space and potentially sleeping space for guests to add to his small, one-bed flat in a Victorian terrace. Since he designed and built it himself (‘a lot of YouTube’), all the costs were down to materials used, save for a little help on plastering and electrics.

A polished concrete floor runs from inside to the outside of the main, underfloor-heated space, with a small seating and drinks area at the front, and the main working space and ‘floating’ desk directly behind fully openable glazed doors. To the rear is a slot window and mirror with planting to create an illusion of depth, while a pull-down bed emerges from the rear wall to turn it into a spare room and guest space, complete with storage space and curtains in a recessed track that push back into a slot. A concealed workshop space for the owner’s business sits to the side, bathed in light from a rooflight, while the forest green, ridged and flat cladding panels for the entire structure were made on-site from a water-based resin called Jesmonite to give a flecked, terrazzo-look to the building. □



Multifunctional and flexible: rethinking our homes

Tony and Hayley Robson from Day True reflect on the past year spent at home and questions how we can use the lessons learned from lockdown to rethink how we design our homes



The concept of a 'modern' home has been around for hundreds of years, a space prioritised by the kitchen, bathrooms,

bedrooms, living space and, if we are lucky, somewhere to sit outside when the sun is shining.

During the pandemic many homes became workspaces (WFH), schools (home learning), full-time restaurants (carers preparing and cleaning up after three meals a day), cinemas (Netflix and Disney sold huge amounts of subscriptions) and nightclubs (kitchen discos)—the extended time at home challenged the status quo of design and use of the modern home for many.

Home improvement businesses sales rocketed as people realised their homes were not functional enough or not designed as they would like to accommodate all that had to be achieved during this time and in order to spend so much time in them, so many preferred to change their space to bring joy and inspiration into the home.

We see this trend continuing as people change rooms to multiple use rather than thinking about them as boxes to fill with traditional items; designing spaces that can be used as a kitchen and a place to make a Zoom call; bringing products into the home to continue with hobbies such as exercise and arts. Not everyone is an aspiring chef or likes to take long soaks in the bath, so designing a room to your priorities is now essential.

Obviously it is easier to start with a blank canvas to design a home to your life. However, there are many ways to adapt existing rooms by introducing hidden flexible spaces, such as movable partitions to provide confidentiality if needed. Flexible furniture that has multiple use from beds to desks, sofas with storage and snugs for you time.

Let's start thinking about homes differently and design them to the way each of us live, creating better lives. □



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SEPARATING SPACES

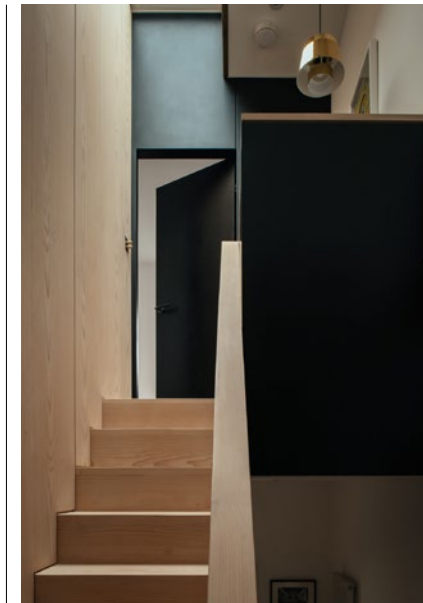
As much as our homes need to provide space for us to come together and entertain, this year more than ever has shown us that time apart can make us grow fonder. Creating separate spaces, whether that is a hidden garden studio or secret reading nook, has become an invaluable addition for the homes featured here.



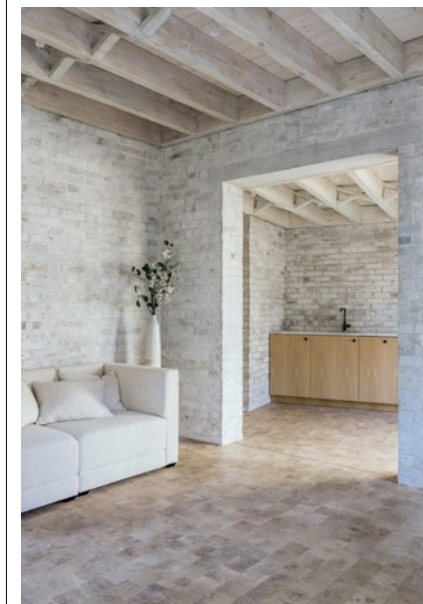
HANSLER ROAD, EAST DULWICH
Marble cladding of the rear extension and garden room has been designed to create two monolithic facades. Its pattern is mirrored to create a reflective relationship between the two spaces.
ARCHITECT: ALEXANDER OWEN ARCHITECTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE

‘The garden room is a super practical space that has been a godsend in lockdown, doubling as a home office and a garden bar to host friends in. Overall, it’s both practical and luxurious, and we love it!’

Daniel, homeowner, Hansler Road



KIVER ROAD, ARCHWAY
This mansard roof extension provides a new master bedroom level to the house, a contemporary sanctuary above the busy family house below. A Douglas fir and black Valchromat-clad staircase leads to the contemporary bedroom, creating a distinct juxtaposition with the otherwise traditional interior of this family home.
ARCHITECT: CUOZZO FLEMING | PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM STEPHENSON



NOTTING HILL GARDEN HOUSE, NOTTING HILL
This scheme reimagines an awkwardly shaped plot at the end of the garden to create a sequence of new living spaces. Use of exposed materials and a carefully considered relationship between the internal spaces and their garden surroundings contribute to the building’s unique character.
ARCHITECT: NICK HILL ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: EMILY MARSHALL



REVEAL HOUSE, CLAPHAM
A light-filled rear kitchen leads out onto a new garden room. Both structures are flanked with a refined elevation of white pigmented pre-cast concrete cladding and thin framed glazing, with new iroko fencing and raised planting beds to the sides.
ARCHITECT: PROCTOR AND SHAW | PHOTOGRAPHY: STÅLE ERIKSEN



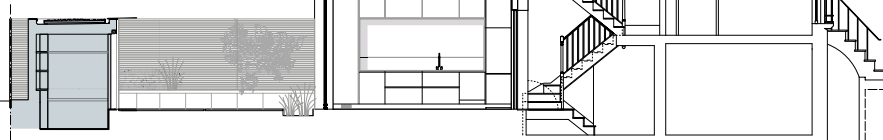
STAGE DIRECTOR’S SHED, TWICKENHAM
A dilapidated garage was converted into an intimate, private studio with cantilever roof reaching out back to the house. The interior was designed to be a blank canvas, with raw plaster walls and ceilings for scribbles and sketches.
ARCHITECT: STUDIOORT | PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNESE SANVITO



SUNKEN MUSIC STUDIO
ST MARY'S HOUSE, LAMBETH

Tired and in need of rejuvenation, this project set about restoring the original features of this modestly-scaled Victorian terraced house. The fabric of the main house has been faithfully repaired and restored. To the upper floor a new half landing has been added, providing valuable extra floor space for a desk area. With the addition of a large roof light, the stair hall is now a much brighter and pleasant. To the rear, a glass infill extension creates an open-plan living space. At the end of the garden, a sunken music room is physically separated from the main house while remaining visually connected.

ARCHITECT: PAUL ARCHER DESIGN |
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDY STAGG



A new sunken music studio has been added at the end of the garden

'Watching the mud bath at the back, all dug out by hand through a very cold winter, transformed into a stunning compact town garden brings a smile to our faces every day. It may be small, but it's perfectly formed.'
Sue, homeowner



LIVING AMONGST THE TREES
FRUIT BOX, FOREST HILL

Re-imagining of a 1970s end-of-terrace townhouse on the site of a former orchard as a robust and flexible family home. The house sat on a triangular plot with a large but awkwardly shaped garden. The design celebrates the sense of living amongst fruit trees and below the canopy of the larger trees beyond. At ground floor level, views are framed with carefully positioned openings that connect the space in a deliberate but restrained way. By contrast, the first floor bedroom has a wide and generous window that brings the landscape and tree canopy into the house.

