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2022 EDITION

At the forefront of character

FEATURING

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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!

2022 Edition

dontmoveimprove.london

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Character at the forefront

This year’s programme commends the best home renovations, extensions and expansions that put character, narratives, seamless connections, and bold material choices at the forefront.

Our shortlisted projects reflect London’s rich and variant residential landscape whilst focusing on liveability, cost-effectiveness, and intuitive consideration of local contexts.

Don’t Move, Improve! celebrates great domestic-scale design that pushes the boundaries of creativity, showcasing how homeowners and architects have rethought design, space and inhabitability, adding longevity and efficiency to homes across the capital.

Throughout the programme we explore projects that show us innovatively designed indoor-outdoor living, clever solutions to compact spaces, raw use of natural materials, and bold colour palettes.

Responding to our growing ambition, we launched our brand new website **dontmoveimprove.london** in February 2022, that will allow us to keep developing our brand and our vision, promote our annual programme and stay connected with our audience.

With design surgeries, social events and our *Don’t Move, Improve!* annual publication, we look forward to growing our programme and reaching out to homeowners and professionals across London to keep discovering inspiring home renovations.

Florence Maschietto
Programme Manager, NLA



Little Brownings by Archmongers. Photography by French+Tye

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 improvements projects from across London.

This magazine includes this year's six winning projects, 15 shortlisted projects as well as a curated selection of longlisted projects that celebrate this year's themes, with exclusive insights from industry experts on emerging trends and styles.

THE COMPETITION

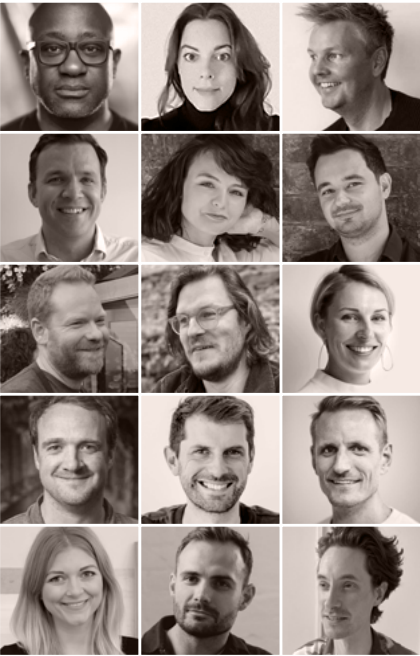
The annual competition is open to practices and homeowners who have carried out extensions on top of, underneath and on the side or back of buildings, and/or interior insertions, conversions, and garden studios in Greater London in the past two years. This issue covers the period between September 2019–September 2021. 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 five prizes that celebrate emerging trends and key challenges within home improvements projects. These are:

- **Materiality and Craftsmanship Prize**
- **Compact Design Prize**
- **Unique Character Prize**
- **Urban Oasis Prize**
- **Transformations Prize**



JURY

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

Kunle Barker, COO, Melt Property
Anna White, Property, business and lifestyle journalist for the Telegraph Media Group, The Guardian and the Evening Standard's Homes & Property
Phil Coffey, Director, Coffey Architects
Sebastian Wood, Founder and Managing Director, Whitby Wood

PEER REVIEW PANEL

Our Peer Review Panel, made up of the winning architects from *Don't Move, Improve!* 2021, selected the top 82 projects to be featured in this year's programme. The Panel includes:

Anamaria Pircu, Founding Partner, VATRAA
Bogdan Rusu, Founding Partner, VATRAA
Nick Hayhurst, Director, Hayhurst & Co Architects
Jonathan Nicholls, Director, Hayhurst & Co Architects
Elizabeth Fraher, Design Director, Fraher and Findlay Architecture
Paul Turner, Architect/Director, Turner Architects
George Bradley, Director, Bradley Van Der Straeten
Ewald Van Der Straeten, Director, Bradley Van Der Straeten
Madeleine Ike, Director, Studio Hallett Ike
Jonty Hallett, Director, Studio Hallett Ike
Timothy Robinson, Founder, Sonn Studio

Austin Vernon reimagined

OVERALL WINNER 2022
Little Brownings by Archmongers
Dulwich Estate, Lewisham



If there is one project that is the embodiment of *Don't Move, Improve!* it is this one. Little Brownings is a three-storey, 1960s terraced house on the Dulwich Estate in Forest Hill, south London, where the architects subtly but stylishly updated the building's fabric, adding a 'jewellery box' of design features whilst retaining its mid-century characteristics. The architects' brief was to refurbish the house into a contemporary home, including a front extension to replace an existing lean-to. The resulting scheme works by using highly detailed solutions to create better-connected, modern spaces, while adding little to the home's footprint.



Photography: French + Tye

‘We were meticulous in controlling all the internal and external details, demonstrated by the simplicity and grace of the junctions of different materials with no compromise to their technical performance’
Johan Hybschmann, Archmongers



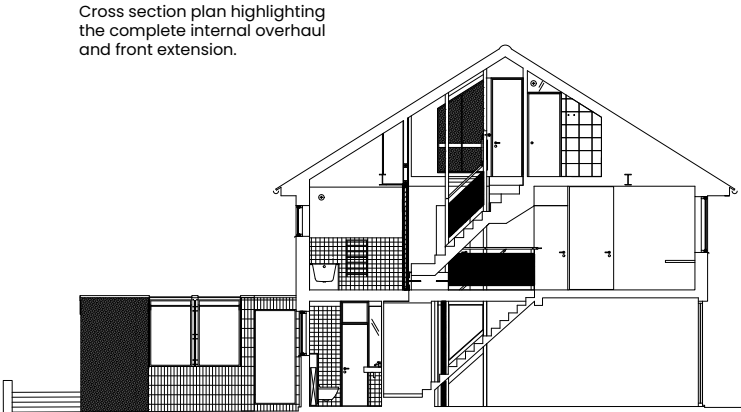
Characterful internal details include a bespoke handmade bannister (left) and a pink concrete ‘tongue’ kitchen counter (above).

