

**DON'T
MOVE,
IMPROVE!**

DMI 2021: Coverage Report

March - June 2021

DMI 2021: Shortlist Press

dezeen



The minimal ER Residence by Studio Hallett Ike

Don't Move, Improve! 2021 shortlist spotlights London's best house renovations



Lizzie Crook | 24 March 2021 | 5 comments

A minimalist charred-wood [extension](#), a garden studio wrapped in green terrazzo and an origami-inspired annexe are in the running to be crowned [London's](#) best home improvement of 2021.

Dezeen

Date: 24 March 2021

Reach: 3 Million

Enki

Date:
Reach:

June 2021
12,500

architecture | NEWS



"THERE IS A RENEWED ENERGY BEHIND THE GREEN AGENDA RIGHT NOW"



INTERVIEW...

Amy Till

The Programme Director of New London Architecture explains the importance of Don't Move, Improve!

What is the Don't Move, Improve! competition? How did it all begin?
The competition was born from a desire to shine a light on the astonishing diversity, creativity and originality emerging from home improvement projects across London. Submissions are open to practices and homeowners who have undertaken interior insertions, conversions, back, top or side extensions and garden rooms. It's pretty unique in its celebration of this type and scale of architecture and each year it gives us both a fantastic insight into developing trends and an understanding of what people want from their homes.

Why is it important to you to highlight home improvement projects? Ultimately it is about trying to help make people's lives better. We want to celebrate the talented architects and brave clients pushing boundaries to create spaces that improve liveability of homes and contribute to London's rich character. Don't Move, Improve! is all about encouraging great domestic and everyday design. We want to inspire and give confidence to Londoners to take on these most personal of projects, to have big ambitions and realise them.

How have the awards grown since they started? One of the best things about working on Don't Move, Improve! is engaging with our ever-growing network of architects and practices who are as passionate as we are about great domestic-scale design. It has given us a platform to support young and emerging architects and we have ambitions to do a lot more on this front. The competition has become the engine room for our year-round programme of professional and public events, exhibitions and

editorial. It's been exciting to watch the programme evolve and grow. In 2019 we had over 30,000 visitors to the exhibition and last year we were able to produce exclusive video tours and interviews with the winning projects which can be viewed at nla.london.

What are you looking for in the projects submitted?
We are looking for high quality design that clearly improves life for the residents. We look for contextual designs that contribute to London's character and the life of the surrounding neighbourhood. We ask for 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. Our special prizes are designed to celebrate emerging trends and key challenges: Unique Character Prize, Urban Oasis of the Year, Compact Design of the Year, Best Under rook, along with prizes for Environmental Leadership and Materiality & Craftsmanship.

Can you explain to us what your Virtual Design Surgeries are? We give members of the public the opportunity to get free advice from architects who have been involved in the competition, as well as other specialists like party wall surveyors. Our Design Surgery Week has gone virtual to allow people to tune in through Zoom, from wherever they are, with inspirational lunchtime webinars and one-to-one virtual consultations. It was really exciting to find out this year that one of our shortlisted projects actually resulted from one of our free design surgery consultations a few years ago!



Have there been any trends/themes that you've noticed in this year's entries? Absolutely. It's fascinating to see how the trends evolve year on year. Bold use of colour and pattern remains an ongoing theme. This year we also saw a lot of projects featuring raw materials and finishes, with bare plaster walls, pigmented raw concrete and exposed interior brick. We haven't seen the full impact of the work-from-home revolution yet, it's going to be really interesting to see projects responding to this in next year's entries.

Do you feel there has been a considered shift towards renovation projects in the architectural world? In the wider context, the retrofit and re-use agenda is massive. There have long been calls for the 'long-life, loose fit' approach, creating sustainable buildings that have a longevity and flexibility that allows them to adapt to changing needs, remaining mindful of use of resources. At the domestic scale in London, space is a real premium and many homeowners continue to explore creative new ways to maximise the space they have rather than move.

Going forward, how do you think Don't Move, Improve! will evolve? There is a renewed energy behind the green agenda right now, which is fantastic. There's a lot more we'd like to do in this area, supporting architects and homeowners on the road to a net zero carbon London, and continuing to celebrate the schemes leading the way. We have big plans to evolve our events and exhibition into a more year-round regular programme of design surgeries, socials, workshops, product displays and exhibitions. Come and say hello!

