



Back to life

Hut Architecture helped a young family strip away the layers of a run-down house to reveal its true character and add some drama

Words: **Ifeoluwa Adedeji** Photography: **Richard Gadsby**



Previous pages (p112-113): The walk-on rooflight above the living area lets natural brightness flood into the space and helps illuminate the extension.

Above: The open-plan kitchen offers the young family a practical space that is completely separate from the main living area.

Left: The couple chose a Morsø wood-burning stove to keep the kitchen-living room cosy in winter.

This Clapham house might not have been Ben and Sally Peters' dream home at first glance, but they managed to look past first impressions to see how it could be brought back to life. The young family, complete with baby Chloe, wanted to remodel this Victorian property and make it a perfect fit for their life in the 21st century. Hut Architecture came on board to revive and rejuvenate the period features, using plenty of glass to bring light in and brighten up the entire lower ground floor. Here, architect Rachel Eccles of Hut Architecture tells us more about the project...

What was your brief?

Ben and Sally wanted to completely reconfigure the interiors of their new home. We were tasked with coming up with different options that would also allow us to receive planning consent. The couple wanted to create a contemporary-looking extension while at the same time enhancing the features that were already there and weaving the old and new together. In the original house the kitchen was quite dark, located on the lower ground floor, and with the footprint of the house being quite long it just didn't get much natural light. It was important, therefore, for them to have a bright new extension.

Above: Modern stools surround the timber extension of the island, providing an informal space where friends and family can congregate.

How did you manage to meet the brief?

We had to reconfigure the property by removing walls, even structural ones. We installed a large frameless glass wall in the grand entrance, which continues to wrap around and down to the lower ground floor where the kitchen is. We also introduced bi-fold doors and a walk-over rooflight in the extension. This helped us get the light that we needed into the depth of the plan. The glazing is from IQ Glass, which has some really elegant solutions, and we worked together to tuck the frame of the glass into the structure as much possible and keep it out of sight. This glazing has brought the heart of the home back to the kitchen as the space is now one in which the family want to spend time.

What can you tell us about the design of the kitchen?

While the kitchen is very high spec, in the scullery and laundry room Ikea carcasses were used to house the appliances. The doors are spray-lacquered MDF that were made by the main contractor, Analytic Building Contractors Ltd. Hence we saved money here to indulge in other areas. We tried to make the working area of the kitchen as ergonomic as possible. It is essentially a very large space, but it still needed to be a functional and efficient kitchen. There is just one wall of tall cupboards and the dishwasher and other appliances are in the hidden utility room, leaving more space for the fantastic multipurpose

island. This hub of the kitchen houses the hob and all the main prep space with sink conveniently located just behind. All the cooking and cooling appliances are situated in the far wall, with only the wine storage conveniently located just outside the working area.

What went into the design of the master suite?

We obviously spent a lot of money on the glazing, but the master bedroom and ensuite were also luxury elements and therefore took up a sizeable proportion of the budget. There's a statement bath and detailed joinery in these spaces – a lot of time and effort went into those parts of the project. I think that the master ensuite works extremely well. The mother-of-pearl tiles help bounce the light around the room and, as it's south-facing and receives lots of sunlight, it's a really calming space to be in.

How long did works take?

The whole project was a two-year process from start to finish, but it went fairly rapidly because I didn't need to keep going back to Ben and Sally to ask them what they liked and what they didn't. I got a good idea of their tastes and style from the start. They provided a lot of images, samples and product ideas so I was quickly able to pick up on what they were trying to achieve. [KBB]



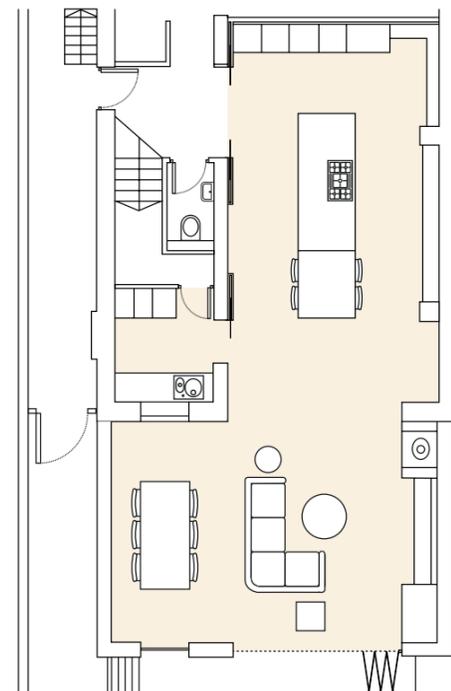
Left: The Peters family wanted a light and bright space to live and work in, hence the choice of all-white units and worktops.