'I think our favourite part of the project is the ground floor. It is bright, warm and welcoming. The kitchen is large and modern and the girls have enough space to run around playing tag while we prepare dinner. It's like a totally different house.'
Simon, homeowner

ARCHITECT: NIMTIM ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY:
MEGAN TAYLOR



FAMILY FRIENDLY HOMES

Making space for the whole family is important for any home. These abodes have been adapted to meet the changing needs of their homeowners — whether that is children growing up or new ones coming along, they have expertly demonstrated that our homes can evolve along with us.



EFFRA HOUSE, HERNE HILL
One weakness of a typical terraced house is the narrow entrance, which usually doesn't leave enough space to hang coats or take off your shoes, let alone to bring in a bike or pram. The architects addressed this in the design of Effra House by moving a structural wall and adding storage, seating, and a niche for a bike.
ARCHITECT: STUDIOOORT | PHOTOGRAPHY: ANNA BATCHELOR



BANKSIDE LOFT, BANKSIDE
The design uses a complex interweaving of structure and joinery which creates a smart, flexible apartment, adding floorspace and usability, which will allow the space to adapt to the owners' changing lifestyle.
ARCHITECT: YARD ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: EMANUELIS STASAITIS



CHAMFER HOUSE, DOLLIS HILL
The new ground floor of this house has been reconfigured as three different spaces that have an open relationship to one another and yet maintain their own distinct character and sense of enclosure, reinforced by full-width steps, pocket sliders and the placement of joinery.
ARCHITECT: NOVAK HILES ARCHITECTS



FOREST DRIVE, LEYTONSTONE
A light-filled kitchen, dining, and living area provides a social heart to this home. A flexible space, quick to tidy and transform from a children's play area and adult's workspace to a room to dine with friends and family.
ARCHITECT: ECKFORD CHONG | PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS SNOOK



KIMBER HOUSE, ORPINGTON
The unique split-level arrangement of the property required a proposal that could take advantage of the generous space, whilst engaging with the different floor levels. Built-in joinery transforms the window at the front of the house into cosy reading nook or play space.
ARCHITECT: STUDIO VAREY ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: ALEXANDRIA HALL



ZIG-ZAG ROOF HOUSE, CAMBERWELL
This new extension includes innovative and multifunctional features, such as deep window ledges that double as seating to accommodate social gatherings and the open-plan kitchen that is also a perfect play space.
ARCHITECT: 4 S ARCHITECTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY: HENRY WOOD

SHORTLISTED



FLEXIBLE AND FAMILY FRIENDLY LYDFORD ROAD, SOUTH TOTTENHAM

This compact extension for a young family marries their cultural backgrounds, inspired by the warm material palette of Indian architecture and the elemental construction of British modernism. The design creates a triptych of interconnected spaces: an atmospheric studio steps down into a light-filled kitchen dining area, which opens onto an intimate garden 'room'. The construction is expressed through exposed steel and oak beams supported on sandstone loadbearing blockwork. To enable an open stair, a miniature 'escape' door was created between bedrooms, creating a moment of childlike wonder.

ARCHITECT: ARTEFACT | PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN JONES



Section highlighting material and colour palette throughout the project



"This scaled down bright pink door crowned by a concrete lintel brings pure joy to my little baby, who loves to crawl through and discover a world quite different to his cosy den."
Pooja, homeowner

SHORTLISTED



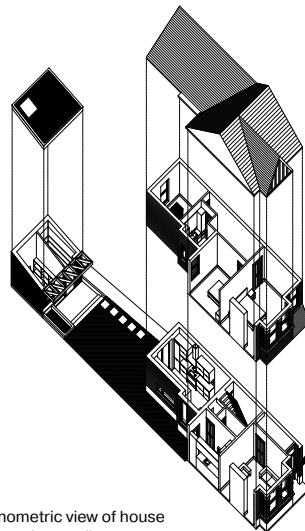
WORKING RETREAT
CLAIRE AND TOM'S
HOUSE, WALTHAMSTOW

The addition of a garden studio and refurbishment of a two-storey, mid-terraced, late Victorian house in Walthamstow for a young family. Claire and Tom wanted to improve the layout of their house and the connection with the back garden, and to create space for Claire, a clinical neuropsychologist, to work from home. Instead of a typical side return or rear extension, they decided on a garden studio as it would offer more opportunity to separate home and work. The studio provides another habitable space with west-facing afternoon and evening sunlight.



ARCHITECT: ZMINKOWSKA DE BOISE ARCHITECTS |
PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM CRONIN

'Taking the project as a whole, the garden room has had the biggest impact on our quality of life. It has delivered much-needed physical and acoustic separation, yet remaining connected to the main house together with beauty and playfulness.'
Tom, homeowner



Axonometric view of house
and garden studio

SHORTLISTED

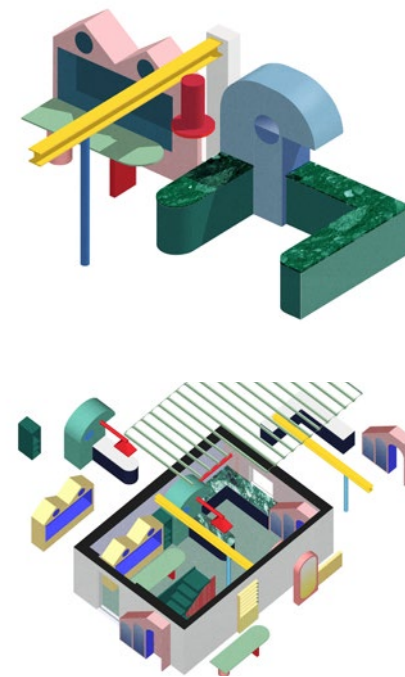


THE OPPOSITE OF BORING
MO-TEL HOUSE, DALSTON

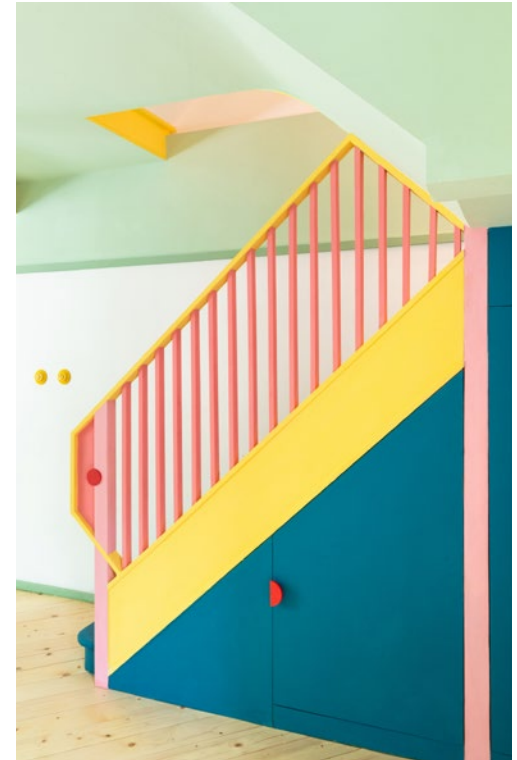
Mo-tel House is a remodelling of a Georgian town house in Dalston for a young family of four. The brief was to refurbish the house, bringing the previously damp, dark, and cramped lower ground floor back into use. By removing internal walls, an open plan, dual aspect kitchen and dining space was created, with a further two bathrooms and utility space built at the back.

'We asked for "not boring", and boy did Office S&M deliver. Our kids adore the space, from their secret storage spaces to the fun use of mirrors. Personally, the colours bring me joy on a daily basis, not least during lockdown!'
Tamsin, homeowner

ARCHITECT: OFFICE S&M | PHOTOGRAPHY:
FRENCH+TYE



Axonometric views of the kitchen



FLUID CONNECTIONS

ER RESIDENCE, HARINGEY

BEST PROJECT UNDER £100K



The £80,000 extension of ER Residence by Studio Hallett Ike has been celebrated as the Best Project Under £100k in this year's awards. Recognising its great value, the design completely transformed this ground-floor flat in an existing Victorian terraced house in North London. The design considerably adds a much-needed bedroom and sociable dining room as part of an extensive refurbishment and extension. With a muted colour palette and an emphasis on natural materials throughout, the apartment retains many original period features, contrasting against the pared back contemporary additions.



ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER: STUDIO HALLETT IKE |
CONTRACTOR: AJ FAMILY LTD | PHOTOGRAPHY: STÅLE ERIKSEN

‘This was a self-build project, but the transformation on our lives has been huge. The space has a calming feel and is truly an escape from London living.’

Madeleine Ike, architect and homeowner



ER Residence is architect Studio Hallett Ike’s first project — and until recently their own accommodation — in Haringey, north London.

A Corten-steel door opens up into a main living room space with an axis down and through to a view of the garden; the intended glimpse of a ‘hidden jewel’ at the end of the scheme.

The architects worked to express and celebrate the building’s original features in the main living space including the cornice, fireplace and flooring and set off by a textured clay finish for the walls. The palette was kept light and neutral but also warm and tactile to enable light to ‘bounce’ around the ground floor flat, with bespoke furniture designed to set off the lighter elements but keep it ‘clean’ and harmonious.

A kitchen of stainless steel and plywood leads off into a master bedroom with more tall ceilings and a plaster finish with a recurring theme of a datum line to continue a calm aesthetic, and proprietary windows onto a courtyard.

A terrazzo-lined bathroom faces the linear kitchen, while a dining space at the rear of the flat includes a dining bench and storage with another bespoke table, that in turn leads on to a second bedroom with a picture window that is currently being used as a workspace. Clad in charred larch with batons, the dining space elevation leads out onto the garden, with plants selected by the architects including ferns and others that love shade. □

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

‘It’s utterly beautiful and very slick, and apart from everything else, adding an additional bedroom for £80,000 is amazing.’ — Kunle Barker





SMALL BUDGET PROJECTS

Proving that you don't need to spend a fortune in order to transform your home, these impactful insertions have dramatically changed how these spaces can be lived in. They beautifully demonstrate that creativity and ingenuity is priceless.



SLIDE & LADDER HOUSE, KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

A compact yet playful flat, the design incorporates a series of bespoke objects to cater for the needs of each individual in the family. The scheme was made on a tight budget where cost-saving solutions were used to inform the design, such as using the off-cuts of the timber balustrade to make the bunk bed.

TOTAL COST: £65,000 | ARCHITECT: TRELLIK DESIGN STUDIO | PHOTOGRAPHY: EMANUELIS STASAITIS



COURTYARD FOR A WINE MERCHANT, CLAPTON

Rather than provide an addition, the project takes away an existing side return infill to create a new courtyard. A new concrete box dressed in oak creates an outdoor platform accessed directly from the lower ground floor kitchen.

TOTAL COST: £40,500 | ARCHITECT: BUNKALL ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: MAX CREASY



TRI-POD, BATTERSEA

This project reconfigured the interior space and consolidated all the program into one bespoke piece of joinery, to give the owners an extra 7 sqm of usable space at a much smaller budget than a traditional extension project.

ARCHITECT: SCOTTWHITBYSTUDIO | PHOTOGRAPHY: NICHOLAS WORLEY



ISLIP STUDIO, KENTISH TOWN

This studio was conceived as a music room, home office and garden retreat. The timber cabin is a simple orthogonal volume, whilst the rich internal panelling and vaulted cork ceilings recall Proustian memories of the homeowner's childhood holidays.

ARCHITECT: ECKFORD CHONG | PHOTOGRAPHY: DOUG ECKFORD

'I really can't decide what my favourite part should be as there's not a thing about it which isn't my favourite!'

Noemi, homeowner, Islip Studio

SHORTLISTED

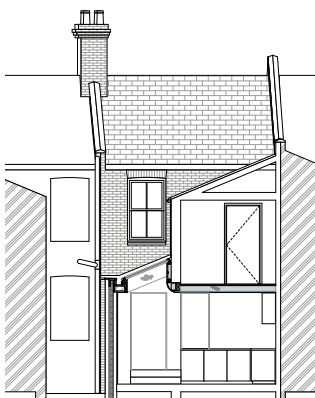


SIMPLE AND DETAILED
ELMFIELD ROAD, WALTHAMSTOW

Iterations to the ground floor of this terraced house improved circulation and connections to the garden. Materials and finishes include a combination of faced plywoods, stone surfaces and bespoke integrated furniture providing a simple yet graphically vibrant space. The new fully glazed roof allows morning light to flood in, helped by the rounded soffit which widens the aperture and scoops the light into the kitchen. Blackened larch cladding was added externally to homogenise the rear facade, and the curved soffit was replicated with a simple swoosh that expresses the inner workings of the new addition.

'Eckford Chong looked past our initial proposed solutions and got to the root of the problems we were trying to solve by creating a beautiful homogenised flowing space with lots of light... in particular we love the way the aperture linings and colourful cabinetry tie everything together.'
Chris, homeowner

ARCHITECT: ECKFORD CHONG | PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS SNOOK



Rear section illustrating the curved soffit, which is also accentuated on the rear facade

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WALTER WORKS

SEGAL HOUSE, LEWISHAM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PRIZE



Leading the way with its sustainable approach, Segal House by Fraher and Findlay Architects was awarded the Environmental Leadership Prize, sponsored by Airflow, for its economical use of off-the-shelf elements and reused materials from the existing house. The project fully embraces the tectonic and practical approach of the 'Segal Method' staying true to Walter Segal's original concept of the house.



ARCHITECT: FRAHER AND FINDLAY ARCHITECTS | ENGINEER: CONSTANT
STRUCTURAL DESIGN | CONTRACTOR: KRIS BUILDING SERVICES
PHOTOGRAPHY: TARAN WILKHU

JUDGES' COMMENTS

'We love the collaborative relationship between the architect and client for this home. They were both really rigorous with everything that they used to create the extension, maximising efficiency and recycling as much as they could.' — Tom Foxall



The Segal House is a clever project to enlarge one of the classic Segal Houses in Forest Hill by extending below the single-storey structure—creating a negative imprint of the original, switching the blue window frames and black cladding and creating a new entrance into the scheme.

Once inside, the extension (approved on appeal by Lewisham planners) is a wedge or cone shape, broadening from 1.2m to 2m and including a big picture window with views out over south east London. A new, broader, double-height space includes a 'dynamic' stair leading from the living room down to new spaces below, with extensive storage space along the way. These new spaces are a home studio and kids' den tucked under the existing single-storey

building, capitalising on the topography of the site and connecting to the garden beyond.

Working with the grid structure of the original building, the architects' design of the extension has allowed the dining and kitchen spaces to flow better and feel more spacious, all the while using a self-build approach with the hands-on client. A sustainable approach extended to reusing doors and using readily available, off-the-shelf products, clay plaster on the walls, a green roof, timber where possible and minimising waste.

'The extension was an opportunity to connect the living spaces with the garden in a more seamless route', said architect Lizzie Webster. □



'It's hard to say which part we enjoyed most. Each of the stages were so interesting and different. I guess our favourite part of the project is living in our house now and enjoying it every day.'

Celine, homeowner

STUNNING AND SUSTAINABLE

Making a conscious decision to reduce their impact on the planet, minimising waste and maximising energy efficiency, these projects demonstrated that sustainable practices don't mean you have to compromise on design quality.