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

‘This felt like the house we can all imagine ourselves in and the improvements we could all do, if only we had the right designers! – the embodiment of *Don’t Move, Improve!*’
Sebastian Wood, Founder and Managing Director, Whitby Wood

The skeleton or ‘bone structure’ of this mid-century house was good, say the architects. But the kitchen and hallway circulation needed to be redesigned to better integrate the main living spaces. The front extension was thus designed to work very hard to accommodate the kitchen and utility room in a restricted space. Yet it also showcases a ‘jewellery box’ of design features to extend the perception of space, allowing enjoyment of the surrounding terrace and trees. Features include a glazed inlet full of plants, large skylights and windows into the kitchen, mirroring the original glazed rear wall, and a staircase with exposed wooden structure.

The house has been respectfully updated for modern living without losing any of its very pure 60’s character. It is an example of how progressive and community-based these houses were, since with some





help, it is now an uncompromising modern house for years to come.

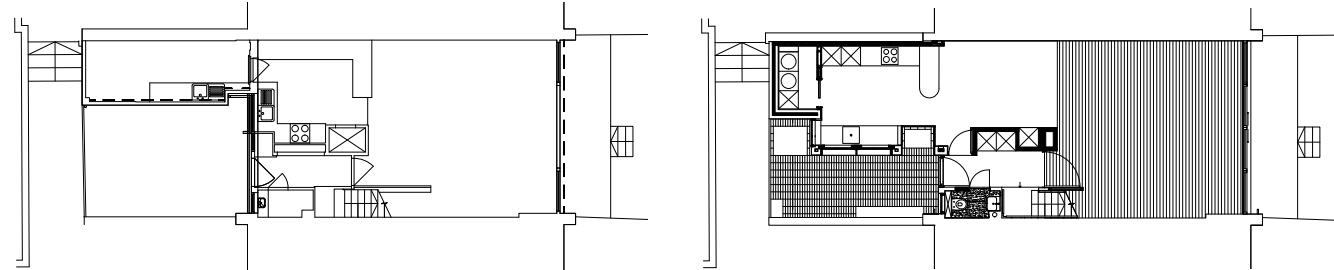
Johan Hybschmann of the practice believes the durability of the concept and materials used demonstrate the architects' approach to sustainability and placemaking, with the design instilling a 'freshness' to the estate in which it sits. He's also proud of the way the scheme overcame statutory challenges over maintaining the estate's uniformity, without compromising Austin Vernon & Partners' original estate vision.

'We set out to create a better experience in every space, from utilising angled mirrors to connect rooms to folding doors that enable versatile living', said Hybschmann. 'We're delighted with the end result'. ■

JUDGES' COMMENTS

'Since the scheme is a front extension instead of a rear one, that is interesting in itself, creating a threshold to the entrance of the house. There's a structural integrity to this. You can't tell where the line is between the old and new house. It's really clever, at a small scale. Hats off to the architects behind Little Brownings — the reworked 1960s house on the Dulwich Estate is both clever and cool. The bin store is now an elegant kitchen, which opens into a convivial dining and living space. Behind hidden doors and smart joinery is a wealth of surprise storage.'

Phil Coffey, Director, Coffey Architects



Before and after. The plan to the right highlights the transformation of the ground floor layout post-extension.



The joy of coming home: transforming your home with bespoke glazing

Jordan Vincent, Architectural Project Manager at Schueco, discusses the benefits of using glazing for wellbeing and energy efficiency in your home



Coming home should be one of the great pleasures in life. Leaving the stresses of the day behind and arriving at the place where we can truly relax. Or, if our homes are also where we work or spend

most of the day, having a space that is a joy to spend time in can make all the difference.

We spend an inordinate amount of time at home compared to pre-2020. We now realise just how important this space is – for our safety, health and overall happiness. It's become apparent that it should be a priority for us to fill our homes with light and warmth, and to ensure they aren't restrictive as they are used for work, relaxation and entertainment.

How can choosing the ideal glazing help us achieve this? Especially in a period property that is likely to be a bit darker and more enclosed. Often period properties are extended to the back (the front is much too beautiful) to make room for growing families, or just to enjoy inclusive, open spaces. Even small extensions provide the perfect place for dining, reading nooks, home offices or exercise areas. A glazed link between the existing building and an extension, or the creation of a light well, can offer a swathe of new, natural light that otherwise wouldn't be enjoyed.

A great example of this is the renovation of a semi-detached Victorian home in south London which uses wrap-around glazing to join the original building with its new extension. Part of the brief was to ensure as much light was let into the property as possible. The homeowner said: 'I realise now the power that a well-designed room has on one's spirits. I practically live in the kitchen. I can come down in the morning, even in the deep recesses of winter, and come into a place bathed in light and warmth – it lifts the spirits instantly.'

Ample light helps to reduce stress and anxiety and increases vitamin D production, promoting better health. Moreover, skylights or large south-facing windows can actually be a great way to save on heating costs by providing natural heat from the sun.

An important consideration here is the U-value and insulation of your window systems. A standard Victorian house often uses over 200 kWh/m² of energy to keep it comfortably heated, while new-build homes built to passive house standards will not exceed 15 kWh/m². Schueco window and door systems designed to passive house standard can significantly help towards keeping an older home warmer, while allowing as much light in as possible.

