

# LIVING SPACE DESIGN OF THE YEAR

In what was a tough category even for our experienced team of expert judges, some of the smartest, most stylish – and highly complex – interior architecture schemes revealed their clever details...

## WINNER PAUL MCANEARY, PAUL MCANEARY ARCHITECTS

A remodelling and extension to an Edwardian terrace house located within a conservation area, in Hammersmith, London, this three-bedroom, two-storey house was in a decrepit state and in need of considerable refurbishment and modernisation. The client asked for a contemporary design and functionality and he also expressed the desire to be able to perceive the garden as a continuation of the domestic space rather than 'the outdoor'.

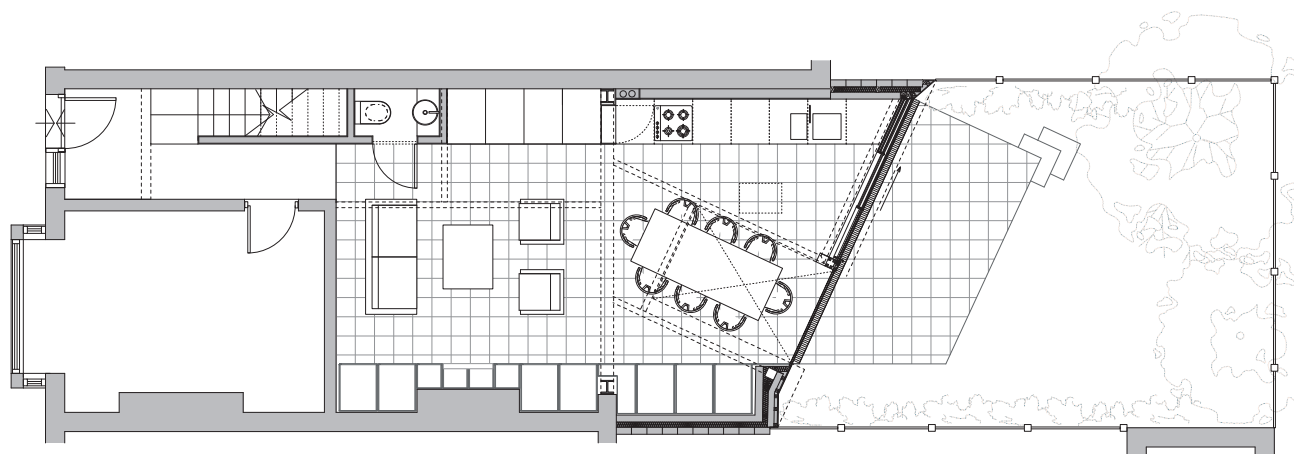
The concept driving the whole design is a 30° twist that allows physical and perceptive overlapping between the indoor and the outdoor spaces that dramatically improves the natural lighting into the house.

In terms of spatial composition, there are two driving forces that compete and finally coexist: the kitchen-living area expands and transforms the external landscape, whilst the natural vegetation surrounds and perceptively invades the domestic space through the frameless glass skylight and open façade. The angle facilitates the overlap between the garden and kitchen thresholds – so whilst at the sink you feel the garden is actually behind you. This conceptual idea is manifest in the details of the faceted zinc facade and the floating external deck, being cut back to a fine angled edge.

McAnearny reconfigured and expanded the existing space by designing a huge open-plan: he blurred the threshold between areas (livingkitchen-garden) to create a continuous space that is legible, functional and engaging. The kitchen stretches into the garden through a trapezoid platform which floats about 400mm above the garden level; the step-stone on the right side of the platform provides the access to the garden and BBQ area. To reinforce the perception of spatial continuity and connection, McAnearny specified the same tiles for the living-kitchen area and the garden's platform.

The client requested a clutter-free and practical house. The designer responded with a concept storage wall: a simple multipurpose solution made of economical Ikea carcasses for the interior, and high quality lacquered handleless doors for the outer surface.

The kitchen was specified using antibacterial reconstituted stone for the worksurface, with a wolf ext!ctor which mechanically lifts from the counter top only when needed. Warm FSC timber was used for the doors, as this specific shade of timber evokes the redwood forest of New Zealand (the client's homeland) to create a







dramatic contrast with the white lacquered wall doors and the lightly toned tiled flooring.

There is also a concealed cupboard at the end of the kitchen bench top. This carefully hides the toaster, kettle and all the other kitchen clutter in the same way that the WC and utility cupboard design solutions hide away these occasional functions.

The end result is an incredible and wholly unique space that met the client's needs on a multitude of levels.

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