CLAPHAM COMMON HOUSE, CLAPHAM OLD TOWN
Taking a fabric-first approach, the design improves energy efficiency and reduces carbon emissions through insulation and utilises glass with solar reflective coatings to prevent solar gain. The house is centred on the dramatic double-height kitchens space, which features the neighbours' characterful exterior wall connecting the home to the site's history.
ARCHITECT: MATTHEW GILES ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: LOGAN IRVINE-MACDOUGALL



LANCHESTER ROAD, MUSWELL HILL
Taking the decision to retrofit the existing house rather than demolish and rebuild saved costs, reduced waste and extended the life of the building. This design brought back to life the poorly modernised 1920s house, creating large, light-filled rooms with clear views of the garden.
ARCHITECT: MULROY ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: WILL PRYCE



NAKED HOUSE, MILE END
This project dramatically remodels and extends a Victorian terrace, turning it into a lifetime home catering for a modern, growing family. Natural, sustainably sourced materials have been used such as cork floors, bamboo joinery, wood fibre and jute insulation, manufactured from discarded cocoa and coffee bean bags and processed with 100 per cent renewable solar energy.
ARCHITECT: WHITTAKER PARSONS | PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM STEPHENSON



RICHMOND ROAD, HACKNEY
This Victorian villa had fallen into disrepair and did not meet the needs of a growing family. The renovation opened up the internal spaces and connected them to the double-width rear garden. The fabric of the house was upgraded with airtight finishes and a spray-applied insulation. The integration of a MVHR system hugely improved the environmental performance of the house.
ARCHITECT: WORKKS. LTD | PHOTOGRAPHY: BEN QUINTON



STOCKWELL PROJECT, STOCKWELL
This Grade II-listed property had sustained bomb damage and no floor was level. It has been stripped back to its 'bare bones' and renovated. Beauty here is in the details, craftsmanship and the chosen natural, lasting and cost-effective materials. An understated home, designed to survive trends, built with sustainability in mind and full of creative details.
ARCHITECT: STUDIO WOLTER NAVARRO | PHOTOGRAPHY: LORENZO ZANDRI



Segal House by Frazer and Findlay Architects. Photography: Taran Wilkhu

Greening old buildings

Tom Foxall, Historic England's Head of Region, London & South East and one of this year's *Don't Move, Improve!* judges comments on the need for action to help transform our old homes into green buildings



The scale and urgency of climate change means we all need to take action to reduce carbon emissions.

Our buildings are important sources of embodied carbon, so we know we must reuse them rather than demolish and rebuild. But as England has one of the oldest building stocks in Europe, with a fifth of all homes at least

a century old, taking steps to make our historic homes greener is essential.

There is no single, one-size-fits-all solution to a low carbon home, but one simple approach every homeowner can take is to avoid wasting energy and thereby reduce carbon emissions. Even small steps, such as keeping on top of repairs and maintenance at home, can make a big difference by improving the lifespan of a building and avoiding the need for major renewal.

Planning well for a retrofit is essential — to maximise benefits for the historic building and those who use it, and to make sure it stands the test of time. Those that aren't well thought out may be reversed or replaced by future owners, or may even fail prematurely.

In many ways, the *Don't Move, Improve!* awards epitomise a positive approach to retrofitting historic buildings. The overarching aim is to prolong the life of a building, which is an inherently sustainable mission.

The wide spectrum of homes reflected in this year's awards demonstrates the versatility and adaptability of historic buildings, contradicting the common misapprehension that old buildings are too hard to treat for energy loss, or cannot accommodate modern life.

For me, the most successful shortlisted projects were those which celebrate existing character and unlock the potential

of homes for modern life in creative ways that are both architecturally accomplished and efficient in terms of space and carbon. Some, like the overall winner, House Recast, are so sublime in quality and character that they're likely to be cherished and long-lasting.

The many environmentally astute touches made to improve the sustainability of the featured homes, often executed without great fanfare or grand gestures, are impressive. These small changes include discreet upgrades to windows and doors, glazing positioned to maximise solar gain, the use of exquisite clay plasters and other natural materials to minimise carbon footprint. Even the simple positioning of services so that the amount of energy required is reduced. Many other positive moves are simply about encouraging behavioural change from their occupants, which is so important for our low carbon future.

Often these steps are modest when considered in isolation, but as an overall package add up to something much more profound. This sort of holistic approach to ecological soundness is in many ways reminiscent of the work of Walter Segal (1907–1985), an architect who promoted simple and inherently sustainable forms of construction without much reliance on wet trades and concrete, especially for the benefit of self-builders.

The owners of Segal House, this year's winner of the Environmental Leadership Prize, were so inspired by their existing home — a timber-framed house by Segal of the early 1980s — that his philosophy of using and re-using affordable and readily-available materials is now also bound up in its twenty-first century walls. It's further proof that there is much we can learn in the pursuit of greener buildings from the evidence of the past, and in several thousand years of low carbon, low energy homes. □

Original House by KS&A Architects. Photography: Agnese Sanvito



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SHORTLISTED



SUSTAINABLE AND SCULPTURAL ORIGAMI HOUSE, EALING

This highly sustainable one-bedroom, open-plan family annexe is formed of an extraordinary cross laminated (CLT) folded plate 'origami' structure. The site backs onto a church and is located within a sensitive conservation area, in the garden of a listed house. The sculptural origami geometry was inspired by the retained irregular foundation footprint of a previous garden studio, which the new building replaces. This self-contained dwelling provides not only a starter home for adult children, but space for visiting family, those who are shielding and working from home during COVID-19 lockdowns.

'Seeing what had been a conceptual design come to life over the course of a few hot days was magical, and being able to see the cross laminated timber from inside is a reminder of the transformation from drawing to site to beautiful, useful space.'
Jenny, homeowner

ARCHITECT: KSKA ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY:
AGNESE SANVITO



A healthy home: improving indoor air quality

An industry insight from Airflow's Rob Watson highlights the importance of ventilation for providing a healthy home for you and your family



Over the past year we have spent more time in our homes than ever before and therefore making sure that they are safe and healthy spaces has never been more important.

There is a growing trend of poor air quality being found within modern homes. Currently, you are likely to spend up to 90 per cent of your time indoors and numerous studies have found that indoor air can be up to 50 per cent more polluted than outdoor air and can contain over 900 different chemicals.

This trend applies to every room in the house, including bedrooms. If you shut any trickle vents, doors and windows when you are sleeping, you trap the airborne pollutants within the room. By trapping these pollutants within the room, you cause carbon dioxide to build up to harmful levels (over 1000ppm) during the night, which leads to a poorer night's sleep and even illness.

So why is this happening?

Poor indoor air quality is a result of the drive to improve energy efficiency of homes. Though this is an important issue, the construction of modern homes has seen the buildings become increasingly air tight which limits the opportunity for pollutants and moisture to be removed from your home. Air tight homes experience an increase in damp and mould, which is a direct cause in the decline of the health in your home.

What can I do to help overcome this issue?

Effective ventilation guarantees this excess moisture and airborne pollutants are removed from your home, leaving you with a clean air environment for you and your family.

Health experts recommend utilising an energy recovery system to ventilate your home; it is the modern, cost-effective solution to create safe and breathable spaces. Energy recovery is different from conventional extractor fans, as energy recovery units constantly ventilate your property, replenishing stale air with fresh, clean air. Simultaneously, energy is recovered from the warm outgoing air, extracting heat that would otherwise be lost.

You can successfully install an effective energy recovery system from a small flat to a large, detached property. A Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) system, such as the Adroit from Airflow, can provide you with unparalleled control so you can tailor your energy recovery system around your everyday life. The system uses smart technology enabling you to monitor and even control your home ventilation with your smartphone, tablet or computer, wherever you may be.

With CO2 and humidity sensors, you can have fully automatic ventilation for your home. These sensors enable the system to adjust its levels of ventilation based on changes to the air quality found within the home. The sensors help to protect the health of you and your family by keeping CO2 within safe, healthy levels. By automatically adjusting the level of ventilation based on changes to humidity levels, excess moisture is swiftly removed from your home. This prevents the build-up of mould, damp and other issues that can seriously affect the health of your home. □

HEALTHY HOMES

Making wellbeing a top priority, these renovations take extra care to ensure they provide healthy and liveable spaces now and into the future. They demonstrate the increasing demand for healthy as well as beautiful homes.