Finally, large bifold or sliding doors that open up into the garden also can create much more expansive sightlines and underpin the connection from the garden or outdoor area through the house. Schueco AWS barrier-free doors with a level threshold provide an opportunity for inclusive design, bringing the best possible extension to living spaces, with no trip hazards. ■

Monumental materials

MATERIALITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP PRIZE
Concrete Plinth House by DGN Studio
Hackney



As its name implies, this project is formed from a series of concrete plinths, which are embedded into the ground of a Victorian end-of-terrace house in Hackney, east London. These plinths provide accommodation for a young family by supporting the oak frame and steel structure which make up the fabric and lining of the new space. While the sunken concrete base grounds the house with an atmosphere of permanence, the scheme's glazed and panelled oak frame filters light into the house in order to create a serene space birthed from, yet entirely different to, the Victorian architecture of its host.



Photography: **BuildingNarratives**



The Concrete Plinth House is, say the architects, 'embedded in and birthed from the architecture it extends'.

Tasked with crafting versatile spaces by the client – a young couple – the designers renovated and extended a Victorian semi-detached terrace house, creating a sunken floor to lift what were 'oppressive' ceiling heights in the former dark, north-facing kitchen. The architects looked carefully at past building techniques in order to 'imagine a space that is resonant with the historic house, but also entirely new and relevant to the current tasks required of it'. They dropped the floor level by half a metre, filling the width of the site and extending into the garden. Inside, additional space was created with countertops and concrete benches, while light oak beams and a skylight top the extension. In total, they restored a building that was previously divided between an elegant and well-proportioned front and an awkward and oppressive rear to a whole that provides a light-filled backdrop to a growing family life. Pragmatic building techniques such as underpinning were 'examined for their poetic value' in order to make a space which speaks directly of its construction. The design also sought to mitigate common issues with rear extensions such as overlooking by creating a timber facade, the depth and rhythm of which creates a filtered outlook to the garden.

But the main challenges were those that arise on most building projects – adhering to a strict budget, and the contingencies of building in close proximity to neighbouring properties – overcome by having a clear but flexible concept and very patient and devoted clients.

The architects pay homage to the great skill of the craftsmen who helped realise the project but are perhaps most proud of the quality of light and serenity internally that it brings. 'The reason we take great care in the way the building is assembled is to create a specific atmosphere or feeling', said Daniel Goodacre and Geraldine Ng, 'rather than fetishizing any particular material or technique'. ■



JUDGES' COMMENTS

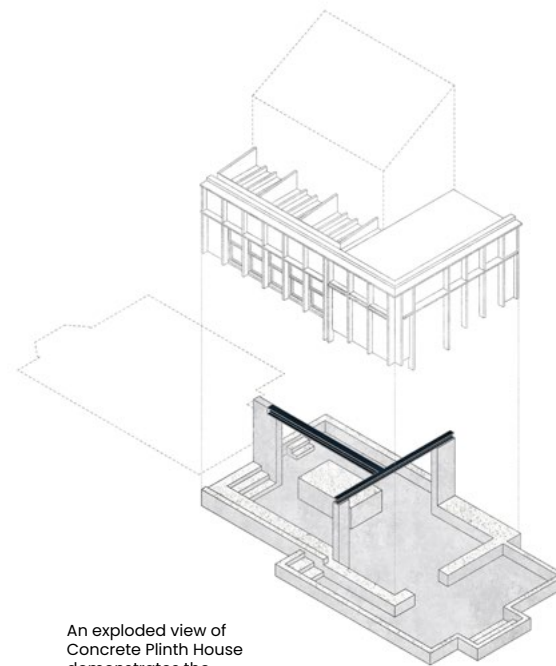
'The beautiful use of raw materials and simple colours used in place of the architectural form in a domestic setting has resulted in a house oozing in elegance and warmth.'

Sebastian Wood,
Founder and
Managing Director,
Whitby Wood



'We were very interested in the way the project would be built and wanted the response to the brief to clearly reflect this'

Daniel Goodacre and
Geraldine Ng, DGN Studio



An exploded view of Concrete Plinth House demonstrates the sheer scale of the material feature.





Minimalist bathrooms: benefits and challenges

Shahnee Taylor-Brown, specification executive at Vitra, shares her expertise on the benefits of a minimalist bathroom



Since the pandemic began, we've noticed that people are prioritising clean, simplified bathrooms that feel like sanctuaries. Our increased hygiene focus has led to the return of minimalism and crisp, light colour palettes that connote cleanliness and health.

There's a preconception that minimalism equates to clinical, white interiors with large empty spaces, but this doesn't have to be the case. The beauty of minimalism is that it's adaptable; you can tailor approaches to specific bathroom layouts. In fact, you can be highly creative while employing minimalist principles, customising your space to personal taste.

When it comes to colour, we recommend starting with a neutral base. Combining several colours requires a trained eye, with the additional risk that too overt a colour choice might age badly within a few years.

Our advice is that it's best to stick to natural palettes. A good example of this is our Plural range by Terri Pecora, which features earthy colours combined with wood finishes, bringing a sense of warmth and domesticity to the bathroom. Alternatively, the furniture in the Voyage range is available in five dual finishes, including flamed grey and natural oak, sand and stone grey, and flamed grey and forest green.

Similarly, you could explore gradients within one colour. For example, you could create a 'horizon line' with tiles below and paint above. This method adds interest to your project without overcomplicating it.

Another tactic is selecting furniture that features seamless joints and smooth edges, maintaining the illusion of fluidity and communicating an overall sense of balance. In bathrooms as much as anywhere, it's important to find harmony between clean lines and soft, organic shapes.

Bathrooms don't get updated regularly, so it's important to keep them looking fresh over time through your choice of materials. White and natural finishes have a sense of permanence, while brushed brassware and accessories are a timeless choice with maintenance benefits.

In our experience the paradoxical thing about minimalism is that it can require more decisions rather than fewer, as every element must align to promote flow and synergy in the space. There's no 'one size fits all' approach when it comes to minimalism, especially in historic properties where typically timeless fittings can conflict with original period features. In reality, it's difficult to find the right mix of colours and materials for that sense of harmony.

