

THE PROCESS IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE FINISHED PROJECT

Our Philosophy

Our design approach is rooted in collaboration, placing our clients at the heart of every project. By encouraging open dialogue and building strong relationships, our process fosters trust and a genuine sense of ownership. This ensures that each design is not only tailored to individual needs but is also deeply meaningful.

We place a strong emphasis on well-being, culture, and context, believing that architecture is not simply about constructing buildings but about shaping environments that enrich the lives of people that use them.

Whether we are working on private homes or public projects, extension, reconfiguring a layout or building something from scratch, we aim to create places that are uplifting and inclusive. Delivering positive architecture with an atmosphere that nurtures the people who use it.

*“Beauty brings copies of itself into being.
It makes us draw it, take photographs of it,
or describe it to other people.”*

- Elain Scarry

Alma House, 2025



Approach

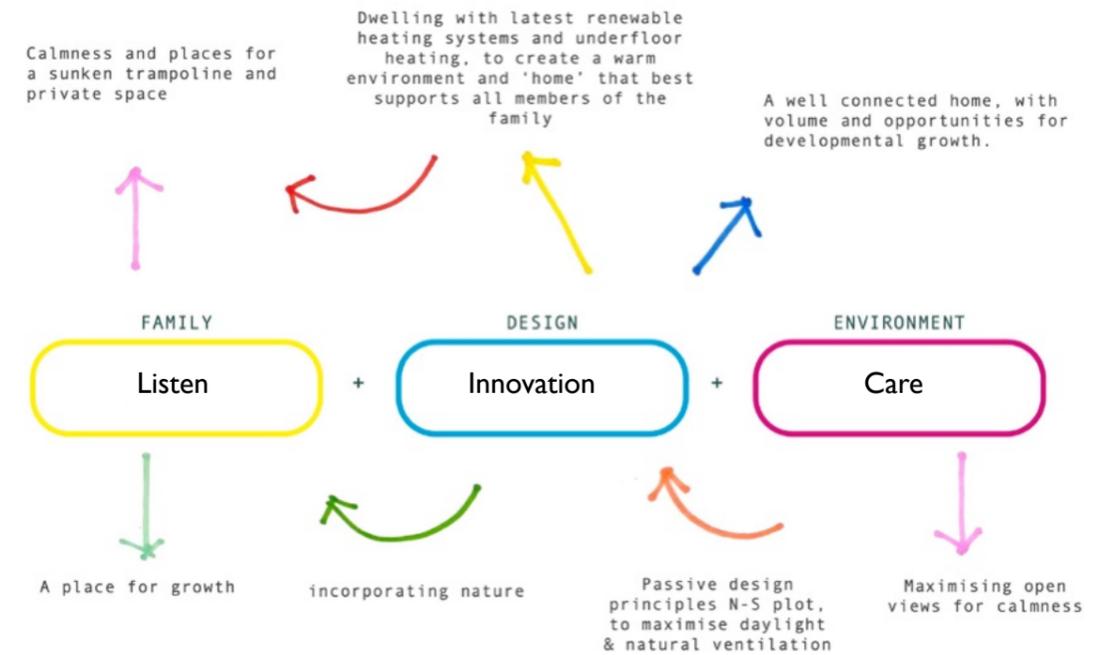
Our projects start as a strength based approach, seeking to understand what matters to our clients. By identifying these values, we aim to create an architecture that elevates your everyday experiences. Turning up the volume of your project with the hope of enriching your life.



Community Engagement sessions for Grange Pavilion.

LISTEN
OBSERVE
VIEW WIDER CONTEXT
INQUIRE
UNDERSTAND
IMAGINE

Through developing a brief together, we start the design process with conversations that cross examine wants, experience and context to uncover what is important. By listening deeply, we shape briefs that are entirely unique to each client and place - as a practice we resist having 'a look,' because having a predefined style would obstruct an authentic design. Instead, we nurture an architecture that can develop organically for our clients.



In Slovenian Bee Keeping, the well-being of the bees is more important than the honey. The honey still happens to be some of the best in the world.

“Architecture appears for the first time when the sunlight hits a wall.”

- Louis Kahn



Bryn Hyfryd, 2025



Grange Pavilion, 2020

Light

Through our designs, we aim to create spaces that form rhythm and thresholds through lighting conditions. With careful attention to detail, we develop bespoke technical solutions that shape distinct moments within each space, these create dynamic shadows throughout the days and seasons.

This is not necessarily filling your space with as much light as possible, rather allowing our clients to experience the crispness of morning sunshine and “delighting in the mere sight of the delicate glow of fading rays clinging to the surface of a dusky wall.”

