

marcus tams architects

Let's create something special...

In 2012 I set up a practice to address the needs of small developers looking for commercially sound architects with an eye for design. Within a few short years it became apparent that our residential designs were unique and needed their own architectural identity, separate from the rest of the commercial work we do and so marcus tams architects was born.

In making this portfolio we wanted to share our designs with you - old and new. The chance to take stock and see where we've been and where we're going has been a really enjoyable experience. Most of all I am really proud of what we have achieved and hope our team's enthusiasm and dedication shines through in the work we do.

If anything you see here inspires you or if there is any way we can help with your project, please feel free to get in touch.

Thank you,

Marcus

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Small Projects



Rutland Road, Lady Bay

It's great when your client is open to suggestions and when we proposed using grey bricks with rebated mortar joints, to elegantly contrast the two storey extension with their existing home they were happy to trust us. Add to this a cantilevered single-storey extension, a pizza oven and a touch of the Scandinavian interior and we think they are on to a winner!



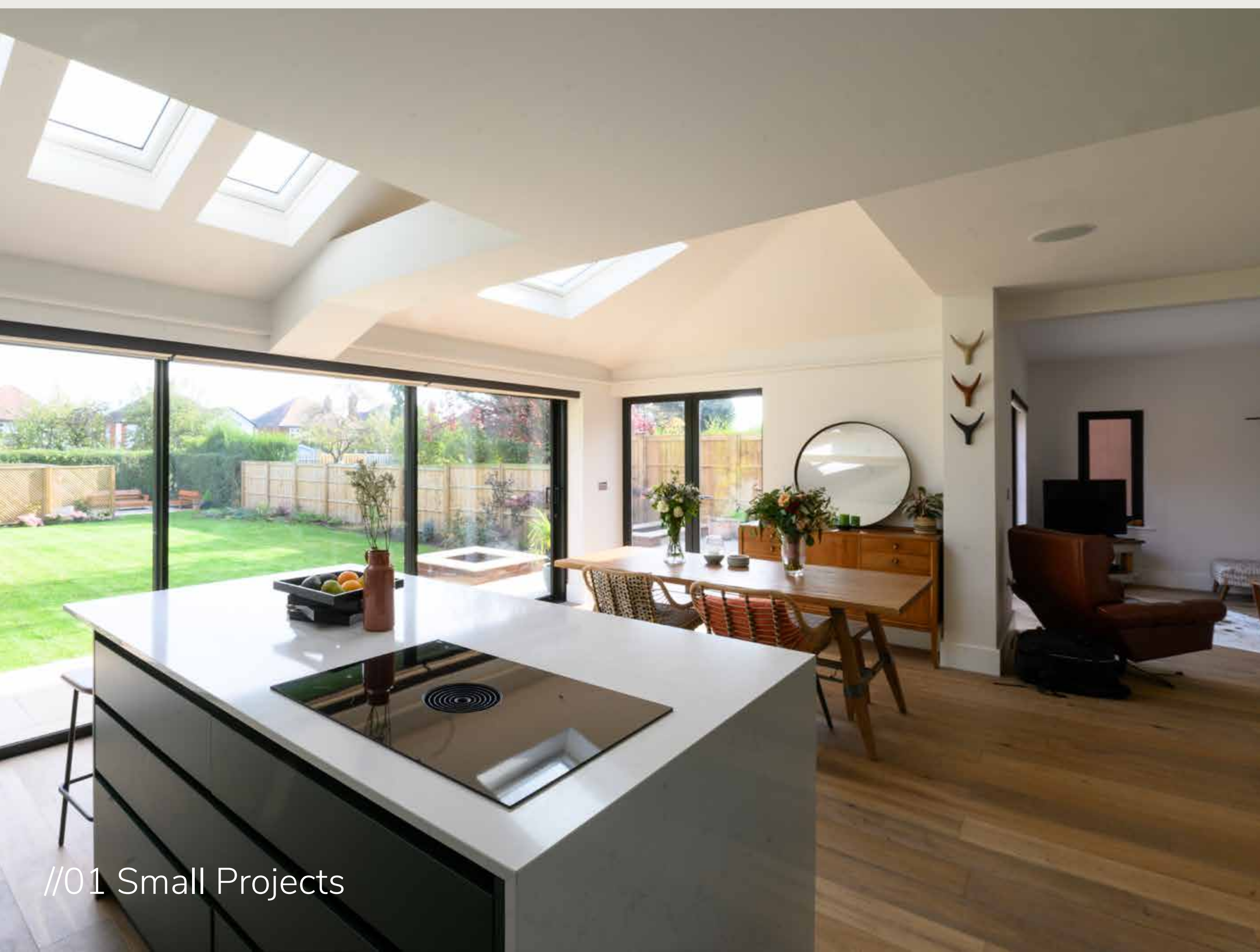
Boyers Orchard, Harby

This single storey extension has been developed within the parameters of Permitted Development, avoiding the requirement to submit a full planning application.

A modest extension with a big impact, transforming the interior spaces and greatly improving the relationship between the house and garden. The primary new volume creates a generous office space for home working.

The bold sculptural forms in painted white brick have been designed to tie in with the existing property, which has had a number of ad-hoc extensions over the years.





Dunster Road, West Bridgford

When the client approached us to help extend and renovate their new home they had a really clear idea of what they wanted to achieve but not necessarily how best to achieve it. Through the early stages we produced plans and 3D models so that they could understand both the inside and outside of the design options we put before them. Between us we worked to find a solution that unified all the best ideas and gave them the greatest 'bang for buck'.

Photography by Geoff Kirby Photography

The Lodge, Tutbury

This Georgian lodge once acted as the entrance lodge to a grand country home, East Lodge. Now a family home in it's own right, our clients wanted to improve the connection to the landscaped garden and create a functional rear entrance.

The form of the proposed extension takes inspiration from the rhythm of the existing facade whilst the muted tones of lime-washed brick and pale concrete compliment the monochromatic aesthetic of the existing lodge.

A rich materiality continues though the interiors with oak, Staffordshire clay pavers, clay plaster and exposed brickwork.



Towngate House, Market Deeping

This beautiful Grade II Listed property lacked just one thing - a link between the house and the expansive garden to the rear.

We were appointed to carry out a design study to look at appropriate extension options and following detailed design discussions involving 9 different options we settled on a 3 bay form which echoes the gable forms of the host building but in a contemporary manner.