Another challenge is creating storage in a streamlined environment, especially in shared family bathrooms or smaller spaces. A top tip is to consider how you'll use your bathroom before deciding on how far you're prepared to compromise to achieve a minimalist look.

Overall, a minimalist approach can open more possibilities than it closes. It also doesn't preclude the use of natural materials like wood, which make a bathroom feel less utilitarian and more in tune with other spaces in the home. The sense of flow from space to space in the home is what helps create calmness and continuity, so it's important to think of your bathroom as an integral part of it. ■



Pink House by Oliver Leech Architects. Photography by Ståle Eriksen

Tactile craftsmanship

Paying particular attention to materials and finishes, these projects demonstrate exceptional sensitivity to materiality, harmonious colour pairing and innovative detailing.



Bay Window House SHORTLISTED

The homeowners of Bay Window House wanted to inject some character and drama into a relatively ordinary Victorian terraced house whilst preserving the remaining Victorian features. Details include a semi-circular staircase completely lined in dark cherry which links the Victorian world of the original house above to the floor below. The space is intentionally rich and dark with a porthole to view the space beyond.

Architect: **Gundry + Ducker**
Photography: **Jim Stephenson**

Coffered House SHORTLISTED

A vertically coffered loft construction reveals a deep retrofit to the upper storeys of this Victorian home. The innovative design of the loft was achieved using Permitted Development rights. The project's interior is defined with bespoke fixed cabinetry and is finished in scalloped oak, oak veneer and shop sprayed wardrobe doors with a contemporary coffered panel design.

Architect: **Proctor & Shaw**
Photography: **Nick Deardon**



Pink House SHORTLISTED

The architects explored the concept of leaving materials in their natural and textured forms wherever possible — exposed Douglas fir timber beams, polished concrete, exposed steelwork and unfinished plaster all add to the feeling of rawness to create a house that will age gracefully over time.

Architect: **Oliver Leech Architects**
Photography: **Ståle Eriksen**

'Pink House is a coalescence of our favourite places all in one. We wanted the architecture and interiors to feel like a calm cocoon where we could relax with friends and as a family'

Homeowner

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Ambitious thinking

COMPACT DESIGN PRIZE
Non-Boxy Loft by Fraher and Findlay Architects
Lewisham



Non-Boxy Loft is an exercise in innovative thinking. A one-bedroom first floor flat situated within a Victorian semi-detached house was in much need of repair, so the young client approached the architects to design a way to extend the spaces at roof level. They looked at the traditional method — of forming bedroom spaces at loft level — but designed an inverse plan with the kitchen and dining spaces looking out over the rooftops with the bedrooms underneath them.



Photography: Chris Wharton



'The main challenge was planning – refusal followed by tweaks to the design and a constant pressure on the planning department to look beyond the everyday'

Elizabeth Fraher, architect



An illustrative cross section depicts the transformative nature of this atypical loft extension.



The architects admit they were growing a bit tired of what has become a too-often repeated convention in urban areas. 'We see box after box plonked on top of our existing houses, devoid of character and detail', says Elizabeth Fraher. And although councils are at least becoming increasingly resistant to overbearing and pervasive 'boxy' lofts, the designers also feel that local authorities are so often 'terrified' to embrace the detail of more challenging designs.

Enter the Non-boxy Loft, where the architects transformed a one-bed into a two-bed flat. To bring as much light into the landing and living spaces as possible, they designed a perforated metal staircase that drops through the spaces, connecting the two levels. Red zinc was used to clad the loft spaces, with a sedum roof bringing a biodiverse habitat to the top of the build. 'Our roofs should be spaces to create beautiful, jewelled spaces, not a cheap, poorly built after-thought' the architects say. 'We hope this project demonstrates this. We also show how split-level living spaces can work really well at loft level to provide dynamic living spaces for those without a private garden. We re-imagine a way in which to work within the existing front roof volume by creating a double height sitting room that stretches up to meet the kitchen'

The architects felt their scheme fitted the prize criteria mainly for focusing on compact design to make the spaces feel as large as possible and are most proud of the vaulted ceiling to the sitting room. ■

JUDGES' COMMENTS

'Remember your first London flat? Well, it was probably nothing like this. Rather than sticking the bedrooms up in the newly converted attic, the kitchen takes pride of place, bathed in light from roof lanterns and with views of the urban scape. You would definitely find me in this kitchen for the after party.'

Anna White, Property, business and lifestyle journalist





Prioritizing low energy appliances in small spaces

Senior content editor at Houzz, **Amanda Pollard** shares her top tips on the best energy-efficient appliances to adopt in restricted spaces



If you're on a quest to cut down on your energy costs and do your bit for the environment, minimal square footage shouldn't be a barrier. Here are four things you should consider before heading out to the shops.

1. THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFESTYLE

Firstly, you'll want to consider your lifestyle. Are you someone who travels for work and is likely to be out of the home for significant amounts of time, or are you part of a busy household who will be in the space and using appliances frequently? Depending on your needs and usage, you will probably have different priorities.

2. CONSIDER THE LAYOUT OF THE SPACE

It's also worth assessing how much space you have and the layout available to you. Luckily, many energy-efficient appliances have the added benefit of being space-saving, too. For example, induction hobs are popular among the Houzz community. These sleek appliances are more energy-efficient, with an up to 70% reduction in energy consumption, and, as they cool down as soon as the pan is removed, they can be used as an additional work surface when space is tight.

3. WORK OUT HOW YOU WANT TO USE THE ROOM

It's important to think about how the space will be used and what you're going to be doing in there. It may be worth consulting with a professional who can advise on what's possible and help get the most out of the space. Head to the Houzz Professional Directory to find pros in your local area.

