

Commended

Rear of 50 – 52 Amhurst Road

Architect: **Edgley Design Architects**
Client: **Laura and Lionel Hamilton**
Contractor: **Origami Frog**
Address: **Rear of 50-52 Amhurst Road, E8 2AQ**

The Project

Having owned and worked on the site for over a decade, the clients wanted to modernise and create a new and sustainable small community. The existing studio was replaced with better facilities and a separate two bedroom house built, all within the original footprint.

The studio is conceived as a shiny metal box; a domestic re-interpretation of the industrial shed. The industrial material reflects the working nature of the studio, offset by minimal detailing to give the shell a domestic quality and scale.

The main volume of the house is articulated as a black rubber-clad box, tactile and seamless, in sharp contrast to the rambling greenery of surrounding sites. A wall wraps around this as a separate element, forming rooflights to the hall and stair. Planting in front of this wall will give the appearance of a 'green wall,' almost entirely hiding the house from the view of neighbours.

Judge's Comments

This tiny landlocked parcel behind an ordinary Victorian terrace has been cleverly divided into two distinct but interlocking parts. A new 2-bed family house and a separate artist's studio area sit comfortably within the original footprint of the existing workshop. The metal-clad studio mimics an industrial aesthetic, offset by simple detailing to convey a domestic quality and scale. The adjoining house is articulated in another aesthetic, finished as it is in black rubber, brickwork and timber.

With exceptional adroitness, the architects have avoided overlooking of the multitude of neighbouring properties without compromising the amenity of house and studio. The lovely interiors closely reflect their respective uses, while their spare elegance shows true modernist instinct.

This project is something of a model for domestic backland opportunism, to successfully create highly architectural yet appropriate and useful development.



For more information about the scheme and the architect visit www.edgleydesign.co.uk

Photography by Joel Knight and Dominic French