Ty Gwyn, 2025



Context

Our approach to design is through the lens of symbiosis with its context. We believe that design is dependant and co-related to its surroundings, thus should always attempt to embrace it. Our initial design concepts are in response to the constraints and opportunities put forward by the site and its context, client brief and spatial qualities.

Through an ecological and sustainable design emphasis, we aim to design architectural responses that have a low carbon footprint and are good for the planet.





Alma House, 2025

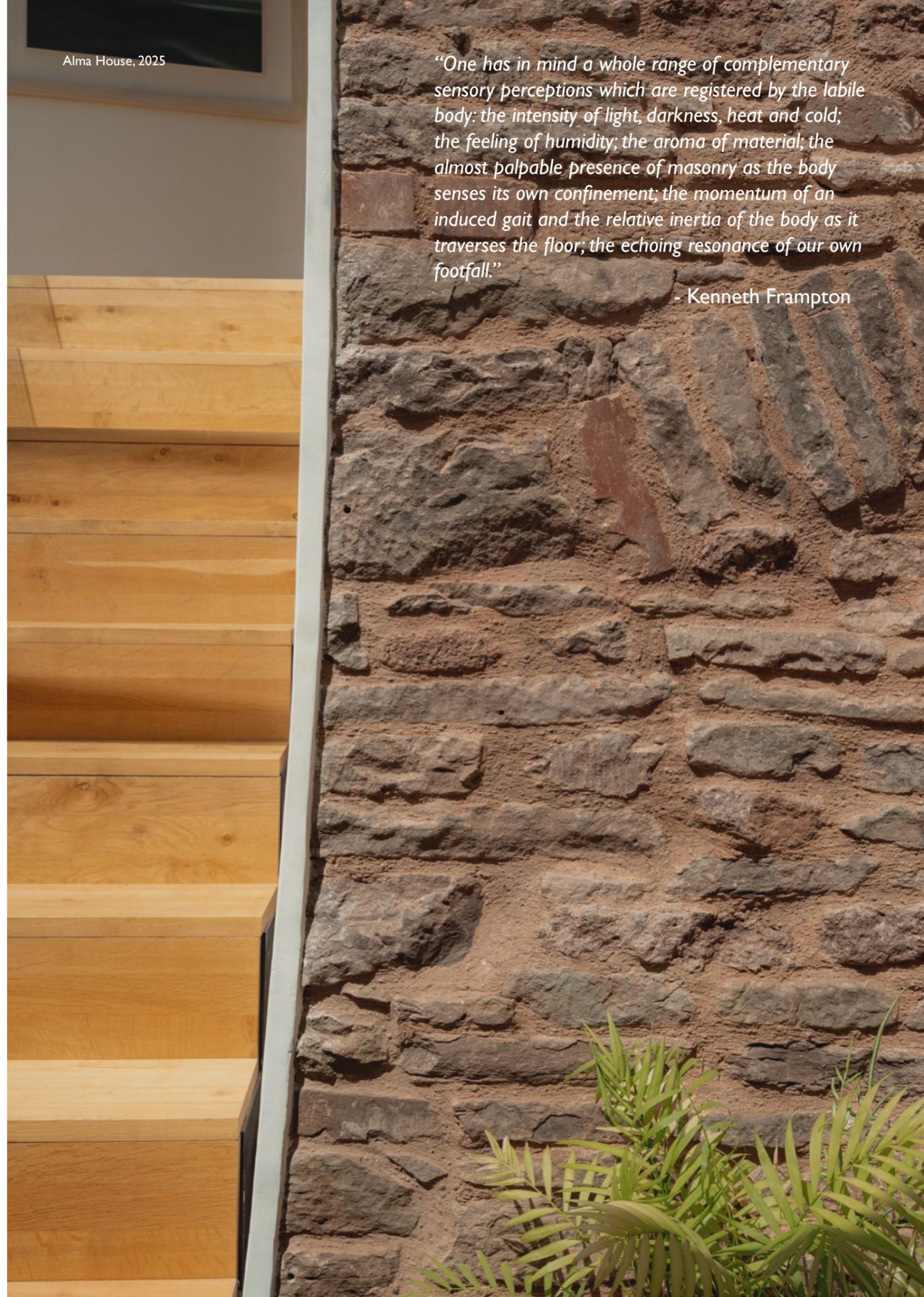
Texture

In the studio we pride ourselves with strong design credentials alongside notions of architecture that stem from simple place making by pushing the boundaries of spatial understanding.

Enveloped in these curiosities is a passion to manipulate materials to give them new definitions and meanings, understanding how they can weather gracefully and contribute to their surrounding environment.

