Photo Credit Whitaker Studio

STEEL

A striking steel clad extension that naturally weathers and blends into its surroundings has been completed in Walthamstow, North London. Designed for a young family by architects deDraft, the result is a stand-out but sensitive addition to the property, providing over 24sqm of extra space at the cost of £60,000.

Made from weathering-steel, the material was chosen for its raw expressive aesthetic and textural similarity to its area and the original 1950s flat. Each steel panel was folded, installed and adjusted to achieve tight, sharp joints before being finally reinstalled and bonded to a lightweight timber sub-frame. This challenging process concealed each cumbersome fixing of the cladding panels creating a sleek finish to the exterior, unusual for the material.

The cladding will naturally weather and patinate over time to a darker, more burnished appearance, not only further protecting the exterior from the elements but blending in with its environment amongst the retained red concrete roof tiles and deep red brickwork of adjacent properties. The modernist feel of the home and interiors is a nod to the flat's origins, being built duringthe 1950s to replace those destroyed by bombing from World War 2. The local area is part of the pioneering Warner Estate, built over the late 19th and early 20th Century in several parts of Waltham Forest.

The extension allows for opening up of the interiors of the house, which provide a master bedroom, en-suite bathroom, storage space and sheltered terrace for the client. Space was maximised by clever use of clean and stripped back furnishings, including a unique double-width single sliding door at the upper landing which is used to close off either the bedroom or compact ensuite.

A new internal staircase leading to the extension was stacked above the existing one with the reinforced concrete stair balustrade modified to create an integrated continuity between floors. Substantial natural light has been brought in the property without reducing privacy. This was achieved through construction of several rooflights, a full-height vertical slot installed alongside the staircase and glass sliding doors for the master bedroom to take in views of nearby Lloyd Park.

This project, known as DA Residence, has been shortlisted for New London Architecture Don't Move Improve 2018 Awards, showcasing London's best and most innovative new home extensions.

SOLVING THE QUEST

"The Quest" is a new-build home replacing an ageing bungalow in Swanage. The site is heavily wooded and sloping, enjoying a beautiful southerly aspect with a view over Durlston Country Park.

Early on, Strom architects established the advantages of a single storey building to suit the retired clients' future needs and those of their disabled daughter with a simple arrangement of spaces. Access is via the front of the property to the south where a retaining wall faced in local Purbeck stone defines different levels and visually masks the vehicular route, maintaining a clear view from the living spaces across the valley.

The house cantilevers over the retaining wall to deal with the level changes and views and creates a sheltered undercroft parking area. The large cantilever has been achieved through the floor and roof planes acting together like a space beam with the concrete structure in-filled with simple timber dry-lining, leaving the concrete frame visible externally.

Internally, a large open-plan kitchen-dining-living area occupies the centre of the plan, with a covered terrace spanning its length and giving a sheltered outdoor area overlooking the views. To the east sits the guest accommodation and studies, with the master suite sitting within the cantilevered western end.

A simple interior palette of Purbeck stone flooring, a concrete hearth and engineered timber flooring, provide echoes of the external materials - waterproof concrete slabs and untreated larch cladding.

SELECTED SUPPLIERS

Construction type: Concrete frame (waterproof concrete ground and roof slabs), with timber stud infill
Exterior cladding: Open-jointed Siberian Larch
Flooring & Hearth: Purbeck Capstone floor tiles with brushed finish internally;
Purbeck Capstone with flame textured finish externally;
Stone panel above hearth – all supplied by Landers Quarries Ltd.
Glazing: Raynaers CP155 system supplied by Bournemouth Glass and Glazing Co.
Timber Flooring: American White Oak - Bridport Timber & Flooring Ltd.
Kitchen: Harvey Jones 'Linear' kitchen with a composite Quartz worktop
Other: Stone external walls in guillotined Purbeck stone;
Concrete hearth with fireplace stone panel in bush-chiselled Purbeck Capstone;
Bathroom tiles by Fired Earth

Photo Credit Martin Gardner And Michael Sinclair