



The Cheeran House
 RIBA region: South
 Architect: John Pardey Architects
 Location: Reading
 Internal area: 284 sqm



“It is a peaceful house with beautiful use of light and space.”

The house sits between a south-facing courtyard and a walled garden to the north.

The overall height was limited by planning restrictions and with the site rising by two metres from front to back, the inner courtyard is partly sunk into the ground, increasing the sense of enclosure.

The relatively modest house unfolds and creates some beautiful reflective spaces with excellent use of light, in particular the first-floor corridor

space with low-level windows to overcome any overlooking issues.

The landscaping wraps around the house and the retention of the historic wall helps to create a sense of place and orientation. The new flint walls emphasise continuity with the landscape, and the old kitchen garden is left to meadow which gives the new and old both space to breathe.

The architects have relished using natural materials that will weather well, so the ground floor walls are faced

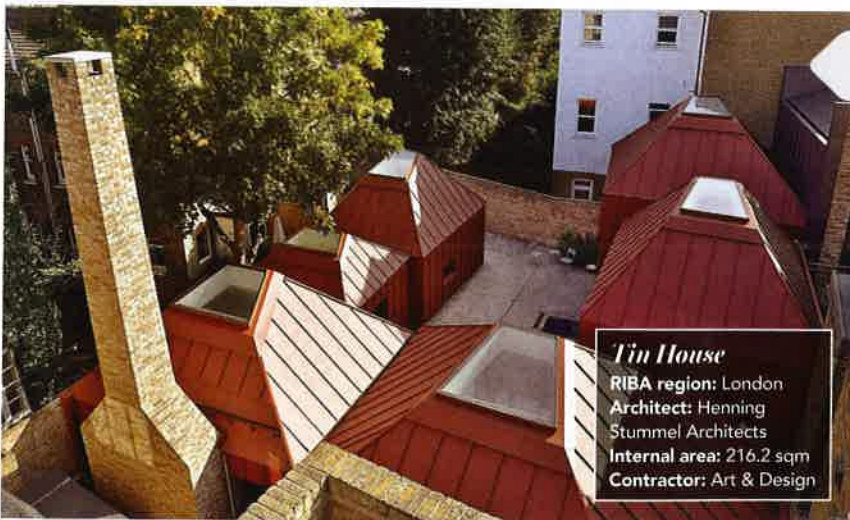
in flint (pre-cast in blocks), except where it becomes part of the walled garden where it reverts to brick.

Porcelain tiled floors amplify the indoor-outdoor connection. The home’s energy requirements are served by a bored ground source heat pump system which, along with MVHR and rooftop PV panels, exports more energy than is consumed.

It is a peaceful house with beautiful use of light and space. This results in a very good building indeed.



PHOTOS: JAMES MORRIS



The Tin House
 RIBA region: London
 Architect: Henning Stummel Architects
 Internal area: 216.2 sqm
 Contractor: Art & Design

“Creating a secluded place was a priority.”

The Tin House is entered from a modest London street through a massive Soanian brick double-height arch – a gateway to a remarkable domestic inner world. Creating a secluded place was a priority for the owner and the architect’s response was to develop a low, inward-looking, tranquil courtyard that is open to the south yet offers privacy, both visual and acoustic. The design is a composition of different pavilions: six earth-coloured metal-clad pyramidal top-lit forms.

The cladding is a warm earthy colour, which contrasts with the surrounding stock brick buildings. The modest utilitarian finish accentuates the monolithic and sculptural quality of the design. A calm rectangular pool provides cooling and the sun’s reflections from the water bring the facade to life.

Each pavilion accommodates a room. The roof shape has a low contour and maximises spatial volume. The roof lights can be opened and on warm days the stack effect ensures that fresh cool air is drawn in from above the pool. The Pantheon and the work of James Turrell have influenced the design of the top lit pavilions.

PHOTO: LIME CAULFIELD



PHOTOS: PETER LANGENS

“The curving linear plan frames the landscape perfectly.”

Contour House

RIBA region: East Midlands
 Architect: Sanei Hopkins Architects Ltd
 Location: Peak District
 Internal area: 1,083 sqm

Contour House nestles in the rolling hills of the Peak District National Park.

The curving linear plan, with circulation zones either side of a series of open-plan spaces, frames the landscape perfectly and provides a simple, elegant layout for a family home.

The brief was for a family home which was open, light and contemporary

using high quality traditional materials and taking maximum advantage of the views towards Chatsworth to the south and Balsow Edge to the north east.

Externally, the use of local stone flowing seamlessly from the walls to roof creates a subtle contemporary vernacular that sits perfectly in its setting. The stone was sourced from excavations required for a new

agricultural building at a nearby farm. The stone surface is a protection to the membrane underneath and will weather over time.

The judges were impressed by the efforts made by the architects and the client to source local materials and embed sustainable design principles in the project’s core. The house has been designed to meet the current and future needs of a young and growing family.