“All evidence of truth comes only from the senses.”
Friedrich Nietzsche

Alma House, 2025



“One has in mind a whole range of complementary sensory perceptions which are registered by the labile body: the intensity of light, darkness, heat and cold; the feeling of humidity; the aroma of material; the almost palpable presence of masonry as the body senses its own confinement; the momentum of an induced gait and the relative inertia of the body as it traverses the floor; the echoing resonance of our own footfall.”

- Kenneth Frampton



Value

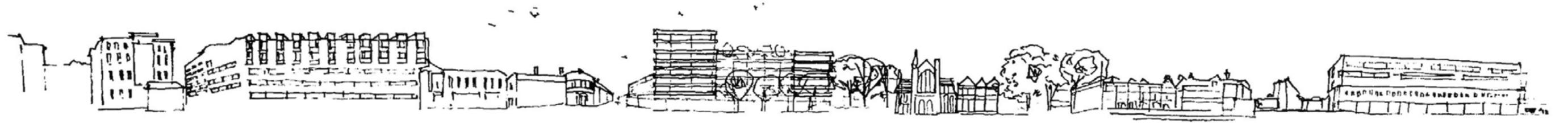
We believe in the use of architecture as a tool to increase the social value of a space and the wellbeing being of its users.

Through collaboration, design workshops and contextual analysis, we strive to provide a holistic design response and solution that would encourage social wellbeing, thus, increasing the value of a space.

We have a track record of delivering design value, in all aspects of a project. Workshops with key stakeholders and users ensure a robust set of employers requirements for the design and build contract.

