



The annual Don't Move, Improve! Awards showcase London's best extensions. Here are some highlights from the shortlist

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DUSHEIKO HOUSE

HACKNEY, N16
NEIL DUSHEIKO ARCHITECTS

This remodeled terrace house, with double volume interconnected spaces between floors, celebrates natural light and materials and features an outdoor shower open to the sky.

Dusheiko House was designed by the architect for himself and his family. There were a number of key problems the existing layout presented that needed to be solved, including poor lighting and no connection to the garden. Light and circulation issues were improved by moving the staircase to the opposite wall - connecting the living room space directly to the kitchen. By removing part of the rear façade, a large sloped double storey skylight brings light into the two levels. There is emphasis on using durable natural materials like wood and stone throughout and there are four opening vents, allowing passive cooling during the summer months.



ALGIERS ROAD

LEWISHAM, SE13
GRUFF LIMITED

A single-storey residential extension in South London defined by a pair of chimneys and materially bound by a continuous concrete ribbon puncturing the building envelope.

Two main concepts accentuated the strong relationship between the extension and garden; the rear glazing is composed of sliding panels with minimal frames offering seamless long views through the house to the garden beyond, and the pair of chimneys are materially melded by a continuous concrete ribbon threading across the envelope. The extension draws the outdoors in, and the indoors out via the delicate material transition from the board-marked chimney externally to smooth and polished inside along the surface of the ribbon. The concrete elements define the sun area and contrast with the natural tones and timber finishes elsewhere, further emphasised by the step in floor level. Externally, the concrete fireplace and slab encourages gathering on the decking long into summer nights. Externally, the charred cladding seamlessly folds into the pergola and decking, creating a bold and distinctive profile and accentuating the concrete chimney puncturing through the silhouette.



BREAKOUT EXTENSION - CROUCH END

HARINGEY, N8
KNOTT ARCHITECTS

A small one-bedroom flat breaks out into a small yard, resulting in an extra bedroom.

This small one-bedroom flat in the Crouch End Conservation Area became too small on the arrival of the owners' first child. The small rear/side garden, with its skewed boundary fences, offered the only room for expansion. Two extensions break out from the existing bedroom, responding to, and limited by, the angles of the fences. In a potentially darker corner the roof breaks out by being prized open, and folded back, allowing the daylight in.