Once you have an idea of how you'll be using the room, turning to tech could help increase energy efficiency. Lighting is an obvious starting point, with LED bulbs providing between 10% and 20% in energy savings compared to traditional CFL bulbs. When using these bulbs with a smart-controlled app, you can also ensure you're not wasting light when you're not around. Heating is another area where using tech could make a big impact. Smart thermostats can be used to direct heat to specific rooms, so you're not wasting energy by heating the whole home.

4. DOES THE APPLIANCE FIT THE STYLE OF THE SPACE

Finally, think about your decorating style to ensure that any appliances you're purchasing will work seamlessly with the rest of the room. Many energy-efficient appliances are available in a wide range of finishes and sizes, so finding the right one for your space shouldn't be too difficult. ■



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Compact stories

Designing efficiently in small spaces puts the architects design skills to the test. These projects demonstrate ingenuity and creativity in home renovations with tight space constraints.



Shoji Apartment SHORTLISTED

A study in materiality, transparency and enclosure. This apartment renovation project is conceived as a prototype for micro-living in existing housing stock with constrained floor areas but traditionally generous ceiling heights. By stacking accommodation in a single height volume, additional floor area is conjured. Small cellular rooms are replaced by a generous living space arranged around a translucent sleeping 'pod' inspired by Japanese Shoji screens.

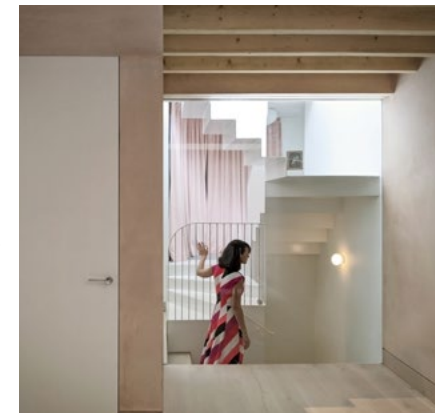
Architect: **Proctor & Shaw**
Photography: **Ståle Eriksen**

Artist Studio Conversion

SHORTLISTED

Bordered on all sides by other studios and the back gardens of taller properties, the studio had no windows to the ground floor, with the only natural light coming through the top roof. An introverted approach was used which pushed the development towards the inside and below ground. By turning constraints into opportunities, the architects transformed an open-space studio into a journey of atmospheres, developed on contrasts such as dark-light, warm-cold, or intimate-open.

Architect: **VAATRA**
Photography: **VAATRA**



Level Apartment LONGLISTED

Level Apartment is an exercise in maximising the existing space within an apartment to accommodate uses that were previously not possible. The design creates home workspace, new guest accommodation and a central social kitchen at the heart of the space, through the insertion of sliding walls, new partitions and a new mezzanine floor.

Architect: **Material Works Architecture**
Photography: **Fred Howarth**

View all shortlisted and longlisted projects on dontmoveimprove.com

Shoji Apartment by Proctor & Shaw. Photography by Ståle Eriksen

A testbed for ideas

UNIQUE CHARACTER PRIZE
Forest House by AOC Architecture
Waltham Forest



Forest House is a remodelled and extended semi-detached Victorian house on a tree-lined street in Highams Park, north east London. But it is also a scheme with a difference. After four years in the house, the family of five wanted to retain the comfortable intimacy of the house's well-proportioned rooms, but also to introduce the spatial generosity and joy that they experience in the nearby Epping Forest. A single-storey garage was replaced with a set of new, connected spaces wrapped around the side and rear of the house. A triple-height kitchen sits at the heart of the home, pushing out into a garden room, overlooked by a mezzanine studio, with an attic room perched above.



Photography: David Grandorge



'By prioritising expansive volumes over expensive finishes, we were able to deliver a spatially generous house on a tight budget'
 Gil Lambert, architect



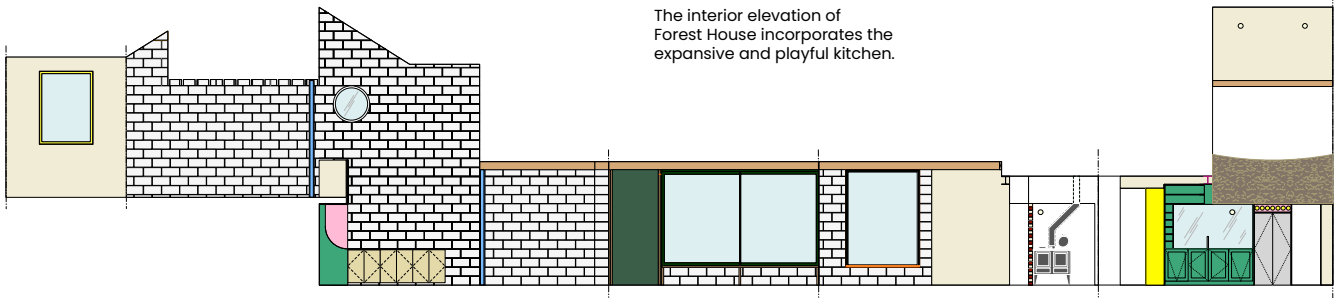
JUDGES' COMMENTS
'Unique from start to finish. A home that has truly been designed for the family that will live there. Delightful to see a family really put their stamp on their home. Brave and beautiful in equal measures'
Kunle Barker, COO, Melt Property



In many ways, Forest House is the best of both worlds — town and country — in one hit. The project is essentially a mix of the Victorian semi — such a common house type in London, with its well-proportioned rooms and solid construction — and contrasting spaces that capture the delights of the forest.

The architects created stacked floors in a wraparound extension which support family life by providing different spatial characters for different uses within one shared space. Large windows and discrete rooflights catch light and views from all sides, creating an expansive interior between the parallel party walls. The front of the house responds to the decorum of the red brick street with an inverted palette of white bricks and red pre-cast concrete lintels. The rear of the house, with long views over neighbouring gardens to the forest, is clad in woven hazel, its provisional nature seeming to invite the wild in.