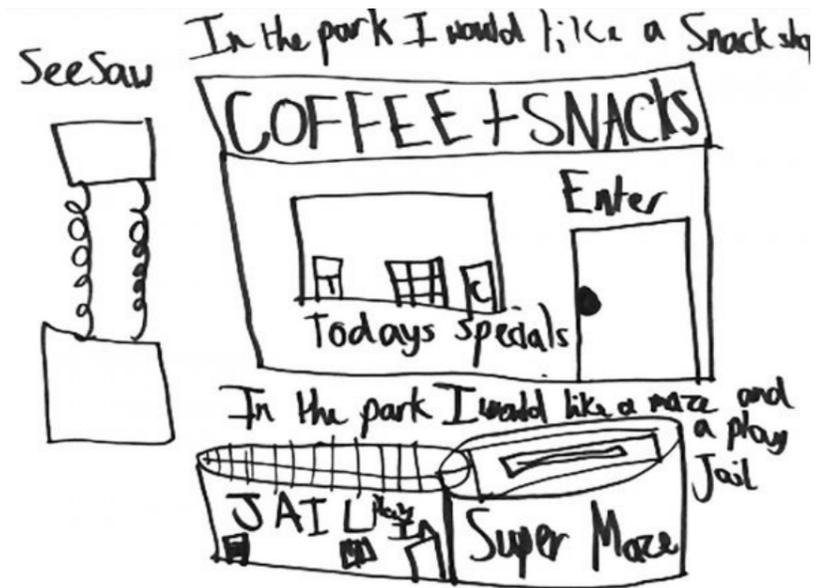


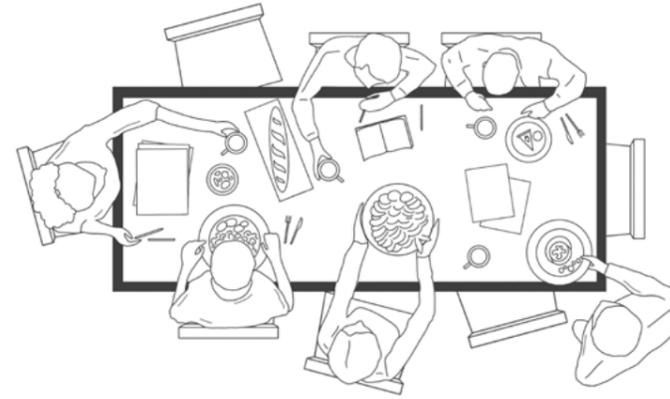
Alma House, 2025



Appreciative Inquiry

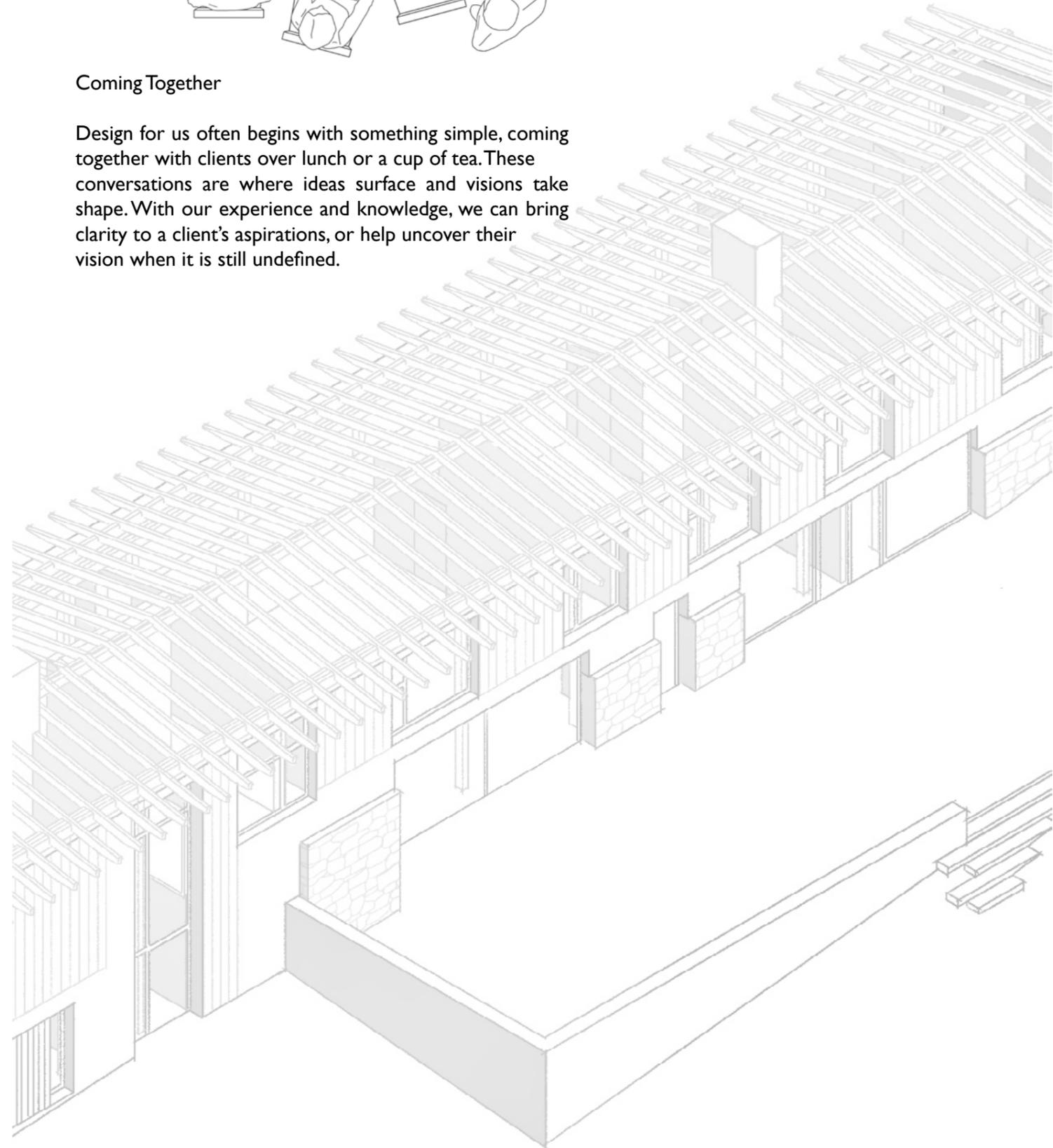
At Benham Architects we believe in a strength-based approach to guide us in both public and private projects. Whether shaping a community space, like the Grange Pavilion, or reconfiguring a Victorian mansion to suit modern life, we begin with uncovering the value and ambitions of our clients, who ultimately are at the centre of the process. Our approach to design means that the outcomes, large or small, civic or domestic, are rooted in a shared vision.





Coming Together

Design for us often begins with something simple, coming together with clients over lunch or a cup of tea. These conversations are where ideas surface and visions take shape. With our experience and knowledge, we can bring clarity to a client's aspirations, or help uncover their vision when it is still undefined.