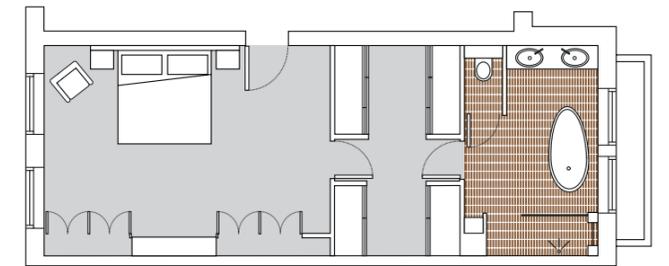
Right: Handleless cabinets and drawers help maintain clean lines in the working area of the kitchen.

“We tried to make the working area of the kitchen as ergonomic as possible. It is essentially a very large space, but it still needed to be a functional and efficient kitchen.”



Right: Floor-to-ceiling cabinets were kept to just one wall. All the cooking and cooling appliances are located here.





Opposite page: The master bedroom is uncluttered and inviting, making it the perfect retreat for the young couple.

Below: Fitted wardrobes are completely flush to the wall so don't intrude at all on the space.

Left: Between the bedroom and the ensuite bathroom is a luxurious dressing area and further fitted storage for all the couple's clothes.



Q&A

Rachel Eccles of Hut Architecture says...

What advice would you give to people embarking on a similar project?

Choosing the right contractor is crucial. We started putting out feelers once we were nearing the end of the design process. I would advise people to meet several contractors and to try and get to know them. It's important to see their work, and we visited a few projects.

How did you choose the contractors?

We've worked with a range of people in the past and so we put forward some of our own suggestions. Ben and Sally also spoke to family and friends for contacts. We had an interview process and took prospective candidates around the site. We think that it's really important that the contractor 'gets' the design and fully understand what the clients' aspirations are, which can take a long period of time.

What was the most challenging aspect of the project?

We had to spend quite a bit of time straightening things out so making sure the floors were level was expensive. It's an old building so incorporating the contemporary additions and trying to make the glazing look seamless and not clunky was quite difficult. When we applied for planning with the designs we had to ensure that the neighbours weren't overlooked from the lower ground roof terrace. We enlisted the help of a planning consultant so they told us that this might be an issue, so we nipped it in the bud by addressing it right at the beginning, giving the planners some examples of how we could make it work.



Above: All the furniture is bespoke by interior designer Michael Nicholas and, as such, works perfectly together.



Left: A luxurious silver-grey carpet links the bedroom and dressing area of the master suite.

Right: Mother-of-pearl tiles enhance the luxurious feel in the bathroom and make a feature of the basin and shower areas.

Below: The walk-in shower is a practical addition that has a high-end hotel-like feel. And with a pair of showerheads there's room for two.





Above: The freestanding bath is a nod to the heritage of the house but its style is right up to date.

SourceBook

DESIGN

Architecture Rachel Eccles, Hut Architecture (020 7399 8680 or www.hutarchitecture.com)

Kitchen Such Designs (020 8451 0800 or www.suchdesigns.co.uk)

Bedroom Michael Nicholas Interior Design (020 7498 7755 or www.michaelnicholasdesign.com)

KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM

Cabinetry Such Designs, as before

Appliances Single ovens, steam oven, combi-microwave, two warming drawers, induction hob and extractor, all Siemens (0344 892 8999 or www.siemens-home.bsh-group.com/uk); Wine storage unit, for similar try Caple (0117 938 1900 or www.caple.co.uk)

Taps Mixer tap, Blanco (01923 635200 or www.blanco.co.uk); Boiling-water tap, Quooker (0345 833 3555 or www.quooker.co.uk)

Sink Blanco, as before

Floor tiles Domus (020 8481 9500 or www.domustiles.co.uk)

Pendant lights Stanley hammered nickel, Original BTC (020 7351 2130 or www.originalbtc.com)

Glazing IQ Glass (01494 722880 or www.iglassuk.com)

Dining table and chairs For similar try Barker & Stonehouse (0333 920 8761 or www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk)

Sofa For similar try Sofa.com (0345 400 2222 or www.sofa.com)

Wood-burning stove Morsø (01788 554410 or www.morso.co.uk)

MASTER BEDROOM/DRESSING ROOM

Bed, furniture and fitted wardrobes Bespoke by Michael Nicholas Interior Design, as before

Carpet Tim Page (020 7259 7282 or www.timpag carpets.com)

Wallpaper Papillon grass cloth wallpaper, Clarke & Clarke (01706 242010 or www.clarke-clarke.co.uk)

Blinds For similar try Hillarys (0800 916 6524 or www.hillarys.co.uk)

Lights Tigermoth Lighting (0845 658 9059 or www.tigermothlighting.com)