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architecture | NEWS

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BREAKING

1h

Horror video shows teen stabbed in Hyde Park zombie knife attack

10m

Travel 'carnage' predicted as private Covid testing system 'struggles'

38m

Ed Miliband: My

Homes & Property

Date: 24 March 2021

Reach: 750,000

[Full article](#)

HOMES & PROPERTY › **INTERIORS**

Don't Move, Improve! awards 2021: bold colours to garden offices, an exclusive preview of the shortlist

Brave, new spaces are the focus of this year's Don't Move, Improve! shortlist, says Anna White

Mondrian colour palettes, garden offices shrouded in nature and the playful use of patterned concrete all feature in the most cutting-edge [renovation projects](#) London has on show this spring.

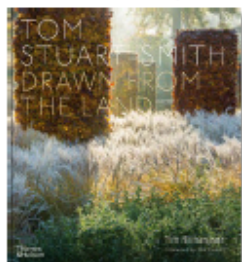
A panel of judges has whittled 200 residential [renovations](#) down to a shortlist of 22 final entries all competing in New London Architecture's [Don't Move, Improve!](#) awards 2021, and [Homes & Property](#) has had an exclusive first look.

The doer-upper projects range in cost from £80,000 to almost £1 million and include the total modernisation of an ex-council house in [Bermondsey](#), a 120sq m extension in [Haringey](#) with pigmented patterned concrete, and a kitchen made from discarded milk bottles and car tires.

Architecture update

Green scene

Expect a serious case of garden envy when leafing through Tom Stuart-Smith's *Drawn from the Land* by Tim Richardson (E&O, Thames & Hudson, 26 April). Twenty-four acclaimed gardens by the leading landscape architect and designer are explored and documented with beautiful photos and drawings plus detailed descriptions. The methods and ideas for landscaping and planting throughout the book are sure to inspire your own plot. (thamesandhudson.com)



Between and below

Developed alongside the conversion of a house in Wandsworth, south London, into flats, this new-build home is sited on a former car park and garden. Studio Varey Architects managed the tricky planning application, obtaining permission to dig below the entire footprint of the plot to create a sunken level for the house and a new basement flat for the existing property. The four-bedroom 160sqm house includes a basement living room which leads out to a courtyard. The project cost £1.6 million, of which the house was around £600,000. (studiovarey.co.uk)



Site specific

This 258sqm four-bedroom house in Bearsden, East Dunbartonshire, was built on a long narrow plot that had been a tennis court. The house, which aims to maximise passive solar gain and reduce heat loss, has an air-source heat pump powered by solar photovoltaic panels and backed up by a small stove. It was faced with handmade bricks from Petersen Brick (en.petersen-tegl.dk) selected by architecture firm McGinlay Bell (mcginlaybell.com) for their robustness. A pavilion with glazed sliding screens opens up to the courtyards. The project received a Glasgow Institute of Architects Design Award.



Better living

Judges for New London Architecture's Don't Move, Improve! competition have whittled down almost 200 entries to highlight the 22 best home-improvement projects across London, including this extension by Alexander Owen Architecture (aoarchitecture.co.uk). Category winners will be announced from 6 May, and the overall winner on 27 May. Apply to discuss your own project in a virtual design surgery on 24 April. Two further surgeries are planned for July and September. (nla.london)

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM STUART-SMITH; INTERIOR DESIGN: ALEXANDER OWEN ARCHITECTURE; EXTERIOR DESIGN: ALEXANDER OWEN ARCHITECTURE

Grand Designs

Date: May 2020
Reach: 71,000

1930s façade hides drama-filled make-over on Highgate home

 Zita Whalley



Published: 1:04 PM April 28, 2021 Updated: 1:11 PM April 28, 2021



While retaining the original 1930s facade, the home was transformed into a double fronted property. - Credit: Will Pryce

While retaining the original period frontage of the Lanchester Road house, Kentish Town's Mulroy Architects converted the property into an arresting modern home which has garnered praised by the Don't Move, Improve 2021 competition.