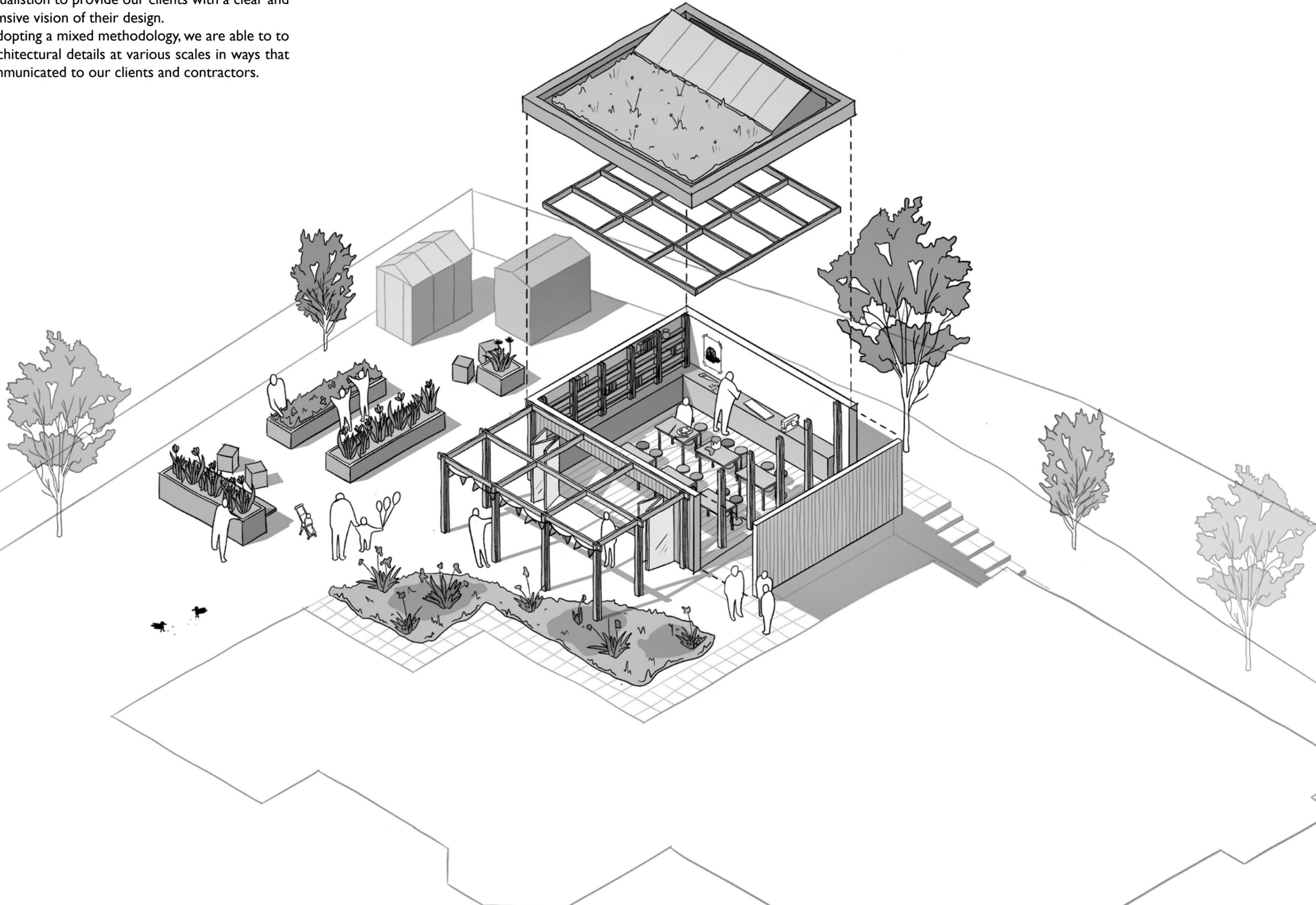
We use the same strength-based approach, whether the project is a modest extension, a knock-through or a complete newbuild. By focusing on what matters to our clients, we develop a brief that reflects your aspirations for your project, ensuring that every project is purposeful and personal.

Our ethos is collaborative and 'asset-based', valuing what already exists in a place.

We identify and build on existing strengths, rather than seeking 'problems' to 'solve.'

Technical Integration and Advice

We use a variety of drawing methods alongside 3D modelling and visualisation to provide our clients with a clear and comprehensive vision of their design. Through adopting a mixed methodology, we are able to explore architectural details at various scales in ways that can be communicated to our clients and contractors.



Sustainability

We understand that great design begins with conversations - listening, learning and understanding what matters most to our clients.