FIELD HOUSE, HACKNEY
The property is split into two double-aspect wings, a lounge on one side and a kitchen diner on the other. Whilst the refurb is visually appealing, it's the unseen work that makes this house different. Natural cork insulation and clay-based paint insulate the property, while maintaining breathability and eliminating airborne toxins.
ARCHITECT: BRADLEY VAN DER STRAETEN ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE



LIFETIME HOME, RICHMOND
Adapting and extending a beautiful period home in order to make it accessible for the owners in their seventies. The brief was to install a three-storey lift and to make the existing and new living spaces as bright as possible without compromising the feel of the house.
ARCHITECT: SOPHIE BATES ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: CAROLYN BATES



R20, ISLINGTON
This project is a retrofit of a modern building which anticipates how to address wellbeing and design for later life in a period of environmental urgency. Through commissioned research from Enhabit, energy demand has been reduced by 62 per cent while creating a healthier and more comfortable indoor environment.
ARCHITECT: SARAH WIGGLESWORTH ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN JONES



UPSIDEDOWNHOUSE, HIGHGATE
The colours and interiors of this modern extension create a retreat from the outside world and offer moments of repose, relaxation and rejuvenation, all hidden behind a humble historic Highgate facade. This house shows that colour and exposed materials are a powerful tool for enhancing spaces and creating a unique atmosphere.
ARCHITECT: COLLECTIVE WORKS | PHOTOGRAPHY: PURE ORIGINAL LONDON



WOODFORD ROAD, SNARESBROOK
Restoring an Art Deco-era house to its former glory, the aim of this project was to create a fully accessible family home through planning and design cleverness. As a forever home, the flow and original grandness was reinstated while also seamlessly integrating ramps and a lift.
ARCHITECT: CLEAR ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD CHIVERS

‘We love our home and wanted to make sure that it was comfortable, energy efficient and able to take care of us into the next 20 years. The difference in feel has been extraordinary.’

Sarah, homeowner and architect, R20



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TIMBER TRIUMPH

GRAIN HOUSE, HACKNEY

MATERIALITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP PRIZE



Grain House by Hayhurst and Co. has been awarded the Materiality and Craftsmanship Prize, sponsored by VirtA, for the careful selection of materials and finishes used in the space. The project is a remodelled and extended Victorian, semi-detached property in the de Beauvoir Conservation Area in north London. So, why 'Grain House'? Firstly because of the number of different, mainly native timber species used across the project, say the designers; secondly because the plan configuration is, if anything, *against* the grain of a Victorian terraced layout, with a resultantly different sequence of spaces and spatial feel.

ARCHITECT: HAYHURST AND CO. | STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
WEBB YATES | CONTRACTOR: REBUILD LONDON | BUILDING
CONTROL: LONDON BUILDING CONTROL | PHOTOGRAPHY: KILIAN
O'SULLIVAN





'We spent a lot of time thinking about the relationship of the tone of the timber with the tone of the brickwork, as something which is sympathetic but also quite striking.'

Nick Hayhurst, architect



JUDGES' COMMENTS

'This home has a real sense of permanence. It will be a fabulous place to live for the foreseeable future' — Karen Stylianides



Rear elevation

The Grain House project was to create a timber-clad extension and house remodelling including a new, light-bringing courtyard plus a new artist's studio to the rear of a semi-detached house in de Beauvoir town, Hackney, north London.

The two-storey courtyard brings in both light and acts as the centre of a 'promenade' around the house, making it a key experience of the building (as well as being home to a Japanese privet). Moving this circulation to the side also allowed for a long-distance view across the house, out to the garden and to the kitchen, dining and living spaces. Accessible from the lower level, the deep courtyard also provides light and ventilation as well as a connection from inside to out.

So, why 'Grain House'? Firstly because of the number of different, mainly native timber species used across the project, say the designers; secondly because the plan configuration is if anything against the grain of a Victorian terraced layout, with a resultantly different sequence of spaces and spatial feel.

Walls are of natural and clay plaster, while fully inset timber doors lead out onto the garden, where the extension's naturally weathered Siberian larch-clad roof is visible, above a charred larch below the canopy. The studio at the end of the garden echoes the timber-clad theme, providing a convenient space for homeworking, with roof joints rotated in plan to give a roof that gives ornamentation to the structure, plus a picture window back to the main house. □

PERFECTLY PARED BACK

Continuing the trend that has appeared over the last few years, these homes create a serene atmosphere with their carefully considered material palette. Natural materials have been exposed and celebrated, with design sophistication exemplified through clean and simple detailing and the combination of textures.



Alexandra Drive by studioSH LTD. Photography: Lorenzo Zandri



ALEXANDRA DRIVE, BERRYLANDS, SURBITON
StudioSH were engaged to extensively remodel this 1930s semi-detached property. A subtle yet distinctive material palette was developed. Considered detailing allows for simple and robust materials; burnished blockwork, oak and pigmented zinc to be thoughtfully composed.
ARCHITECT: STUDIO SH LTD | PHOTOGRAPHY: LORENZO ZANDRI



FACET HOUSE, CLAPHAM COMMON
The flush lime pointed and heavily brushed variegated brick wall is the favourite feature of the homeowners of Facet House. This complements the single piece of Iroko joinery which follows the faceted plan and continues around a triangular planter into the new courtyard garden.
ARCHITECT: PROCTOR AND SHAW | PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE



FIN HOUSE, WALTHAM FOREST
This project uses materials to create a distinctive rear elevation. In contrast with the natural finish on the ground floor, the fins at loft level are stained black. The stain allows the natural grain of the oak to show through and, at a larger scale, helps the loft extension read as part of the roof form.
ARCHITECT: STEPHANIE THUM-BONANNO | PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNESE SANVITO



PLYMPTON ROAD, KILBURN
This project includes new side and rear extensions to the existing closet wing, a pocket courtyard, and terrazzo patio. Beautiful detailing and craftsmanship shown in both the terrazzo linings and timber joinery help create an elegant space.
ARCHITECT: GIBSON THORNLEY ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: STÅLE ERIKSEN



QUARTER GLASS HOUSE, WIMBLEDON PARK
At the heart of this new kitchen dining space sits a copper-topped island elevated on lye washed birch plywood stilts with a seamless floor finish running underneath it. These subtly lustrous surfaces reflect the warm pink tones of the walls and timber ceiling above.
ARCHITECT: PROCTOR AND SHAW | PHOTOGRAPHY: STÅLE ERIKSEN



SETTLE HOUSE, ISLINGTON
This project is built around an extension at the rear of the ground floor. Chamfered oak lined rooflights above are set within the modest and calm exposed handmade brick volume.
ARCHITECT: YARD ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNESE SANVITO

SHORTLISTED



WARM AND ROBUST PECKHAM RYE HOUSE, PECKHAM RYE

This project includes a rear ground floor extension, internal refurbishment and landscaping of the garden to an Edwardian terrace in South East London. The client's brief set out to achieve a simple rear extension in which to better engage with the garden and existing summer house. Cost effective and hard-wearing self-finished materials were carefully selected. The principal materials were oak and concrete to create the feeling of warmth and robustness.

ARCHITECT: DRAPER STUDIO | PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTIAN BRAILEY



'With a pretty broad design brief I consulted various architectural firms in the hope of hiring a small practice with a robust track record of working on similar residential projects. Draper Studio was recommended to me by a friend who works in the town planning sector, and during our initial design consultation it quickly became evident that he shared both my vision and enthusiasm for the project.'
Homeowner, Peckham Rye House

STATEMENT FACADES

Not always a top priority when it comes to renovating your home, the external finishes can sometimes be forgotten. These projects create impact with unusual and original facade design.



BUSHEY HILL HOUSE, PECKHAM

Whilst being clad in timber the loft facade echoes the window pattern of the house. The main material, oak, is used and applied in different ways throughout the project. Externally, the loft utilizes natural air-dried English oak for the cladding and fins forming the deep reveals for the windows.

ARCHITECT: SAM ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: EDMUND SUMNER



DOG TOOTH HOUSE, STOKE NEWINGTON

Reinterpreting its context, dog's tooth brickwork bond was developed, using the thinness of the brick to help the elevation of this home in North London appear taller. Reversing directions between fascia and wall creates a changing geometric shadow which adds subtle depth to the appearance of the brickwork.

