

at the end of the hall

Emil Eve Architects
has left a little (or,
in fact, a rather
large) surprise in
this terrace refurb





Terrace renovations are no new phenomenon. In fact, most (let's say a good 85%) of the London projects we feature in *enki* are some sort of Victorian or Edwardian refurb inspired by a more conscious choice of not to move, but to improve. And with so many blueprints that have come before, finding individuality in these kind of builds can be challenging. Yet here, down a street in North London, Emil Eve Architects have left a little surprise within this brick beacon of a family home. But when we say little, really we mean an expansive double height atrium dripping in airy splendour. Swooning in all its glazed glory, this new heart of the home sits to the rear of the plan, replacing what was once a warren-like set-up that routed up and down the stepped level arrangement of the build. Despite its sheer size and presence in the house, the atrium is in fact a secret that is only shared once you make your way into the plan. On entry, a rather traditional hallway greets visitors and leads them towards a library mezzanine that denotes arrival to the new double-height hub where they are left mulling over one question and one question only, "how on earth did they squeeze that in here!?" Stepping down into the atrium via a bespoke staircase, areas for cooking, dining and lounging make themselves known without the constriction of any physical walls. Thus, entertaining is made easy as the young family can host larger groups in one room without people standing on top of one another. Offering a tonic to the luxury of space here, a humbling material palette warms the space with timber. "A slender timber datum line extends from the ground floor plane, wrapping around the new living space, and cleverly integrated as open plan kitchen shelving," the studio say. Now this is what attention to detail looks like.

MEET THE ARCHITECT

As part of the refurb, was it important to retain any characteristics of the original property? Yes, absolutely.

The house is positioned within a conservation area, so it was essential for the approach and facade to reflect the surrounding vernacular architecture. Unique to the street, the front door has been replaced with a traditional panelling motif and opens onto the original entrance hall, which is crucial to the unexpected reveal of the contemporary atrium at the rear. Original features have been retained throughout, including a beautiful timber staircase and an unusual Victorian hatch which connects the boot room to the living space.

Did the implementation of the atrium present any challenges in the build?

Although the integration of the steel structure was complex, it was cost effective as we were able to avoid underpinning through a careful use of existing foundation levels. A close coordination between us and the

engineer was integral. We have great success with planning applications across the board, and we put forward a strong case to get approval, which involved presenting the rear extension as a single storey addition.

Why did you want the atrium to be a double height space?

Victorian homes often benefit from naturally generous volumes, which we drew on and enhanced through the addition of the double height space. Double height proportions can be important in Victorian houses to successfully connect levels and achieve a dramatic sense of volume. In this particular case, double height allowed us to get planning for an unusually large extension.

Have you re-designed the glazing plan in any other parts of the building?

Yes, we replaced all of the original glazing throughout the house. We used double glazed sash windows on the upper floors to maximise thermal performance and improve the building's efficiency.





HOME PROFILE

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

A five-storey period terrace in North London receives a welcomed refurb and extension. Swapping its cellular floor-plan for something a little more open has seen the integration of a double height atrium that invites natural light and views deep into the plan. Dressed in lime plaster and wooden accents, a warming material palette softens the grandeur of this rear hub. With flush access to the outdoors and landscaped garden, the family can now move indoors and out with ease. And when rain pours, the outdoor world remains present through expansive glazing that allows for an almost cinematic experience of the world beyond the glass.

LOCATION

Highgate Conservation Area
of North London

PROJECT SIZE

250 sq. m



"FUNCTIONALITY IS KEY
AS THE HOUSE HAS
BEEN DESIGNED FOR A
YOUNG FAMILY"





A calm and serene
interior palette
highlights the
colours of the stone
and wood, creating a
sense of harmony
and balance.
The lighting is
soft and warm,
enhancing the
natural textures of
the materials.
The overall effect
is one of tranquility
and modern elegance.



"IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DESIGN A HOUSE THAT WILL ADAPT TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN"

PROJECT NOTES

**ARCHITECT
& INTERIOR
DESIGNER**
Emil Eve Architects

CONTRACTOR
Evoke Projects Ltd

**STRUCTURAL
ENGINEER**
Price & Myers

GLAZING
ID Systems

JOINERY
Evoke Projects Ltd

FLOORING
Hawwoods

LIGHTING
Dyke and Dean;
Lampsy; Astro;
Dowsing +
Reynolds; Flos

KITCHEN
Evoke

TILING
Parkside;
Mandarin Stone

CONCRETE SINK
Kast