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The flank wall was built using handmade Petersen bricks laid in a stacked bond, drawing the eye upwards to a large skylight above



Base Architecture & Design (01743 236 400; basearchitecture.co.uk). 'They will also provide an insight into orientation, the fabric of the building, colour options and how all of these might work together.'

Two-storey extensions come with an added complexity due to the geometry of the roof. You'll need someone with a thorough understanding of the existing structure and the structural support required. 'If and when things get stressful on site, it helps to have someone you can call for help – either an architect or a project manager,' says Huntley.

Planning essentials

It's possible to create a two-storey extension under Permitted Development (PD), without any need for formal planning permission, but you might find the required design parameters limiting. The materials you specify will need to be similar to those used for the original house. 'You're going to be restricted in terms of the size, form and position of the extension against the existing building,' says Adam Knibb, director at Adam Knibb Architects (01962 680 221);

Situated within the Bradmore Conservation Area in west London, this Victorian terraced house was remodelled with the addition of a two-storey rear extension. Neil Dusheiko Architects (020 7354 8106; neildusheiko.com) created modern, light-filled interiors, with a seamless connection between indoors and out