MASTER ENSUITE

Bath Azure double-ended bath, Soakology (0330 088 2803 or www.soakology.co.uk)

Shower brassware Crosswater (0345 873 8840 or www.crosswater.co.uk)

Shower enclosure For similar try Aqata (01455 896500 or www.aqata.co.uk)

Basin and WC Duravit (01908 286680 or www.duravit.co.uk)

Basin brassware Hansgrohe (01372 472001 or www.hansgrohe.co.uk)

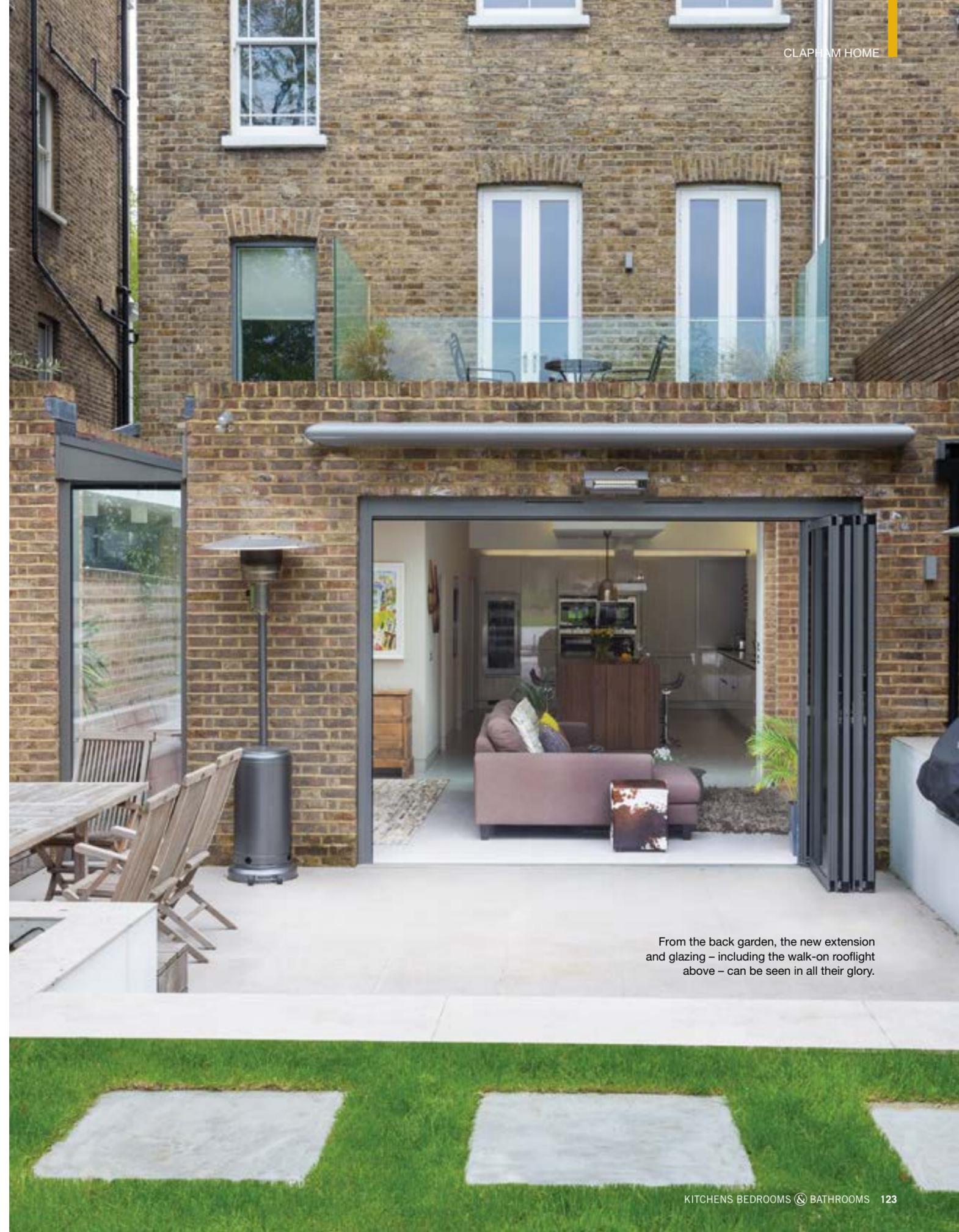
Vanity unit Hi-Macs (01892 704074 or www.himacs.eu)

Tiles Domus, as before

Shutters The Shutter Shop (020 7751 0937 or www.shuttershop.co.uk)

COST

The cost for a similar kitchen would be approximately £55,000, the cost for a similar master bedroom would be around £15,000, and the cost for a similar master ensuite would be around £10,000



From the back garden, the new extension and glazing – including the walk-on rooflight above – can be seen in all their glory.