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INSIDE

64 PAGES OF
PROPERTIES,
INTERIORS
AND IDEAS



EXTENSION SEEKERS

Giving cramped homes
a whole new dimension

1. THE EXTENSION THAT PUNCHES ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

Photographs **Andrew Lee**

A QUICK glance at the rear of this late Georgian end-terrace property, which was previously a cramped, two-bedroom home lacking in any flow of space, might leave you surmising that the architect, Wil Tunnell of WT Architecture, added on a whopping extension to create this sense of light and space.

Yet the main extension is just 20m sq. There's also a second, smaller extension that echoes the first aesthetically, forming a side porch and lobby area, and their combined effect on this living zone feels like the difference between

The extension, left, gives the impression that the house is 'wrapped' night and day. The owners, Susie Hill around the garden, and allows light to flood into the building, below

night and day. The owners, Susie Hill and Neil Boyd, bought the property on Edinburgh's north side back in 2003, and their ideas about their home evolved during their early years here. Originally, the family used the traditional front drawing-room as their main living space, while the kitchen was tucked to the rear in an existing stone-built out-shoot, and was only accessed through the dining space. There were two bedrooms: one at the side, the other at the back.

By the time Wil met his clients, the couple had already swapped this layout around, moving their living space to the back bedroom to create a sitting-room overlooking the garden, and shifting their bedroom to the drawing room. Still, as Wil recalls: "The house wrapped around the garden, but had no connection to it."

As neither the budget nor the garden allowed for a huge extension, Wil set to work reconfiguring what was there, scooping out walls to form openings between rooms and creating interlocking but broadly open-plan spaces. The sitting-room has remained where it was, as has the kitchen, only the latter is now re-roofed with south-facing rooflight windows.

The extension sits in-between, facilitating the link between these spaces with a new living-dining zone. A giant, pivoting timber door opens this area to the garden, and this interconnection is enhanced by the use of slate flooring inside and out, with a zinc-clad bent canopy roof. The slate flooring retains heat from the sun, although there's also underfloor heating. Meanwhile, a third bedroom has been created from the former dining-room, which the couple's children have moved into, enabling Susie to use their bedroom as an office.

This new multi-tasking living space is as functional as it is beautiful - Wil included lots of storage, for example - and it's little surprise that this project was awarded the Small Projects Award 2009 from the Edinburgh Architectural Association (it's also short-listed for the Saltire Housing Award). Only about half the project cost was spent on the extension itself. "A lot of the budget has gone into creating these openings and connections through original walls, and getting light deep into the plan," says Wil, referring to this technique as "cheese-wiring" into the space. The result is an exciting living space, proving that the answer isn't always about quantity of space, but quality.

Architect: William Tunnell Architecture, 0131-331 2813, www.wtarchitecture.com
Budget: £85,000

Extension leads

Words **Fiona Reid**

Thinking of expanding your space but short on ideas? Here are four different stories of people who have extended their homes