Gil Lambert from AOC Architecture says it is perhaps the combined character of the project's two essences that render it both familiar but also utterly unique at the same time. The element that brings her most in terms of a sense of pride is the timber-lined, cork-clad studio that inhabits the tall volumes of the wraparound extension. 'It allows you to enjoy everything going on everywhere, in and around the house,' Lambert says, whilst at the same time feeling separate and apart, in your own private world'. ■



The interior elevation of Forest House incorporates the expansive and playful kitchen.



Unique and unruly

What creates character and uniqueness? Whether it is taking risks, referencing a particular style, or using a unique material palette, these projects demonstrate style, spirit and creativity.



A Tuscan Veranda
SHORTLISTED
The architects tasked with the creation of A Tuscan Veranda drew on the Italianate style of the terraced house using classic, perfectly proportioned Romanesque arches for framed views through house and garden. The level of the kitchen was dropped for height and draws on Italian inspiration: Renaissance and Tuscan.
Architect: **Turner Architects**
Photography: **Adam Scott**



Canyon House
LONGLISTED
Canyon House was conceived as live/work residence for two young musicians who wanted to re-create their affection for Modernist Californian homes when renovating a dilapidated 70's terrace in North London. Quality of design is at the heart of the house, from the choice of materials, to the creation of versatile, visually connected and enjoyable spaces.
Architect: **Studio Hagen Hall**
Photography: **Mariell Lind Hansen**



'The architects took our desire to recreate the feeling of a Tuscan villa and our love of arches; turning it into a simple but visually impactful design with a great balance of light and dark spaces throughout and really satisfying symmetry'

Homeowner, A Tuscan Veranda



Curve Appeal
SHORTLISTED
The project completely reinvents an existing 1920s semi-detached house through the addition of a single joinery element that brings functionality, warmth and tactility to a reimagined family space. The joinery showcases the clients' collection of objects through fragments of arched alcoves, a motif throughout the new design, the joinery partitions also conceal structural elements, large sliding doors, and includes glazed openings that allow playful glimpses to and from adjacent spaces.
Architect: **nimtim architects**
Photography: **Megan Taylor**



Tonal Terrace
LONGLISTED
A four-storey townhouse in Dalston re-imagined and transformed into a bold, colourful and bohemian sanctuary. The ground floor was kept bright, white, and textured with an almost technical feel, works to the upper floors were kept to a minimum with serious splashes of colour introduced to tie the house together but also provide an identity for each separate room.
Architect: **Bradley Van Der Straeten Architects**
Photography: **French + Tye**

View all shortlisted and longlisted projects on dontmoveimprove.london

Ancient oaks

URBAN OASIS PRIZE
Church Road by RUFFARCHITECTS
Haringey



Touted as an innovative timber-framed building in 2009 when it was built, Church Road in the Highgate Conservation Area is an example of where the *Don't Move, Improve!* mindset was fundamental in creating a beautiful and functional family home, capable of adapting to needs and future demands.



Photography: Tim Soar



It is something of an irony that demolition VAT savings would have outweighed the costs of fundamental repair and repurposing at this plot on Church Road in Highgate. Admirably, however, both the client and design team on the project were determined to deliver a refurbishment project, regardless of the financial imbalance.

Located in the Highgate Conservation Area and set amongst the only remaining ancient oaks outside Highgate Wood, the house is nestled in a semi-sunken position in the back garden plot, a 'unique urban oasis'. The architects adopted urban greening strategies from larger projects to add permeable paving and green roofs on all surfaces. This not only improved outlooks for the neighbours but also served to hide the house in what is essentially a pocket park.

Next, the designers sought to solve usability issues including main entrances coming into bedroom areas, internal flow oddities and a general lack of engagement with a rich landscape with subtlety, adding a new garden studio in the process. This new form mimics the stained timber frame and adds versatility in the form of the 'new normal' – working from home.

Essentially, says Paul Ruff of the architects, the project places the family's interaction with nature at its heart, each space engaging with the mature landscape and ancient oaks. "We had the opportunity to form an urban oasis and the client supported the reconfiguration to ensure that the external spaces were as much part of a sequence of experiences in the everyday as possible"

They are most proud of the way the project 'sculpts' the light in a busy world, and the way the homeowner can now feel connected with the seasons. ■



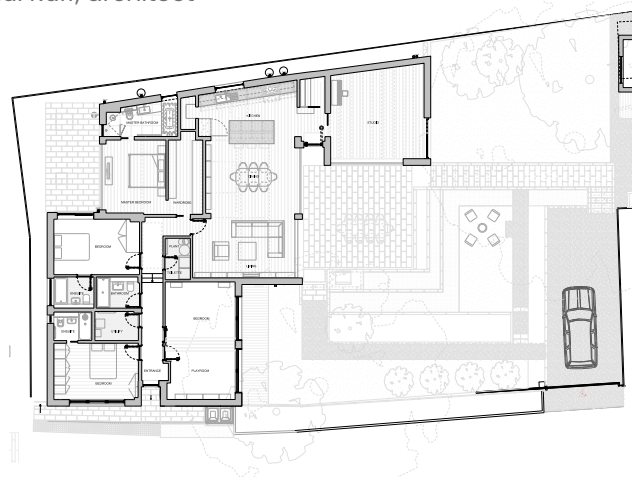
JUDGES' COMMENTS

'I like the garden. Light and bright without being too cliché. A true oasis in the middle of North London. The design leaves the outside, out, and inside, in. Intelligently and thoughtfully combining the two.'

Kunle Barker, COO, Melt Property

'A long-standing relationship with our clients generated a truly collaborative and informed design'

Paul Ruff, architect



The ground floor plan demonstrates the scale of this oasis, referencing the Oaks individually.







