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HOME & GARDEN

ECO LUXURY | ARCHITECTURE | INTERIORS | TECHNOLOGY | DESIGN



SPRINKLED

WITH ZINC

A pigmented zinc roof identifies the extension to a London home with new and improved connections to the outdoors

Photography Nick Deardon





“THE ZINC ROOF
IS LONG LASTING
AND ULTIMATELY
RECYCLABLE”

There was nothing particularly unique about the brief for this recent London extension. It entailed the usual; to open up the kitchen with a view of increasing its sociability, to foster connections to the outdoors and ultimately, to increase the size of the property. But, with Proctor & Shaw on the receiving end, it is with little surprise that the outcome is a finely tuned piece of architecture that offers an innovative solution to not only the brief at hand, but also to the constraints of the site and the Dulwich Estate planning requirements. Adding 22 sq. m to the plot, the wrap around extension manifests as a unique zinc roof that crowns a material-rich kitchen and living space. Rust in tone and robust in nature, this metal top embraces a gutter-less form and exposed rafter tails, as well as serrated edge eaves that zig zag down the side of the addition. “The Dulwich Estate planning guidelines required a set back from the boundary wall to the side. We wanted this to be a positive element and therefore tried to form an architecture that would open the side of the extension to abundant light whilst retaining a sense of privacy from the neighbours upper floor windows. This resulted in the large overhang being articulated into a serrated edge,” say Proctor & Shaw. Internally, the roof form is further highlighted with a Douglas fir lining that leans into its shape and marries the Douglas-fronted kitchen with the structural elements. The result? Rather than feeling like the sum of many parts, the extension feels and functions as one singular piece of architecture – as though it is one unit which has simply been bolstered onto the plan. This unit however, is actually one smaller part of a larger living sequence that travels down through the home and out into the garden. “Architecture and landscape have been considered holistically,” the architects confirm. Instead of merely blurring the boundaries between indoors and out, the architects have installed glass panes which slide and pocket inwards to erase these lines entirely. A strategy which is only further enhanced by porcelain tiles that trickle from indoors to outside. Thus, it would seem only fair to conclude that Proctor & Shaw dutifully strike again.

"Taking cues from Frank Lloyd Wright, the heavy overhang of the new social space concentrates physical and visual connections to the garden," say Proctor & Shaw



“MODERN FAMILY LIFE
IS ORIENTATED AROUND
THE KITCHEN”



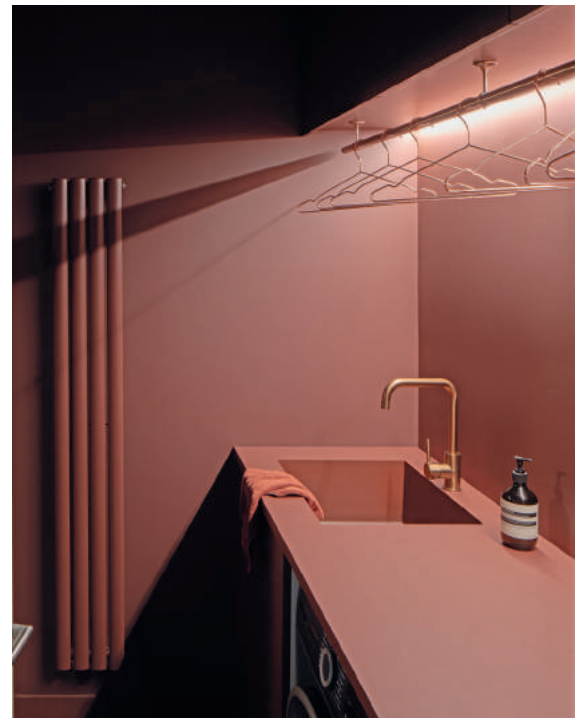


MEET THE ARCHITECT

Does the extension sit in harmony with the rest of the home? We'd like to think it sits in harmony with the existing but perhaps that's for others to decide! The cavernous double pitch roof at the back is inspired by the building's double pitch outrigger roof form. The rich palette of materials – in particular zinc and Douglas fir – were chosen to be sympathetic to the varied London stock brick colours.

Can you run us through your material palette? Cool tones of the robust concrete and porcelain tiles define the stepped floor plane that extends out to the garden. We wanted to contrast this with the feature roof elements and the anchoring 'block' of the utility room which are both defined with bold colour. The roof structure is formed using natural Douglas fir which is covered externally with rich red pigmented zinc. The zinc roof is extremely long lasting and is ultimately recyclable. Natural timber finishes were promoted internally for their sequestered carbon.

What was most important to get right with the kitchen design? Modern family life is orientated around the kitchen. These spaces therefore need to be highly functional whilst also being wonderful social spaces to be in and enjoy. Finding this balance, as in all kitchen design, was probably the most important thing to get right. The devil, as always, is in the detail. Can heavy wall cabinetry be omitted for a shelf and make the space feel bigger? Can the hob extract be downdraft? Can the kettle be omitted for a boiling water tap? Once the details are resolved, the material palette needs to be in harmony with the rest of the room. E.g. we used the same Douglas fir boards for roof linings and kitchen cabinet fronts.



PROJECT NOTES

ARCHITECT & INTERIOR DESIGNER
Proctor & Shaw

LANDSCAPE
Barbara Samitier
Landscape and Garden Design

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
Constant
Structural Design

CONTRACTOR
R & D Nunes (trading as Yorkland Stone)

BUILDING CONTROL
Cook Brown Building Control Ltd

ZINC ROOF
VMZINC

GLAZING
Maxlight

FLOORING
Concrete, Concrete Flooring Contractors; porcelain tiles, Mosa Tile from Material Plans



The colour blocking of the utility spaces embraces the rich tones of the auburn roof and provides a tonic to the cooler concrete and porcelain elements

WALL FINISH
Surfaceform

TIMBER
Waxed Floors

KITCHEN WORKTOP
Smith & Goat