ARCHITECT: BASHA-FRANKLIN | PHOTOGRAPHY: MAREK SIKORA



Overcast House by Office S&M. Photography: Megan Taylor



FOREST HILL ROAD, LEWISHAM

The project includes an extensive remodelling of a dark Victorian flat with a volumetric rear extension that folds in both plan and section to reduce its impact on the neighbours. Externally clad in charred larch, it provides a rich contrast with the warm oak lined window reveals and a wonderful tactile finish. The simple monochromatic and oak palette is continued throughout the flat.

ARCHITECT: STUDIO WEBSTER DALE | PHOTOGRAPHY: FRED HOWARTH



GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSE, HACKNEY

This project involved the replacement of an existing rear extension with a classical composition inspired by the Choragic Monument of Thrasylus. The symmetrical extension cleverly conceals an asymmetrical plan and section working hard over split levels.

ARCHITECT: TIMOTHY SMITH & JONATHAN TAYLOR LLP | PHOTOGRAPHY: ANTHONY COLEMAN



GLYN HOUSE, HACKNEY

Glyn House aimed to improve the usability of the rear part of a property that felt disconnected and disruptive to the flow of family life. A carefully selected palette of materials provides earthy hues that are amplified when natural light hits each surface, making the experience of the space unique.

ARCHITECT: YELLOW CLOUD STUDIO | PHOTOGRAPHY: YELLOW CLOUD STUDIO



HOUSE FOR A FILM MAKER, WOOD GREEN

An unloved house bought from the council and restored piece by piece. The main event of this renovation project is a side extension, conceived as a folded piece of rusty steel. It is, in reality, a timber frame, waterproofed and finished with a Cor-Ten rainscreen fabricated by a local shop in Tottenham.

ARCHITECT: ROBERT RHODES ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS | PHOTOGRAPHY: MATT CLAYTON

‘We love the beautifully crafted detailing and brickwork which adds contemporary character. It’s a story of craft which we love to share with friends and neighbours.’

Joost, homeowner,
Dog Tooth House



BLURRING THE LINES OF DESIGN
AMOTT ROAD, PECKHAM

Replacing an existing rear lean-to and side bay window, this modest side extension accommodates a dining area and kitchen, with an exterior surface and landscaping upgrade in the garden. The client's brief included a list of their design inspirations, which covered a wide range of artists, furniture designers and architects, all of whom had a colourful and playful aspect to their work. The design took cues from their inspirational icons and turned these into a piece of architecture in a bid to merge the client's love of art, architecture and design.

'How perfectly the kitchen realised our hopes. It's full of colour and drama—the bold yellow, orange and blue butting up against the black floor and white worktops. Yet it's a completely liveable space, a place you want to spend time—we cook in there, eat, listen to music, read the papers, cradle cups of coffee.'
Simon, homeowner

ARCHITECT: ALEXANDER OWEN ARCHITECTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY: FRENCH+TYE



PLAYING WITH SHADOWS
OVERCAST HOUSE, HARINGEY

The homeowner, a personal colour consultant and her husband, approached Office S&M to enlarge their kitchen and make it suitable for use as a new studio space for her consultations. The response makes use of north light in the new extension, through carefully shaped rooflights, which shield the windows from direct sun. Gold leaf evens out and warms up the skylight, while soft green beams support the numerous openings. Externally the absence of direct sunlight is investigated through 'shadow catchers', which are cast from pigmented concrete and lend the house its name.

ARCHITECT: OFFICE S&M | PHOTOGRAPHY: MEGAN TAYLOR



Section

MAKING HISTORY

CLOISTERED HOUSE, CLAPHAM

URBAN OASIS OF THE YEAR



Urban Oasis of the Year has been awarded to Cloistered House by Turner Architects for its innovative integration of courtyard spaces into this family home. The house was carefully given life having been left to ruin for many years. It retains the formal room arrangement over three storeys, stacking studies, bedrooms and bathrooms. This creates a line of defence between the street and the new extension to the rear. Referencing Dutch courtyard paintings, traditional East Asian courtyard houses and monastic cloisters, the extension has a formal courtyard arrangement with the intent of creating a protected and quiet space at the heart of a family home.

ARCHITECT: TURNER ARCHITECTS LTD | STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
BINI STRUCT-E LTD | PLANNING CONSULTANT: SM PLANNING |
PHOTOGRAPHY: ADAM SCOTT





The Cloistered House is, says architect Paul Turner, a good example of his practice's belief in architecture as storytelling. And that story is a rich one that draws on the courtyard and cloister spaces that have been inspired by the house's historian homeowners.

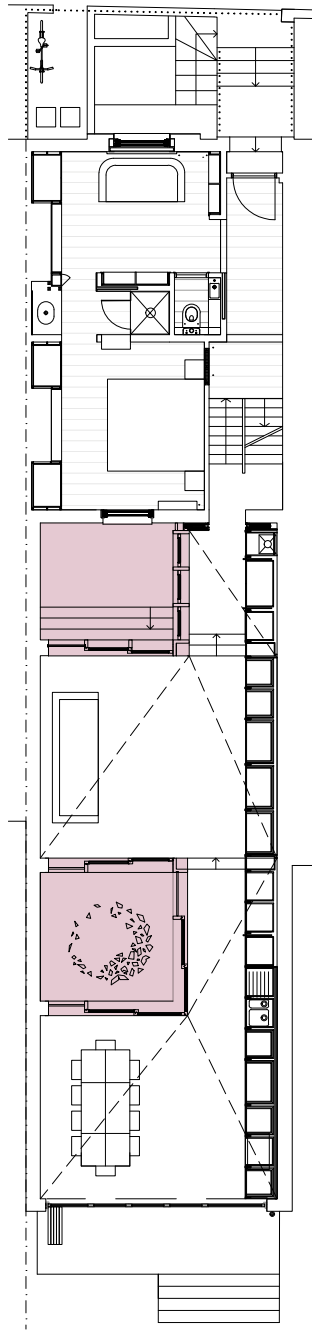
The scheme is essentially of two parts. The first is the existing house, a late Georgian terrace in south east London; the second being a new extension built to its rear. The 'narrative' is a series of new, protected spaces in a courtyard arrangement with the rear presenting as a communal gathering space behind the refurbished cellular rooms to the front.

The house was restored following being left empty for 15 years, the architects also creating dining and gathering spaces at the ground floor rear as a place to celebrate family rituals—cloistered spaces and references which also pick up on some of the interests of the historian owners, such as the courtyards of Dutch paintings or Benedictine monasteries. These spaces—including a dining area and kitchen—are 'protected' by the cellular rooms to the front, with Iroko timber used to provide warmth while the second courtyard includes a single cherry tree and a green roof sits above the scheme as it leads out to a garden. □



JUDGES' COMMENTS

'I love this project. Initially, I was concerned that the rear extension may feel fragmented but it actually works really well. It's not a big box: it extends out into the garden and brings the garden into the house and then the house into the garden.' — Sebastian Wood



The new ground floor plan incorporates courtyard spaces into the heart of the home



'When the house was finished we had no idea it was soon to be put through the ultimate stress test: lockdown. The division between the old and new parts of the house became the division between quiet and loud. Both enabled homeworkers to be shut off from homeschoolers and ensured everyone stayed sane.'

Sarah, homeowner

RECONNECTING WITH NATURE

Making the most out of their garden space, these homes look to blur the boundaries between out and in. Whether it's framing a view out or making the perfect window seat, they highlight inspiring ways to reconnect our homes with nature.