While many people have upped and moved this year in search of more space or a bigger garden, perhaps Don't Move, Improve 2021 is a timely reminder that sometimes you can work with what you've got.

Ham and High

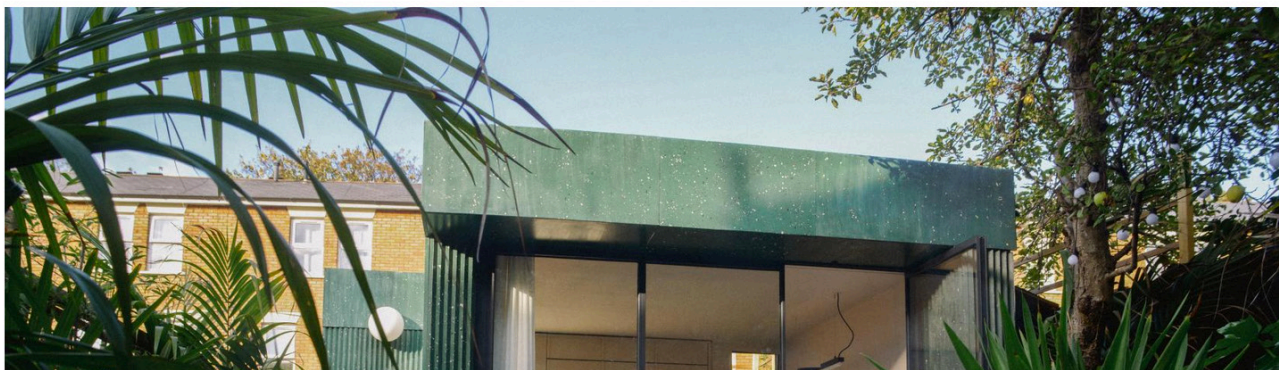
Date: 28 March 2021

Reach: 7,500

ARCHITECTURE | 24 MAR 2021 | BY ELLIE STATHAKI

Are these London's best home improvements of the year?

The 2021 shortlist for the coveted 'Don't Move, Improve' competition in London has been revealed and demonstrates a playful twist to home improvements



If the 2021 shortlist for 'Don't Move, Improve' is anything to go by, then home improvements during a year of on-and-off lockdowns have resulted in a series of fun and playful projects. The coveted London-wide competition's nominees have just been announced and it's clear that colour is king and unexpected designs that bring a sense of lightness to the everyday have been the order of the day in the UK capital.

That said, the list is expansive and diverse, covering the aforementioned exuberant designs, but also anything from sober, modernist-inspired abodes, to small scale extensions, garden outbuilding additions and Scandinavian-influenced interiors in every corner of London. It features young and established practices alike, including studios such as Hayhurst and Co, Office S&M, Eckford Chong, and Nimtim Architects.

Wallpaper*

Date: 24 March 2021

Reach: 1,700,000

☆ Feature · 26th Mar 2021

In Pictures: London's best new home extensions

This year's *Don't Move, Improve!* shortlist celebrates how home-owners are creating flexible spaces for living, working and playing.

Prime Resi

Date: 26 March 2021



Alexander Owen Architecture adds bold colour and curves to London home



Rima Sabina Aouf | 2 May 2021 | 8 comments

London studio [Alexander Owen Architecture](#) drew on its clients' love of [modernism](#) and pop art to create a colourful [kitchen](#) and terrace at Amott Road in East Dulwich.

Geometric shapes, timber curves and bold pigments characterise the project, which also involved adding a modest side extension to the end-of-terrace property in southeast London.

Dezeen

Date: 2 May 2021
Reach: 3 Million

22 projects shortlisted for the Don't Move, Improve 2021 awards



By [Katherine Guimang](#)

May 21, '21 6:49 PM EST



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THE HOUSE RECAST, STUDIO BEN ALLEN. Image courtesy of

The [Don't Move, Improve Awards](#) is an annual program organized by [New London Architecture](#) highlighting the city's best new home extensions and celebrate innovative home improvement projects. In its eleventh year, each selected winner demonstrates "how a well-designed home can improve quality of life, offer functional solutions on the smallest of sites, and create beautiful spaces even within the most restricted of budgets."

