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BEFORE

The original house was cramped and had little connection to the garden

EXTREME
Transformation 2



AFTER

The single-storey timber extension has almost doubled the living space

A smart timber extension has created flexible living space, as well as an extra bedroom



Patio doors open directly onto the garden, giving the spacious new living room a bright and airy feel

'We extended our tiny two-bed using wood'

The Hadley family added a timber extension to their small house to provide a bright, flexible living space

The Hadley family had lived in their two-bedroom, Edwardian terraced house for four years, but desperately needed more space with three growing children to accommodate: Louis, 11, Zaida, eight, and Mo, seven. However, they loved their house and didn't want to leave Walthamstow in east London, where they were part of the community - mum Bella works nearby and the children attend the local schools. 'One afternoon, we were discussing ideas about how to create more space with our friend Neil

Dusheiko and his wife, Lucy,' says Bella. 'Neil is an architect and we said that we wanted to extend the house towards the garden and provide extra living space and a bedroom, with the idea that the existing living room could become a bedroom in the future.' **A FLEXIBLE SPACE** Neil (020 7490 7666; neildusheiko.com) worked closely with the couple to design a beautiful, practical space, which has the flexibility to change with the family's needs. 'Neil talked to the planners and applied for planning permission, which was granted straightaway,' says



The oak doors fold right back, providing easy access to outside

FEATURE DEBBIE JEFFERY PHOTOGRAPHS DARREN CHUNG/VELFAC DENNIS GILBERT PLANS PERSONA-ID

Bella. The house previously had two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room and living room on the ground floor. A new single-storey rear extension adds a main bedroom and living room, freeing up the old living room as a study-cum-den and possible future bedroom. The family was keen that the extension should be constructed entirely from timber, rather than brick, to give the building warmth. It also meant that the design would blend in with the timber sheds and wooden fences in the surrounding gardens. 'We were replacing a patio and an old shed with the extension, so, in some ways, we wanted to keep the simplicity of that wooden building,' says Bella. **CONTRASTING STYLES** As a result, the extension is built out of timber and clad in Siberian larch, which is mounted onto an oak frame. The timber contrasts with the brick of the original house and helps to differentiate between the two spaces. The folding, sliding doors and windows were crafted out of oak and the doors fold away entirely to allow the garden to become part of the living space. The couple opted for hard-wearing birch plywood for

'We were replacing a shed and wanted to keep the simplicity of that wooden building'

the flooring and the brand-new staircase is also constructed from birch ply. The garden is north facing, so the asymmetrical extension has been cranked to get as much light as possible into the space. Projecting fins on the outside of the house bring the timber-clad structure alive as the sun projects shadows across the façade. **STAYING WITHIN BUDGET** Neil designed the project so that the family could continue living in the house during the build, saving money on rented accommodation. 'We kept within budget with Neil's help,' says Bella. 'A team of carpenters built the extension and we kept the existing kitchen to save money.' Bella's father designed the garden and her brother, a sculptor and metalworker, made the garden furniture (07984 789594; alexrelph.co.uk). The family paid £212,000 for the house in 2003 and spent £74,000 extending the property, which is now valued in excess of £450,000. Apart from the extra space, they are delighted with the flexibility of the layout and the different ways the house can be configured. 'The design has given us everything that we needed and is amazing to live in,' says Bella.



Trials & triumphs...

- **What was the high point of the project?** 'Watching the timber frame going up was just so exciting.'
- **Any low points?** 'As the cladding began to be put on, it didn't look uniform, so Neil got the builders to redo it.'
- **Who or what was the project saviour?** 'Neil - he listened so carefully to what we needed.'

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EXTREME
Transformation 2



The Victorian terrace was in serious need of repair, with the kitchen extension condemned as structurally unsound

BEFORE



AFTER

Bifold doors open up to the garden completely, extending the living space to outside

A two-storey rear extension has given the property a fresh, modern look and has created plenty of open-plan living space



The living room, kitchen, dining area and garden are all visually connected, allowing easy communication between areas



Trials & triumphs...

- **What was the high point of the project?**
'Seeing how a traditional house could be transformed into something special.'
- **Any low points?**
'A fire at the glass warehouse delayed our skylight being installed in the dining room.'
- **Who or what was the project saviour?**
'Our architect, Neil Dusheiko. He delivered far more than we could have imagined.'

'We wanted a whole new look for our home'

The Victorian frontage of Natasha Cox and Damien McNerny's house conceals a bold, contemporary design

Natasha Cox and Damien McNerny knew that they would need some serious help redesigning their run-down terraced house in Islington, north London. Back in 2009, the three-storey Victorian property was in a dilapidated condition: the old kitchen extension was condemned as unsafe and needed to be demolished; the roof space contained several wasps' nests that had to be removed; and the water tank had fallen through their ceiling one night, ending up on their bed, which was luckily unoccupied at the time. The couple hired architect Neil Dusheiko (020 7490 7666; neildusheiko.com) to help them come up

with a plan for their home. The house measures just 5.5m across, which brought certain limitations when it came to redesigning it, but Neil worked closely with Natasha and Damien to produce a very contemporary design to suit the way they live. Using 3D modelling software to convey ideas, he even predicted where sunlight would fall at different times of the day. Damien, a sales manager who is 6ft 5in tall, had a few specific requirements. He didn't want to be able to touch any of the ceilings and he wanted to have solid flooring – preferably concrete. The interaction between the indoor and outdoor spaces was also key for the couple. 'I wanted the kitchen to form the heart



The main bedroom now has a compact en-suite, while a rooflight keeps the space feeling bright

FEATURE: DERRIE JEFFERY; PHOTOGRAPHS: TERRY MAHONEY, DENNIS GILBERT/NEIL DUSHEIKO PLANS PERSONAID

of the house,' explains Natasha. 'It was also important to be able to see our three children, Brin, Tamsin and Oakley, playing in the garden and to communicate with people who were in the living room.' Planning approval was given for the ambitious scheme, which included reinstating a bay window at the front of the house and building an exciting rear extension to contain an open-plan kitchen-diner on the ground floor, which is stepped down from the living room in the older part of the house. 'The interconnecting spaces are great for keeping an eye on the kids,' says Natasha. Along the length of the kitchen runs a space that used to be a corridor and now contains the fridge, freezer, laundry and a guest loo, all neatly concealed behind a slatted wooden wall. **LETTING IN LIGHT** Upstairs, a new family bathroom in the zinc-roofed extension appears to be supported on a single exposed column, while a slot window is positioned above the bath overlooking the garden. The main bedroom was reconfigured and now has an en-suite bathroom, concealed behind a mirrored panel and lit by a dramatic angled rooflight. Another

rooflight has been installed directly above the bed. 'I can lie in bed and look at the clouds,' says Natasha. The family moved out in August 2011 when building work began, and the ground floor was completely gutted and reconfigured to accommodate the new open-plan living, kitchen and dining spaces. Insulated render was applied to the brickwork, with double-glazed traditional sash windows installed in the older part of the house, while double-glazed aluminium windows and doors were used in the modern extension. Traditional walnut parquet defines the living room, while polished concrete was chosen for the kitchen-diner floor, which retains warmth generated by underfloor heating. All the joinery and external timber shutters were designed by the couple's architect, and there's even colour-changing feature lighting throughout the house. The couple paid £570,000 for the property in 2008 and they have since spent around £250,000 improving their home, which is now valued in excess of £820,000. 'Now the house works for us as a whole family and has a real wow factor, too,' says Natasha.

'It was important to be able to see the kids playing in the garden'