BACK DOOR HOUSE, ISLINGTON
A new back door located across lower and upper ground floors includes multiple panes to allow differing sized openings, views, and circulation to the back of the house. It transforms internal spaces according to the seasons and provides a dynamic connection to the garden.
ARCHITECT: HAYHURST AND CO. | PHOTOGRAPHY: KILLIAN O'SULLIVAN



BOSCOMBE HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
The wedge-shaped plot on the side widens to the rear, with a strip of underused land between the property and the adjoining block of flats. The new extension infills this strip of land, accommodating the new kitchen which spills directly onto the garden.
ARCHITECT: PAUL ARCHER DESIGN | PHOTOGRAPHY: MATT CHISNALL



CERULEAN, ISLINGTON
A glazed double-height hall space provides dramatic views out to the jungle-like garden. A sculptural steel stair leads to the lower living space which has been transformed with minimal visible structure and a wall of thin framed sliding doors.
ARCHITECT: EDWARDS RENSEN ARCHITECTS LTD | PHOTOGRAPHY: ADELINA ILIEV



GLOUCESTER DRIVE, FINSBURY PARK
This rear extension, with open plan kitchen and lounge, unfolds to the garden beyond. Walls open on two sides, creating a more fluid connection between inside and outside.
ARCHITECT: LEVITATE | PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID BUTLER



LITTLE DONYPOND, DULWICH VILLAGE
The kitchen extension is designed to complement the spirit of the original house and open out onto the garden. Woven brickwork panels and proportional glazing provide views out.
ARCHITECT: GRUFF ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: BEN ANDERS



SHERNHALL STREET, WALTHAMSTOW
A large pop-out window connects the cooking area with the garden in a unique way, increasing free floor space and allowing access to the garden via large timber doors.
ARCHITECT: BAT STUDIO | PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON KENNEDY

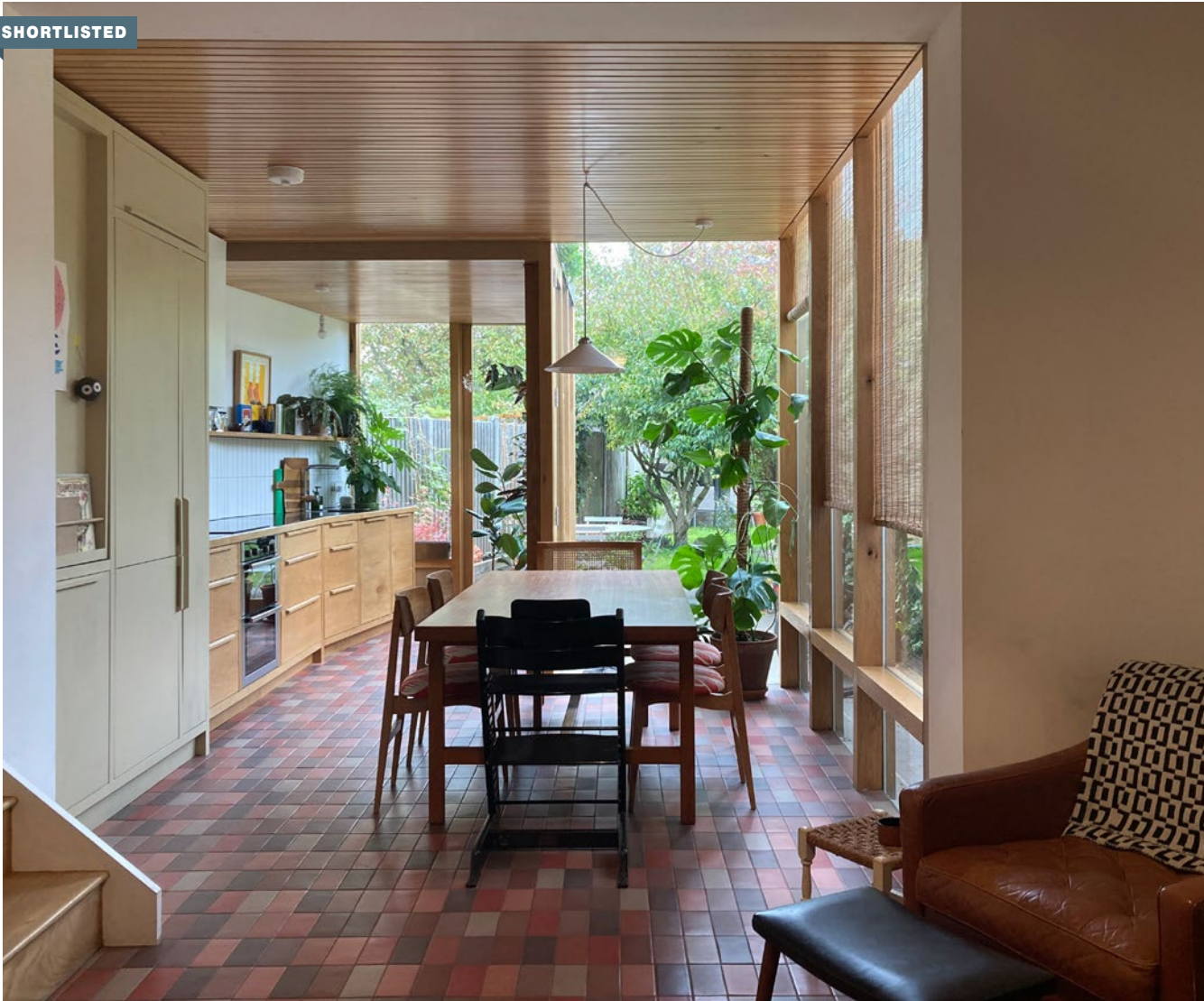


ST GEORGE'S HOUSE, ISLINGTON
The ground floor space was opened up by transforming an existing undercroft into a double-height space. This now accommodates the dining space with a huge frameless glass box window creating views out to the garden from two levels.
ARCHITECT: PAUL ARCHER DESIGN | PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDY STAGG



VINE HOUSE, HIGHBURY
This carefully articulated concrete facade mediates between the house and garden. A bespoke stainless-steel trellis creates a connecting threshold space for vines to grow up and around.
ARCHITECT: BEASLEY DICKSON ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNESE SANVITO

SHORTLISTED



**MORE WITH LESS
SUMMERHILL ROAD,
SOUTH TOTTENHAM**

This project is an exercise in reduction, finding both the least amount of material and the fewest types of elements that can be used. This exercise draws on an interest in building with less — both the environmental benefit of less actual physical material, but also to see what richness can still be present within strict limitations. The volume is a matter-of-fact response to planning constraints. The extension is two rectangular boxes, one slightly larger than the other, stepping in plan and elevation towards the garden. Two flat roofs held up on timber columns, as simple as that.

ARCHITECT: OEB ARCHITECTS | PHOTOGRAPHY: OEB ARCHITECTS





A flourishing design trend

Grand Designs' very own Karen Stylianides talks to us about the growing interest in creating a better connection with nature at home



Bi-folding doors by Alco Glass Systems (alcoglass.co.uk) span the width of the extension to a Victorian lodge in south-west London

Jefferson Smith / Media 10 Ltd



Design inspiration for your renovation or home improvement project can come from anywhere—a friend's house, the local cinema, a piece of art, a listed farmhouse. But over the past few years, creating a closer connection with nature has flourished as a design influence on architecture and interiors. And the idea has gained even more traction since the first lockdown in March 2020, when so many found solace and equilibrium through gardening, buying houseplants or by walking in the countryside.

Bring light in and create views out

Big expanses of glazing that capture pleasing outdoor views and bring daylight into dark spaces can be seen in many recent extension projects and new builds. The proportion of masonry to glass in a facade is reduced in a bid to minimise the boundary between inside and out. Glazed doors and windows have slim

frames, hidden frames or structural glazing with no frame at all. Internal walls are taken down to create open spaces where light and air flow throughout the floorplan.

Create an outdoor enclosure

Building an internal courtyard is an innovative way to incorporate outside space within the footprint of a house. It's somewhere to grow a specimen tree, tend to a soothing Japanese gravel garden or watch a flowing water feature, and it brings daylight, as well as fresh air, inside. Though far from common, there have been a few interesting projects completed in London over the past year or two.

Use raw materials

Materials that perform well when as close to their natural state as possible are ever more desirable from an aesthetic, environmental and health perspective. Clay paint, plaster, brick and tiles, along with FSC-certified timber, sustainable cork and stone, provide tactile structures and surfaces free from any chemical nasties. □



URBAN OASIS

Bringing nature into the centre of the home, these projects introduce courtyards, skylights, and picture windows in order to connect every space with outdoors and creating a little urban oasis within London.