Transitions by Red Squirrel Architects. Photography by Adelina Iliev

Seamless connections

Pergolas, window seats and garden studios, these projects successfully demonstrate how to blur the boundaries between inside and outside, and reconnect old to new, celebrating the urban oasis.



Pergola House
SHORTLISTED
The ribs are repeated internally to provide structure for the glazed roof, which are then grounded to frame the gallery wall. All of this is bound together beautifully with a single palette that makes it work as one, whilst celebrating the period features as well as the modern addition.
Architect: **Benjamin Wilkes**
Photography: **Billy Bolton**

'Our brief to our architect was to create a functional, family space with clear zones'
Homeowner

Transitions
SHORTLISTED
The aspirations for the project were to create open and light interconnected living spaces to the rear of the house which take advantage of the private rear garden. The project celebrates the notion of transitions: from old to new; from inside to outside; from the natural to the manmade; and between one function and another.
Architect: **Red Squirrel Architects**
Photography: **Adelina Iliev**



Garden Pavilion
LONGLISTED
The project comprises an outbuilding and its surrounding landscape placed within the rear garden of a nineteenth century Victorian terraced house in Hackney. It provides a space to work, dream and reconnect with nature, responding thoughtfully to the landscape it sits within and, its relationship with the main house.
Architect: **Studio Grilo**
Photography: **Raquel Vieira da Silva**

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Noble narratives

TRANSFORMATIONS PRIZE
Slide and Slot House by Ashton Porter Architects
Enfield



Slide and Slot House is a contemporary extension and internal refurbishment to a locally listed 19th-century cottage situated in a row of listed terraces which housed local workers for the Enfield ordnance factory. The project transforms the house from a two- to a three-bed and creates a new living space to connect to the garden for modern family living.



Photography: **Andy Stagg**

The scheme sits in a terrace within the Enfield Lock conservation area on a narrow strip of land between the River Lea and Lee Navigation. The original two-bed house was an unusual double-fronted plan only one room deep, with no windows to the main rear elevation. The architects worked to extend the form of the adjacent deep plan terrace to form a new volume within the void, creating a transition between the deep and shallow plan. The rear extension, with a new volume projecting at ground floor level, creates an opportunity to use simple contemporary design language to compliment the listed building setting.

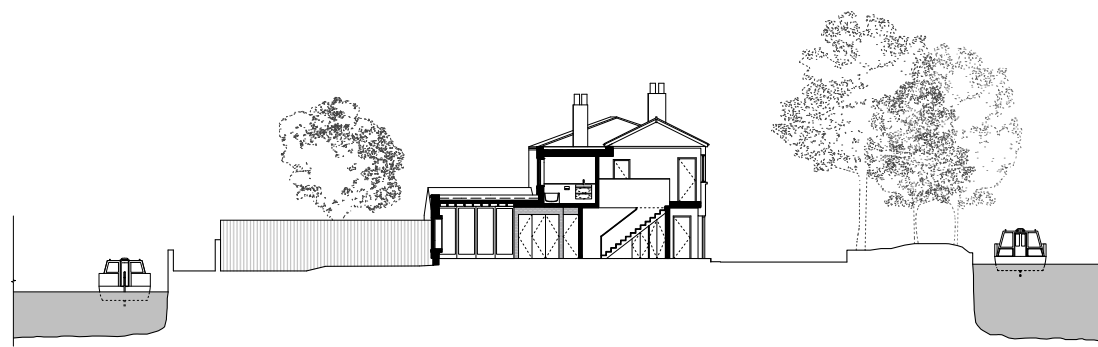
The principal new material, anthracite zinc, was selected to make reference to the industrial heritage of the small arms factory whereby materials were typically transported via the adjacent canal to the factory. The juxtaposition of zinc to the existing materials is emphasised through the use of slots of black brick and frameless glass to either side to complement the existing building. The existing house was disconnected from the rear garden and the proposal creates a new relationship to the garden with viewing slots and framed views from both the new ground floor living spaces and first floor bedrooms.

Ultimately, the architects are proud of the way in which they combined contemporary materials, form and light, interweaving them intricately with the existing vernacular domestic language to make a cohesive and elegant family home. ■



'The combination of contemporary materials, form and light which interweave intricately with the existing vernacular domestic language make a cohesive and elegant family home'

Nick Pocock, architect



Side elevation showcasing Slide and Slot House's contextual setting.





How are the new ventilation regulations going to affect your home?

An industry insight from **Ian Palmer**, Head of UK specification at Airflow, discussing the importance of the new ventilation regulations and how these can affect air quality in new and existing homes across London



June 15th sees the launch of new building regulations.

The new regulations cover ventilation (Part F), Conservation of Fuel and power (Part L) and Overheating (Part O) which is a new regulation that focuses on the London postcodes. Part O only

applies to new build dwellings rather than existing dwellings like Part F and Part L, however, it is still worth looking into, to see what guidance is given to ensure overheating does not occur in your new habitable room. It not well known that habitable rooms (non-wet rooms) by law must be able to have purge ventilation, and under the current and new regulations, this means you must be able to change the air in a given room at least four times an hour. Often, this can be done by opening windows, however, if windows cannot be opened wide enough or are too small then mechanical ventilation must be used.

So how can this be achieved? If you have an existing central extract system, you will need to look at the sizing of the unit to ensure that it can handle the increased air extraction rates required as dictated by the additional floor area and the number of bedrooms you have added. It is important to note that Building Regulations for new and existing dwellings are only a MINIMUM requirement and not a target, therefore if you satisfy these new requirements but still want to improve the ventilation and internal air quality, then you could use single room heat recovery units. These are units that run at very low rates, so the noise level is very low. They are installed in habitable rooms and work on a cycle pushing stale air out and then sucking fresh air in through the inbuilt filter. As the air enters the property it is charged with the heat that is captured when the unit was pushing the stale air out.