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Renovation & Refurbishment



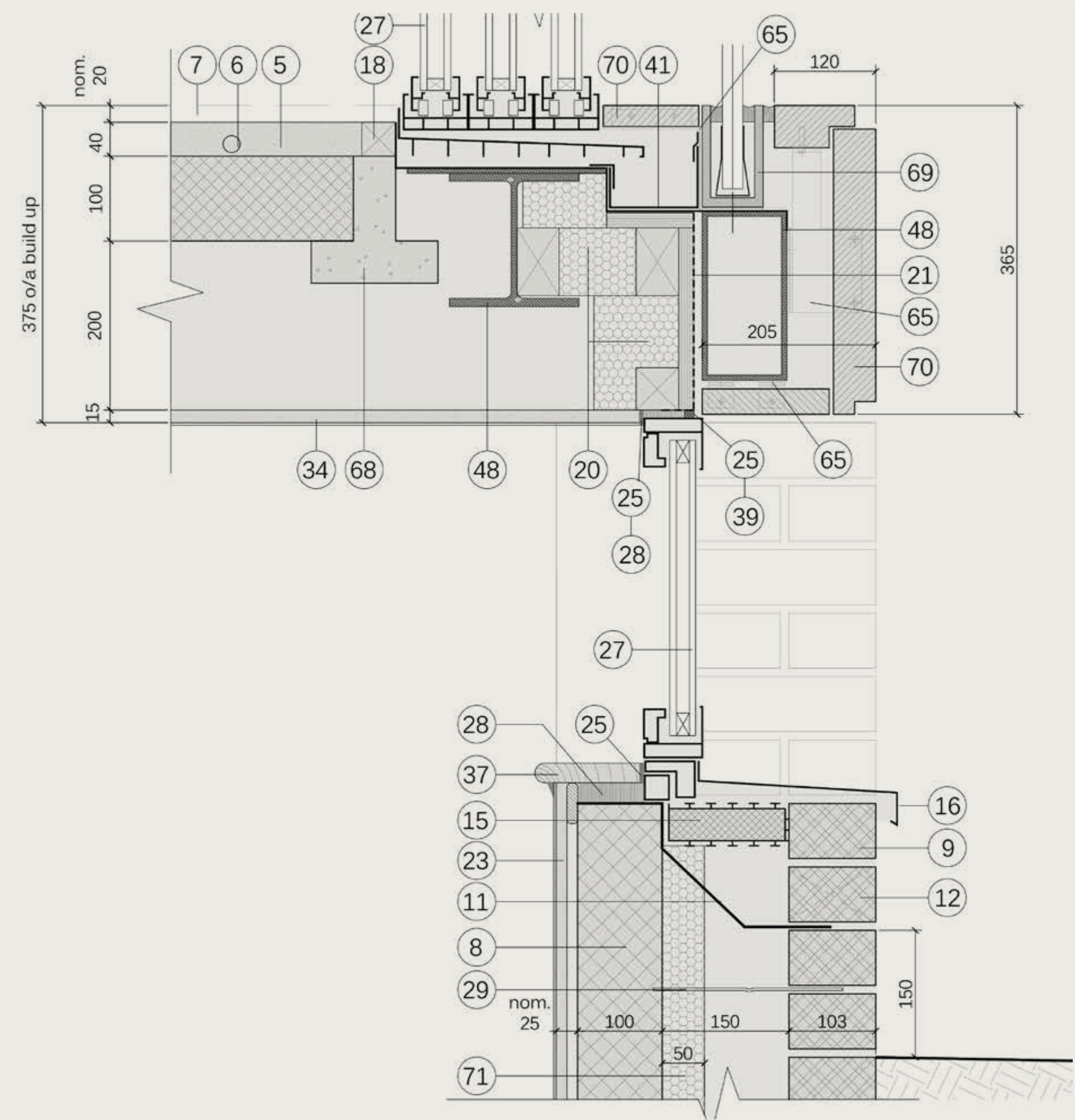
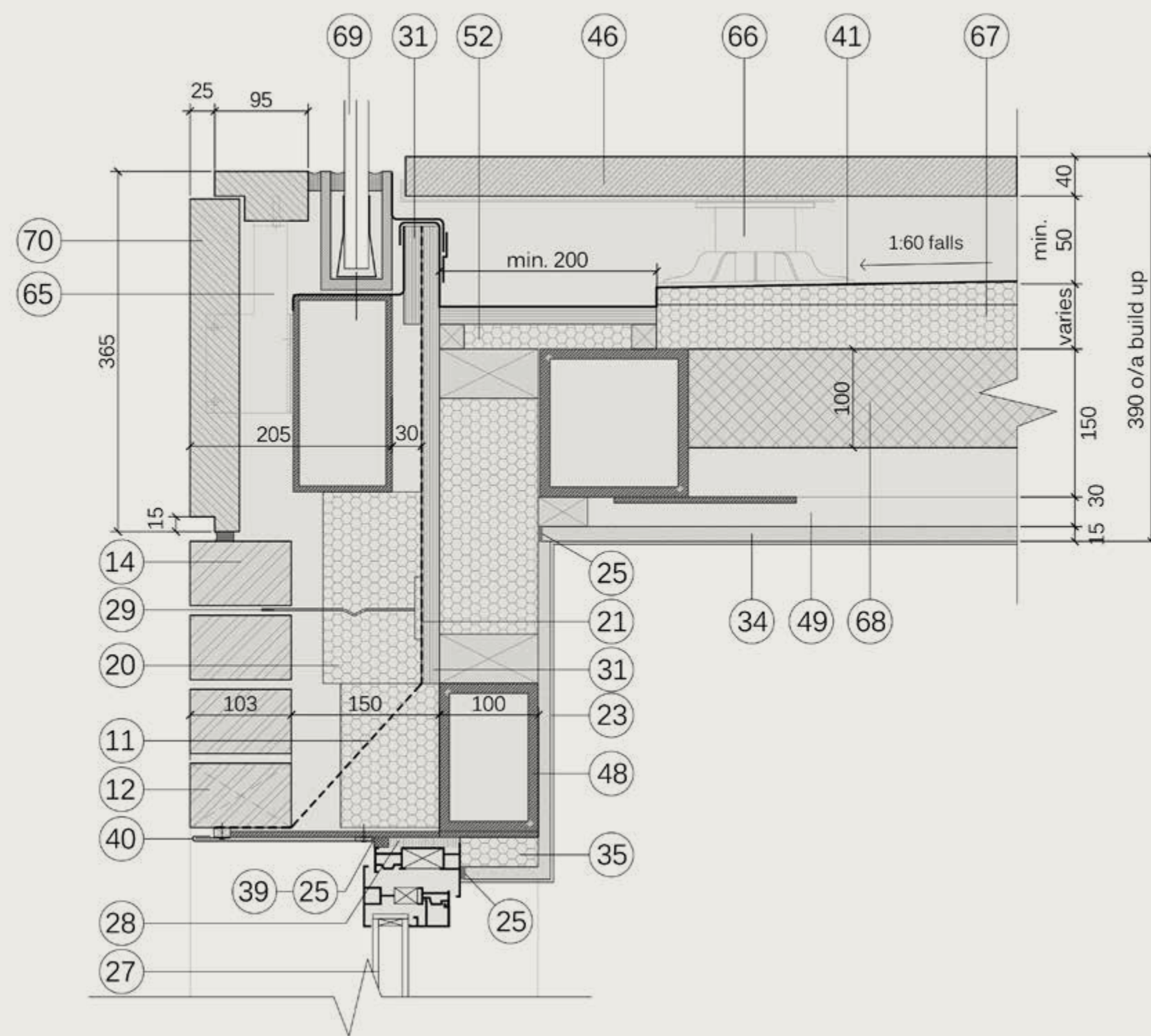
White Lodge, Ruddington