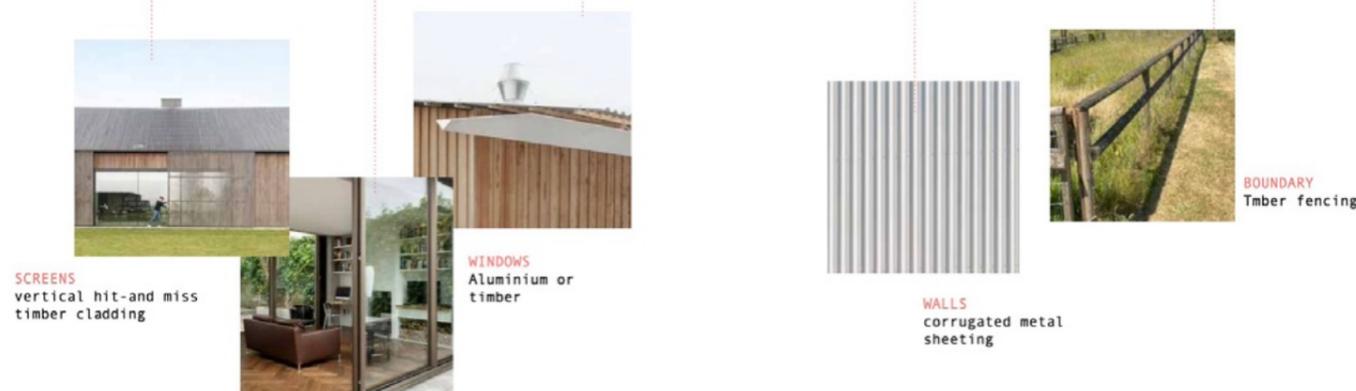
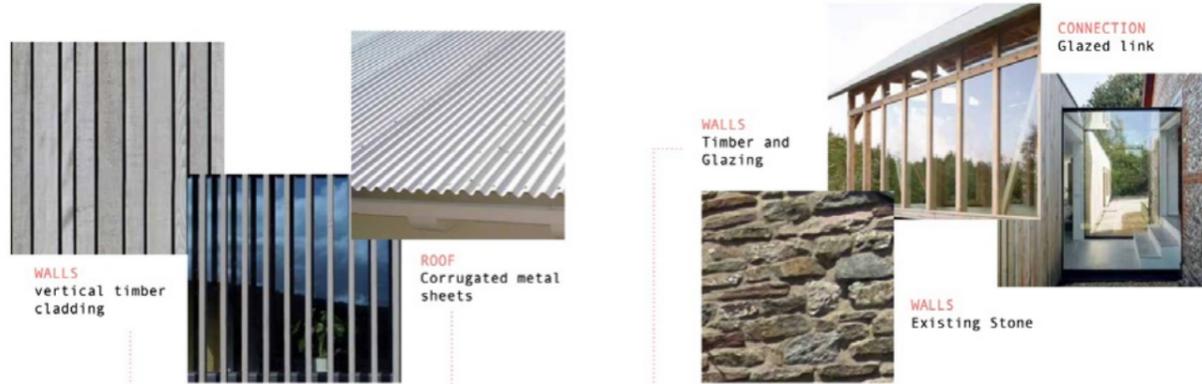
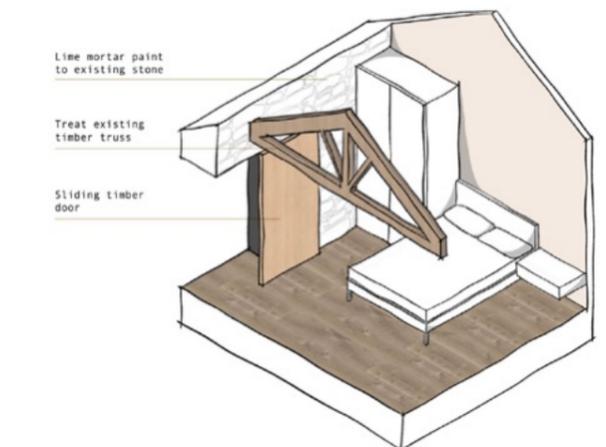
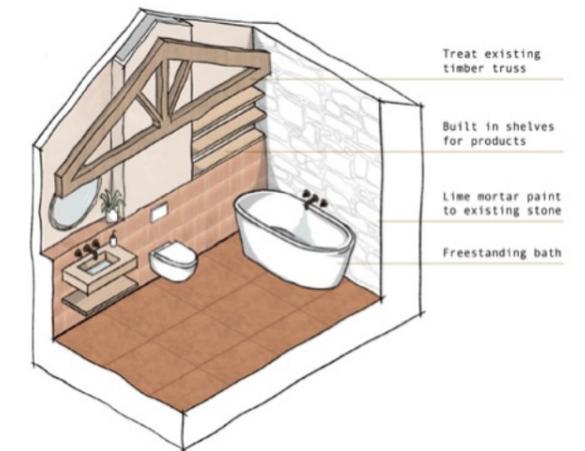
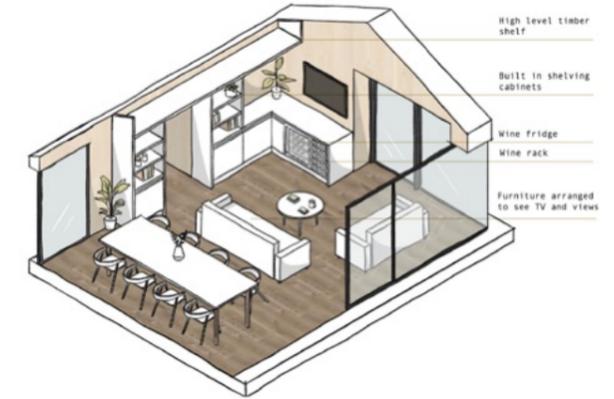
Together, we can shape a brief that not only fulfils your current aspirations but also looks ahead to a long-term vision. As a studio, we can guide you through the process with care, drawing on our experience and knowledge to explore more sustainable choices for how the project is built, maintained and functions.