Archinect

Date:

2 May 2021

DMI 2021: Finalist Press

Date: 27 May 2021
Reach: 3 Million



The House Recast by Studio Ben Allen wins Don't Move, Improve! 2021



Lizzie Crook | 27 May 2021 | 4 comments

A "rich and interesting" refurbishment of a Victorian house by [Studio Ben Allen](#) has been named [London's](#) best new home improvement project in the [Don't Move, Improve!](#) awards.

[The House Recast](#) is the overall winner of this year's contest, which is organised annually by [New London Architecture](#) (NLA) to showcase the diversity of homes in the UK capital.

Rundown of Winners



Rear extension by Turner Architects contains "cloister-like" rooms built around a central courtyard



Alyn Griffiths | 15 May 2021 | 17 comments

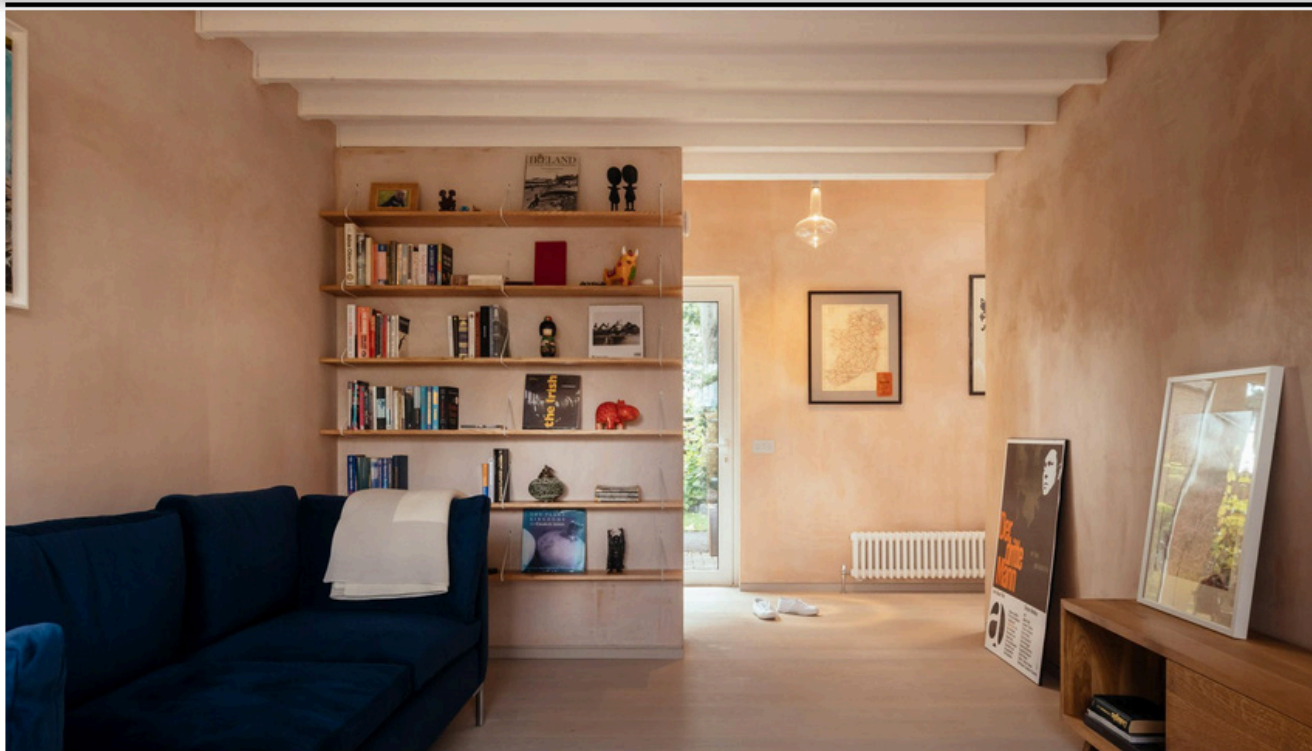
Turner Architects has [renovated](#) and [extended](#) a Georgian terraced house in south [London](#), creating a sequence of living spaces interspersed with [courtyards](#) that bring the changing colours of the seasons inside.