Diminutive in size, but huge in character, this two bedroom cottage once acted as a toll-house serving the old Edwalton to Ruddington Road.

Set within a steeply sloping site, connecting out-buildings are built into the slope with a retaining wall flanking mature trees on one side and a bridle-path on the other.

The brief was to retain the cottage element and replace the outbuildings and conservatory with something new and 'cool' so we designed a simple but elegant contemporary extension. A glazed link

sits below the wide-brimmed eaves of the cottage to add definition between old and new; abutting this is a cantilevered steel and timber box that floats over the roots of the neighbouring trees, leaving open glazed ends that benefit from the expansive views out, whilst a single storey rear extension provides more accommodation to the ground floor and a link, via the terrace to the gardens beyond.





Class Q conversion, Leicestershire

Class Q permitted development rights offer the perfect opportunity to create unique countryside homes in enviable locations & packed full of character. This Class Q conversion in rural Leicestershire is no exception.

This project consists of the conversion of a tired old steel and concrete potato shed into two contemporary, energy efficient family homes. Each home is formed around a large double height open-plan space with generous views across the countryside.

//03

New Build



Christmas Cottage

A replacement family home in Nottinghamshire Greenbelt, the new dwelling adopts a fabric first approach based on Passivhaus principles to create a super-insulated building with low running costs. Designed on a north-south axis, the dwelling has minimal openings to the north elevation and larger openings to the south to reduce heat loss and increase solar gain. Large overhangs avoid overheating in the summer months.

The orientation in combination with an MVHR system will result in very little need for additional heating which will be provided by an air source heat pump.