SPONGE, QUEEN'S PARK
This reimagining of this traditional Victorian terrace has delivered a bright and flexible family home. Design details such as split-level floors, multi-function circulation areas and clear sightlines have transformed the interior. New volumes have been dug into or added to the building to reconnect it to the sky.

ARCHITECT: UNAGRU LIMITED
PHOTOGRAPHY: STÅLE ERIKSEN

HOUSE FOR A GARDENER, STROUD GREEN CONSERVATION AREA
This project was designed for a couple, one a keen gardener, and arranges a sequence of living spaces around the garden and a new plant-filled courtyard that gives constant connection to greenery on the tight urban site. The entirely glazed roof of the winter garden draws light down to the plants, but also through to a formerly gloomy study adjoining the front sitting room.

ARCHITECT: AMOS GOLDBREICH ARCHITECTURE
PHOTOGRAPHY: OLLIE HAMMICK



TSUBO HOUSE, HACKNEY
This design aimed to introduce a courtyard within the plan to help articulate a relationship between the existing house and the new architecture. The external environment acts as a pivot point between the spaces, whilst acting as an environmental tool to bring in lots of natural light and to aid natural ventilation.

ARCHITECT: FRAHER AND FINDLAY ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: ADAM SCOTT

LANSDOWNE ROAD, MUSWELL HILL
This essence of the project was to create a large living space while maintaining the original Victorian character. The 2.7m curved glass screen, a modern take on the original Victorian bay window, allowed the creation of a small courtyard that will become a densely planted green oasis at the heart of the home.

ARCHITECT: MULROY ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY: DAN GLASSER

House for a Gardener by Amos Goldreich Architecture. Photography: Ollie Hammick

'One of the biggest challenges was the idea of losing some of the garden, however the new layout fuses everything together and we now appreciate part of the house we had become tired of.'

Graham, homeowner,
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Behind the brand

Smeg's very own, Ben Staniforth, talks to *Don't Move, Improve!* about the history, approach and design ambitions behind one of the most iconic kitchen brands around



With a history spanning over 70 years, Smeg is known for its iconic 1950s retro aesthetic. However, despite the brand's worldwide popularity, the company is not as corporate as you might imagine. In fact, Smeg is still family-owned, founded back in 1948 as blacksmiths and metal enamellers.

Over the years, the manufacturer has striven to develop products that express its 'made in Italy' heritage by combining art, design, performance, and attention to detail. Smeg has real heart — an underlying passion for investing in the best production to craft unique, yet functional, everyday objects. With such a wide range of products from well specified touch/wifi-controlled built-in ovens and hobs through to focal-point range cookers, the collection is vast and set out across a selection of design families, colours and specifications.

From ultra-modern contemporary ranges such as Dolce Stil Novo and Linea through to traditional designs from its classic and Victoria aesthetics, there's a range to suit any space, be it a new build development or large scale renovation. A well-organised kitchen means everything is ready to hand, and the sleek, perfectly aligned fit makes the most of any space, whether you're designing an ultra-modern urban space, a rustic country house, or a minimalist loft.

The importance of family is key to Smeg — the company truly believes the kitchen is a space to be enjoyed, to share family moments and, more so today, a multipurpose space. It has to reflect your personality, be the focal point heart of the home and respond to the cooking, cleaning, eating, drinking and entertaining needs of its users, nicely hidden away and concealed or bold and out there.□

Please drop in to Smeg's expansive St James's showroom or arrange a virtual tour/consultation by emailing showme@smeglondon.com or by calling 0344 573 5573.

Our school refurbishment and expansion project at Collège Amadou Hampaté Bâ, in Niamey, Niger, is under construction — working with the local community, and partnered by engineering firms Michael Hadi Associates and Max Fordham

Article 25

Humanitarian Architecture



Architects for change! Enabling access to education in Niger

David Murray, Article 25's Managing Director, gives us an insight into the important work that the charity is carrying out around the globe



Article 25 is a humanitarian architecture charity. We design and build beautiful buildings, improving access to education, healthcare, and safe housing around the world. This college expansion project in Niger, for example, will enable the college to accommodate up to 1,200 children from primary school age right through

to lycée, supporting the community as it tackles low literacy rates. Ranked 189th out of 189 countries in the UN's global Human Development index, the average expected length of schooling in Niger is just 5.4 years and adult literacy rates are at 15.5 per cent.

Our design prioritises local materials and skills. We are using laterite stone; a cheap and plentiful material in the region, which has very low embodied carbon and represents an underutilised resource in Niger. In the face of challenging climactic conditions — temperatures in Niamey regularly exceed 40 degrees Celsius — we have designed the buildings to passive cooling

principles, creating comfortable spaces that are conducive for working and learning in.

Working with the local community, we bring skilled and unskilled workers together, improving future employability for those who gain new constructions skills through our work. During construction, local masons are being trained in how to build with laterite (pictured), in the hope that the technology can be used in future projects across the region.

We have also initiated a construction skills training course at the building site, for young women who are either current students or recent alumni of the college. The success of the programme has positively challenged conventional views on gender roles in construction. As architects for change, we don't just want to leave behind a beautiful building. We want to support thriving, more resilient communities through sustainable design and construction. □

To find out more about Article 25 and support their ongoing work visit article-25.org

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DAY TRUE

Day True is born from a fundamental belief that good design can improve lives. Combine that with ambition and passion and exciting things happen, *Collected* being our latest new adventure.

Tony and Hayley had both worked in the kitchen and bathroom industry for many years and when they joined forces both personally and professionally Day True was born. The Maida Vale showroom was discovered on Valentine's Day 2013, the Chelsea showroom was opened on Day True's second birthday and then Wimbledon Village three years later. Day True is one of London's premier kitchen, bedroom and home design studios.

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Smeg, the iconic Italian domestic appliance manufacturer, has been family owned and run since its formation right in 1948, and proudly maintains these values to the present day. Throughout the company's history, Smeg has collaborated with leading architects and designers from around the world, to create distinctive, stylish and well performing products which personify its unique 'made in Italy' style. Deeply rooted in the production of cooking appliances, from well specified touch controlled, even wifi controlled built-in ovens and hobs through to range cookers, the range is vast and set out across a selection of design families and aesthetics.

Well known for its refrigeration categories, Smeg also produces a selection of appliances including dishwashers, coffee machines, wine coolers, even sinks and taps, for exceptional design co-ordination and specification choice.



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VitrA creates beautiful bathroom products combining captivating design and innovation. From ceramic sanitaryware to furniture, taps and tiles, VitrA is one of the few global bathroom manufacturers to produce the full suite of bathroom products, both for commercial and residential spaces. As part of the Eczacıbaşı Group, VitrA draws on a century of experience in design, innovation and eco-conservation, and has a long history of working with internationally renowned designers such as Arik Levy, Terri Pecora and Ross Lovegrove.

In April, VitrA opened its flagship showroom in Clerkenwell, London — a creative hub for architects, designers and thinkers with dedicated areas for product specification, events and workshops.

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Our aim is to help bring great clients together with the best architects from across the UK and Ireland. We believe the home is the most personal, the most emotional piece of architecture any of us can experience and that there is not enough good design in the world. If you're planning to renovate, extend, or even build a new home, we're here to help you find the right design-led practice to create a truly special place to live.

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Grand Designs helps you create the home you long to live in. Inside each issue, you'll find exclusive content from self-build guru Kevin McCloud, along with real-life examples of those who have constructed, renovated or updated their own homes.

There's expert advice for anyone tackling a build project, stunning kitchen and bathroom ideas, in-depth buyer's guides, plus the latest design and architecture news.

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Houzz is the leading platform for home renovation and design, providing people with everything they need to improve their homes from start to finish. On Houzz, people can find design inspiration, research and hire home professionals, and get advice for their projects. For home professionals, Houzz Pro provides an all-in-one software solution that empowers industry pros to stand out, win clients and manage their projects efficiently and profitably. The Houzz community is made up of millions of homeowners, home design enthusiasts and home improvement professionals around the world.






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