What is the advantage of using multiple units and why does positioning matter? By using more than one unit, you can get much better air movement and therefore air quality, and in addition, the units can be set up to communicate with each other. This means as multiple units push stale air out, then the equivalent number of units elsewhere in the property can suck fresh air in, reversing this process every 90 seconds. To aid the performance of single room heat recovery units it is also possible to have these units connected to the extractor fans in your wet rooms, so that when the extractor fans are activated all your heat recovery units only draw air in. In addition, if they are placed correctly, they are also able to help with any cooling needs. This is because they can be positioned to draw air in from the cooler facade, take it through the property and exhaust the warm air on the hot facing facade.

It is important to get technical advice on ventilation as other regulations could impact their general functionality, for example; in some instances a loft conversion may require a fire door, therefore preventing the easy flow of air around the total dwelling.

New regulations now also require higher levels of background ventilation, and the number of bedrooms play an important part in calculating this. Finally, we have also seen some important clarity with regards to detailing the difference between an extractor hood and a recirculating hood for those habitable rooms. Getting technical advice on ventilation has never been more important. ■

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A story to tell

Celebrating homes that have been renewed, converted, or retrofitted, these projects showcase homes that have been on journeys of transformation, whilst remaining true to their heritage.



Monochrome House LONGLISTED

The architects designed an interconnected open plan, where individual living and dining spaces have strong identities and expand into the garden whilst the upper floors were rationalised. The extensions are intentionally modest yet transformative, creating new flexible spaces where family can both live and work, eat and be. The new is clearly new, yet balanced with the original, keeping as much as possible of the old house.

Architect: **Mustard Architects**
Photography: **Tim Crocker**

Storyteller's House LONGLISTED

The project is a dramatic change from its former condition where subsidence and structural issues undermined its appeal and charm. The home responds to the professions of the owners; writers and filmmaker. Two studio spaces at the top of the house are naturally lit and provide a quiet retreat to write and dream.

Architect: **Neil Dusheiko Architects**
Photography: **Edmund Sumner**



*'The transformation
has created a really
versatile family home
that can evolve with us
as we grow'*

Homeowner



The Old Timberyards LONGLISTED

The UK's first Passivhaus conversion of a commercial building to a family house, this spacious family home pushes the boundaries of converting old building stock. This project gives the building its third lease of life by adding a basement, front extension, and new barrel-vaulted roof. High levels of insulation, airtight construction, an MVHR system, quality workmanship, and a focus on thermal bridging have elevated this innovative retrofit to the highest quality. Utilising the pre-existing building is an economical way of maintaining the residency of the street and should stand as an example of what can be achieved when looking to improve our homes.

Architect: **RDA Architects**
Photography: **RDA Architects / Darius Mart**

View all shortlisted and longlisted projects on dontmoveimprove.london



Storyteller's House by Neil Dusheiko Architects. Photography by Edmund Sumner

Small spaces, big ideas

Head of Marketing at Smeg, **John Davies** shares his expertise on the value of multi-functional appliances when saving space



HOW CAN YOU MAXIMISE ON KITCHEN SPACE IN A SMALL FOOTPRINT?

Think about your appliances at design phase, what's your cooking style? How

much space do you have? Consider multi-function appliances for example our new Galileo range which completely revolutionizes the way we cook. Part of the range, the OmniChef oven, is a product that not only is a nice spacious oven, but an appliance which doubles up as a steam oven and microwave too or all in one. Meaning you can Banish your microwave from the kitchen worktop and forget that separate steam oven and even pair it with optional air fry, pizza stone, bbq grill accessories for even more flexibility in your new space.

ARE THERE ANY DESIGN TIPS TO CONSIDER THAT DON'T COMPROMISE ON FUNCTIONALITY?

Again, keep in mind your cooking style and how you like to use your space. Smeg is a brand that is passionate about food and cooking, ensuring that all products are designed not only to be stylish but also functional, constantly working on features and new models to bring new technology such as Omni Chef to the market.

HOW CAN GOOD QUALITY APPLIANCES EFFECT THE WAY WE COOK?

They can massively improve the way we cook, from the quality of the cooking results to time saving. For example, our OmniChef oven can save you up to 70% of your time using the combination function, meaning a roast chicken could be cooked to perfection in just 33 mins! Ovens and functions that use steam have huge health benefits as well as space saving, as you won't need such a large hob. Pre-set programmes found in some of our ovens allow you to simply put your dish in the oven and choose the correct programme which will cook your meal to perfection. Or pre-set your own functions for your staple meals, ensuring consistent results every time! Good quality appliances such as Smeg can revolutionize the way you cook and your space.

HOW HAS THE ROLE OF THE KITCHEN CHANGED POST-PANDEMIC?

We believe that the kitchen is the heart of the home more so than ever, being a space that people have been able to experiment in whether it's cooking or baking everyone spent more time in their kitchen. Which has made a lot of people look at their space and their appliances wanting something not only stylish but functional – Smeg offer both! ■

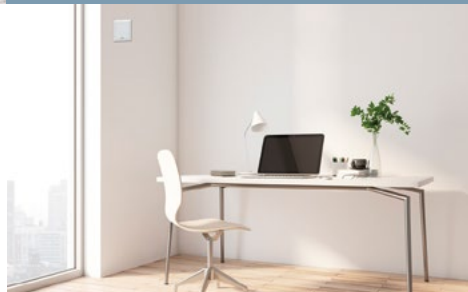
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Smeg, the iconic Italian domestic appliance manufacturer, has been family owned and run since its formation right in 1948, and proudly maintains these values to the present day. Throughout the company’s history, Smeg has collaborated with leading architects 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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GRAND DESIGNS MAGAZINE

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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.

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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.

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VitrA

Origin: Silent gracefulness

Created by Design Studio VitrA, grace shapes the Origin Collection's minimalism.

