November 2020 £5.20

enki

FOR MODERN LIVING

THE HOME OF **DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE**

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

creating tranquility

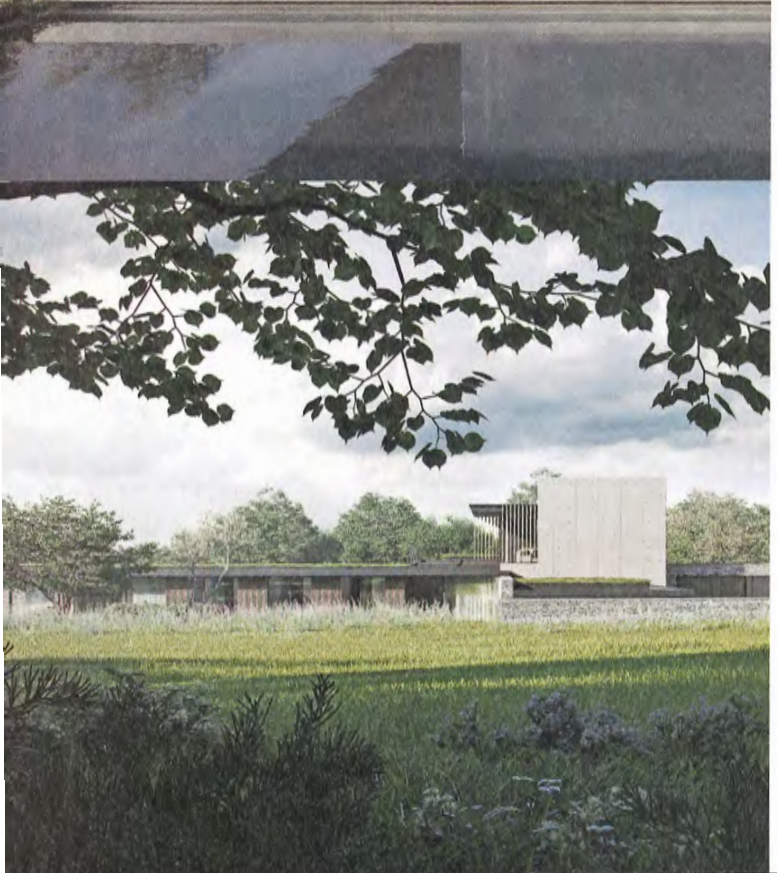
ARCHITECTURE
OUTDOOR SPACES
ECO LIVING
SELF BUILD
TECHNOLOGY
INTERIORS

9 772516 215018 10>

part of the green belt

A new-build family home in the Essex countryside uses the walls of the house to create a number of distinct garden spaces

"STONE WALLS EXTEND OUT FROM THE HOUSE JUTTING INTO THE LANDSCAPE, CREATING DISTINCT GARDEN ZONES"



A tranquil parkland site in the heart of the green belt led Ström Architects to be "especially mindful of the impact on the surrounding countryside." To achieve a symbiotic relationship between the house and landscape the exterior spaces have been given just as much attention as the interior rooms. "By engaging the services of Emily Erlam Studio at a very early stage, and by undertaking extensive discussions with the planners, we were able to successfully marry the landscape and built form together, and satisfy strict local planning policy," says Magnus Ström. But it is clearly more than landscaping and planting that has defined this successful design. Stone walls extend out from the house jutting into the landscape, creating distinct garden zones, each with their own identity. Formal areas with designated uses positioned to make the most of the sun through the day, seem to effortlessly blend into a softer and more wild planting scheme, utterly blurring the boundary between garden and parkland beyond. To minimise visual impact the house itself is partially sunken into the ground and only a small two-storey volume sits against a backdrop of tall trees. The material palette further ensures its lack of visibility from afar. "By ensuring that the building never breaches the treeline, and by utilising sympathetic materials, we could create a discreet, low-lying building that dissolves into the background when viewed from the green belt." Semi-intensive Green roofs further unite the parkland with the structural elements and offer lush views from upstairs as well as helping with water attenuation. "Four different pavilions, each with its own function, occupy the four different corners of the pin-wheel plan. With stone walls that extend from being part of the house, to becoming part of the landscape, and with ground and roof planes that work similarly, we ensure that the house is grounded to the wide, open site." Sustainability experts were consulted from the early design stages. "We have taken advantage of orientation to provide passive solar gain and used large overhangs to avoid overheating. We carried out thermal modelling to ensure we were not subject to seasonal overheating," he explains. The house is well insulated and airtight and heating is provided by a ground source heat pump. There is also mechanical heat recovery ventilation, a large array of photovoltaics on the roof and Tesla battery storage. **stromarchitects.com**

Work is just starting on the 600 m. sq. Meadow House in Essex designed by Ström Architects which is constructed of load-bearing masonry and a steel-framed roof. A combination of dry stone walling and oak cladding define the material palette which mirrors that of the natural landscape. A bespoke kitchen has a floor by Johnsons Tiles and features IQ Glass