The brief for A Cloistered House was to give a new lease of life to a three-storey residence in Clapham that had been abandoned for several years and was in a poor state internally.

Dezeen

Date: 17 May 2021
Reach: 3 Million

Feature of shortlisted



VATRAA adds pink plaster walls in south London council house renovation



Rima Sabina Aouf | 26 May 2021 | 19 comments

Architecture studio VATRAA has won a [Don't Move, Improve!](#) award with this London council house [renovation](#) featuring pink-toned plaster walls and an oversized window.

Called Council House Renovation, the project involved a full refurbishment and remodelling of the two-bedroom home in Bermondsey, south London.

VATRAA's design was a [joint winner in the 2021 Compact Design of the Year category](#) for Don't Move, Improve!

Dezeen

Date: 17 May 2021

Reach: 3 Million

ARCHITECTURE | 12 DAYS AGO | BY ELLIE STATHAKI

House Recast wins 'Don't Move, Improve' competition

Studio Ben Allen's colourful House Recast is revealed as the overall winner of the 'Don't Move, Improve' competition in London, among a strong list of nominees and several further category awards



Studio Ben Allen's House Recast has been crowned the overall winner at the 'Don't Move, Improve' competition in London. The playfully colourful architecture of the home stood out to the judging panel from 22 shortlisted designs that celebrated home improvement and everyday, yet exceptional domestic design. The main prize is awarded following a string of announcements regarding sub-category wins, including gongs for working-from-home designs and unique character. Studio Ben Allen's work topped the charts with a home that 'pushes the boundaries of how homes can look and feel', say the judges.

The 2021 shortlist for 'Don't Move, Improve' highlighted a series of projects mostly completed during a year of on-and-off lockdowns. The architects responded with fun and playful designs across London, many of them defined by colour, pattern and texture, and a sense overall lightness that brings a smile to the everyday. That said, the list is indeed expansive and diverse, covering projects of all sizes and works by both young and established studios.

Date: 27 May 2021
Reach: 1,700,000

Serena Fokschaner

Sat 29 May 2021 16.00 BST



Concrete thinking: an astonishing terrace extension



▲ 'We've never aspired to the 'house beautiful' look, but it was starting to look tatty': the garden glimpsed through the rear doors of the house

Using concrete and having an open mind means the owners of this London home have something very special on their hands

We can't resist tinkering with our houses. In the 1980s we knocked through rooms and reached into the rafters to add loft extensions. In the 1990s side passages were glassed over and dusty coal cellars became utility rooms. Next came

Observer

Date: 30 May 2021

Reach: 22.4 Million

Feature of House Recast
as Winner

Mountain View in Sydenham: take a tour of the Disney-inspired Don't Move Improve shortlisted renovation

From Trainspotting to Disneyland, Mat Barnes looked beyond the world of architecture to create his dream home



Homes and Property

Date: 19 May 2021

Reach: 750,000

[Full Article](#)

Date: 27 May 2021

Reach: 12,500

House Recast

Studio Ben Allen's pigmented concrete extension to a Victorian terrace in Haringey has been named the winner of this year's Don't Move Improve! competition.



Date: 27 May 2021

Reach: 12,500

Don't Move Improve! reveals runners-up

Eight special prize winners have been announced in the competition to find London's best home extension, ahead of an overall winner later this month.



Rundown of Winners

News · 27th May 2021

In Pictures: London's best new home extension

"A House Recast" by Studio Ben Allen has been named overall winner of this year's *Don't Move, Improve!* award for London's best-designed new home extension.



Prime Resi

Date: 6 May 2021

Finalist Announcement

News · 21st May 2021

In Pictures: London's best new extensions for 'unique character' & working from home

This week's batch of winners for New London Architecture's *Don't Move, Improve!* awards reveal the best new home extension under £100k, the best work-from-home-design, and the project with the best "unique character".



Weekly Drops

News · 7th May 2021

In Pictures: Three of London's best home extension projects

The first batch of winners of this year's *Don't Move, Improve!* awards have been announced, celebrating Compact Design and Materiality & Craftsmanship in home extensions.



Prime Resi

Date: 20 May 2021

Weekly Drops