Balancing aesthetics with how the building works and environmental responsibility, creating projects that enrich daily life.

Specification

As a practice, we see our role as helping clients envision their projects, guiding them through each stage with clarity. 3D illustrations and renders are central to this process, allowing both us and our clients to explore how a scheme might sit within its context, as well as how materials, light and space interact. Beyond the architecture, we also support with interiors, fixtures and fittings, offering advice and detailed drawings to refine every decision. Material samples and cabinetry layouts can be provided to bring choices and ensure practical needs are met alongside aesthetic goals.

Because we take time to build strong relationships and develop deep understandings of our clients, we can extend this collaborating process into the interiors. In doing so, we create spaces that not only reflect their vision but also feel cohesive, personal and complete.





Windsor Road, 2018

Built in the large garden of a pretty 1930s house, this modernist house sits into the slope. The material palette, an abstracted interpretation of the white render, slate roofed Edwardian houses surrounding it.

The ground floor is a 'L' shape, with a large, west facing open plan kitchen, living and dining room. Upstairs, there are three bedrooms and a generous roof terrace, up again, and there is a principle suite with an ensuite, walk in wardrobe and west facing roof terrace.





Winter evening at Grange Gardens



Value Unit from WSA at Grange Pavilion

Grange Pavilion, 2020

Before we and IBI Group even put pen to paper, there were four years of community engagement, resulting in an impressive collaborative project. A relationship that still continues through our Masters Unit that we run with Mhi-ari McVicar and Cardiff University's Community Gateway.

This was a new build project, creating a multifunctional community facility that replaced small bowls club.

With a pitched roof and material palette of black timber, glass, corten steel and brick, the building responds to a need for functionality and sits comfortably in its urban Victorian context.

The pavilion comprises three large mixed use rooms and a generous cafe/lobby. The 'L' shape layout of is arranged around the original bowls court, now an attractive safe space with rain gardens and informal allotments.



Alma House, 2025

Alma is a Grade II listed house from the early 1800s, set within the Monmouthshire countryside. Its original form is simple and symmetrical, much like the way a child might draw a house: a central door with windows either side, three windows above, and chimneys at each end. From the road the house appears modest, but the land falls away to reveal a lower ground floor opening directly onto the garden.

The brief was to create a light-filled dining area that connects seamlessly with the garden, alongside a new bedroom and en-suite to enable level access across the ground floor. Given the sensitivity of the historic fabric, the design had to minimise its impact from the street. The extensions not only improved circulation horizontally and vertically but also transformed once dark rooms with small openings, flooding them with light and framing views across the rolling hills beyond.







Bryn Hyfryd, 2025

Found just inside of Cardiff's northern boarder in two acres of land and with breath taking views over Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and the Bristol Channel is Bryn Hyfryd: meaning 'Lovely Hill' in welsh.

The original intention was to retain and reconfigure the bungalow on site, adapting it to suit its new owners while maximising the elevated outlook. However, as the project developed, the decision was made to rebuild the home entirely, preserving the original proportions while unlocking far more usable space.

A key part of the brief was an indoor pool, inspired by the modernist houses of the Hollywood Hills, designed to celebrate and take full advantage of the remarkable views.







