

THE LIGHT BRIGADE

A Glasgow villa had the right location but lacked space and light. A new extension, which opens on to the garden, has illuminated the living areas and transformed the house



Above: The extension not only provides large, light, living areas but opens out on the garden; Left: The oak timber floors give a warm feel to the home, and cleverly designed window seats double as storage areas

ON A street in leafy Jordanhill, in Glasgow's west end, early 20th-Century sandstone villas stand along both sides of the road. The houses are attractive and neat, but the owners of one of the three-bedroom homes decided they needed more space and light. When they approached Edinburgh architect William Tunnell, they had some ideas about what they wanted from their new extension, but Tunnell supplied the ultimate solution to their problems.

Their original home had two living areas, the smaller of which doubled as a room where the couple – both musicians – kept their piano, harp and various other instruments. The other problem was the tiny kitchen, which was hardly big enough to swing a wok in. Although it had a door which opened on to the back garden, the room was still very dark.

The new extension connects to the back of the house in two places – through the kitchen and the rear living room – creating a bright and open set of spaces that run into one another. The main body of the extension accommodates a dining space and has allowed the kitchen to expand. "It is essentially made up of three things," Tunnell says. "There are two 'book-ends' (the solid side walls), a mainly glazed wall in between and a roof."

The solid walls accommodate the extended kitchen on one side, and the boiler room and

storage space on the other. The main façade is as open to the garden as possible, with large areas of glazing surrounding the built-in window seating and a dining table. The glazed wall steps back at the entrance, which consists of one wide glass door.

The roof, although quite thick because of the amount of insulation required, appears thin

"The main façade is as open to the garden as possible, with areas of glazing surrounding the built-in window seating,"

and elegant because it tapers down to a very slender edge. The roof forms a canopy over the entrance, held up by a single steel column, painted red to give it a splash of colour.

The adjoining sitting room was enlarged when the extension was added, and a full-height glazed slot and more traditional window were added into the gable end. As a result, the room is much brighter as light comes into the space from three sources.

Another of the couple's wishes was to create

more storage space. The architect has dealt with this in a number of ways. In the sitting room, shelving has been built into the wall behind a large door which, when open, becomes a shutter to the slot window. Further storage is incorporated into the window seats as the seats lift up to provide storage space inside.

The kitchen, new dining room and sitting room have oak timber flooring throughout and the walls are painted cream. "I like to get a sense of warmth from the timber, and then add a bit of vibrant colour somewhere to give the space a nice balance," says Tunnell. A rich blue-green paint has been used on the window seats.

The house is not only brighter but warmer as a result of the extension, due to the extra glazing. The construction of the extension took around three months, and a bonus for the owners was the fact that most of the building was done before the rear walls of the original house were taken down, minimising the disruption to their lives.

They are delighted with their newly improved home, especially the larger kitchen, its open outlook to the garden and the extra light the extension provides.

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