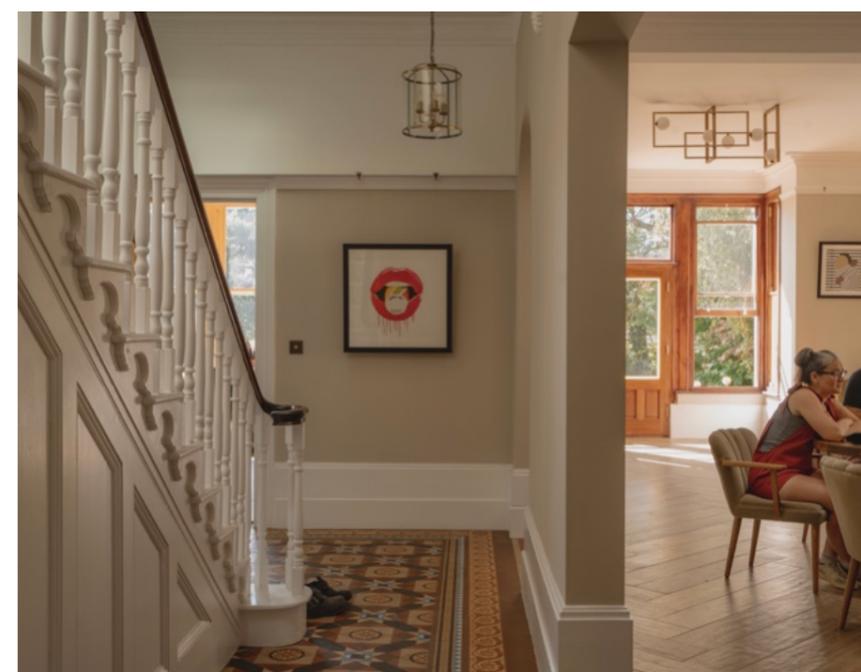
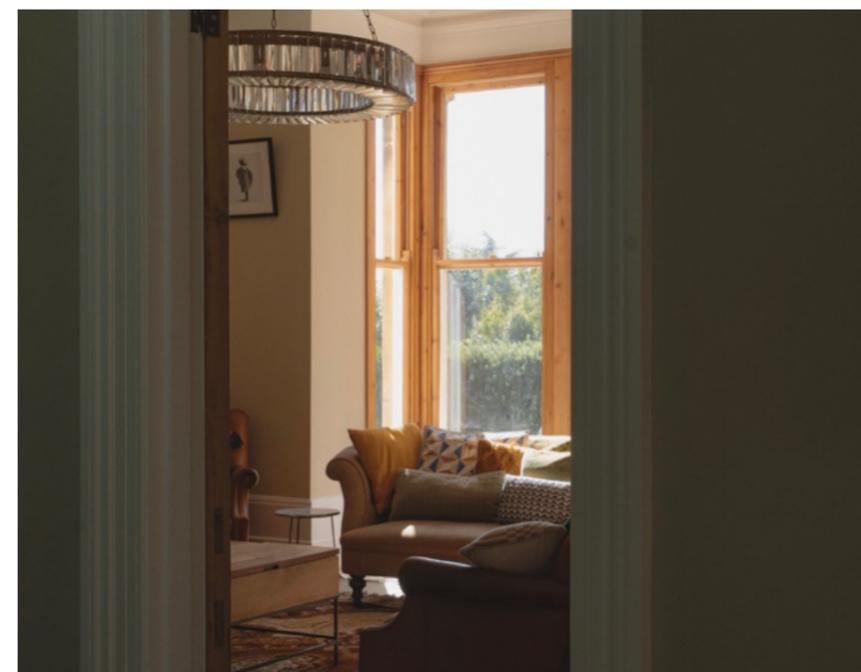


Ty Gwyn, 2025

Ty Gwyn is a large, detached bathstone Victorian mansion set within a generous corner plot. Our first step was to explore how the existing building could be maximised before considering any extensions, opening up spaces and improving light both vertically and horizontally.

The original layout comprised three grand reception rooms, a central hallway, and a dark kitchen tucked away at the back of the house, typical of properties of this era. To make the home work for its owners, we connected the kitchen to one of the reception rooms, forming an impressive multifunctional living space without adding any floor area.

Upstairs, the landing, while generous was mostly enclosed, with just two windows, was transformed with the introduction of a large rooflight. This not only floods the first floor with daylight but also brightens the hallway below, enhanced by additional openings in the floor of the landing. The result is dramatic, and the clients now enjoy Wales' largest single-pane rooflight.





Associations

Royal Institute of British Architects
Architects Registration Board
Royal Society of Architects in Wales
Royal Incorporation of Architects in Wales
Royal Society of Ulster Architects

Welsh School of Architects, Cardiff University
Trinity St David

Grange Pavilion
Community Gateway

Special Thanks to:

Direction

Where can we take our practice for the future?

We want to be recognised as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), bringing not only built projects to our portfolio but research and education, supporting communities through our work.

Composing policy for Welsh Architecture and building.
(statement for welsh building policy).*****



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