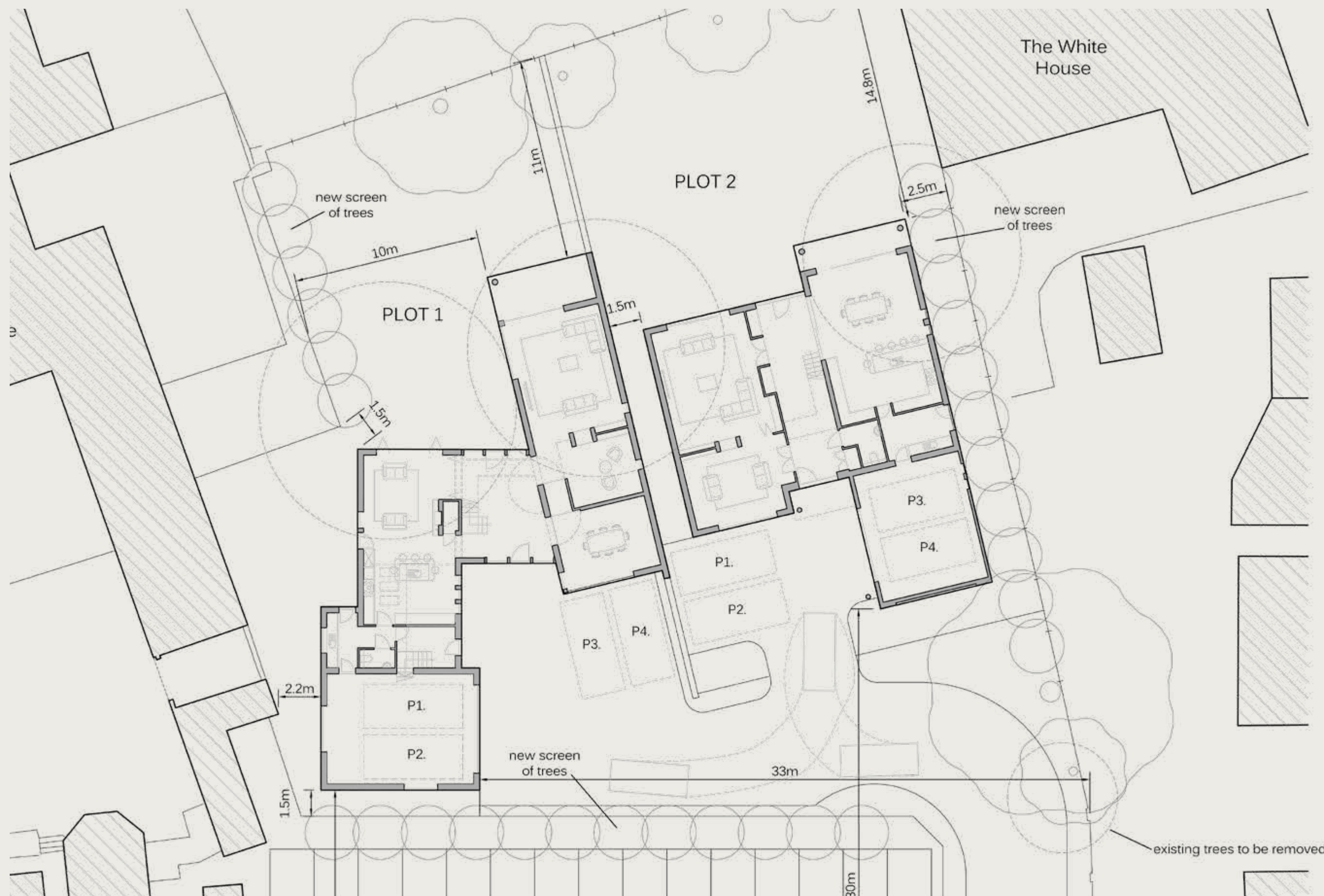


Slacks Lane, Kneeton

Inspired by rural forms in the locality, this new dwelling replaces an existing derelict barn. The traditional form is enhanced by subtle elements of contemporary detailing.

A walled entrance courtyard responds to the local street scene and is continued around the rear vegetable garden to provide shelter from prevailing winds. An opening frames a view out over the landscape from the dining space whilst a first floor lounge benefits from uninterrupted distant views.





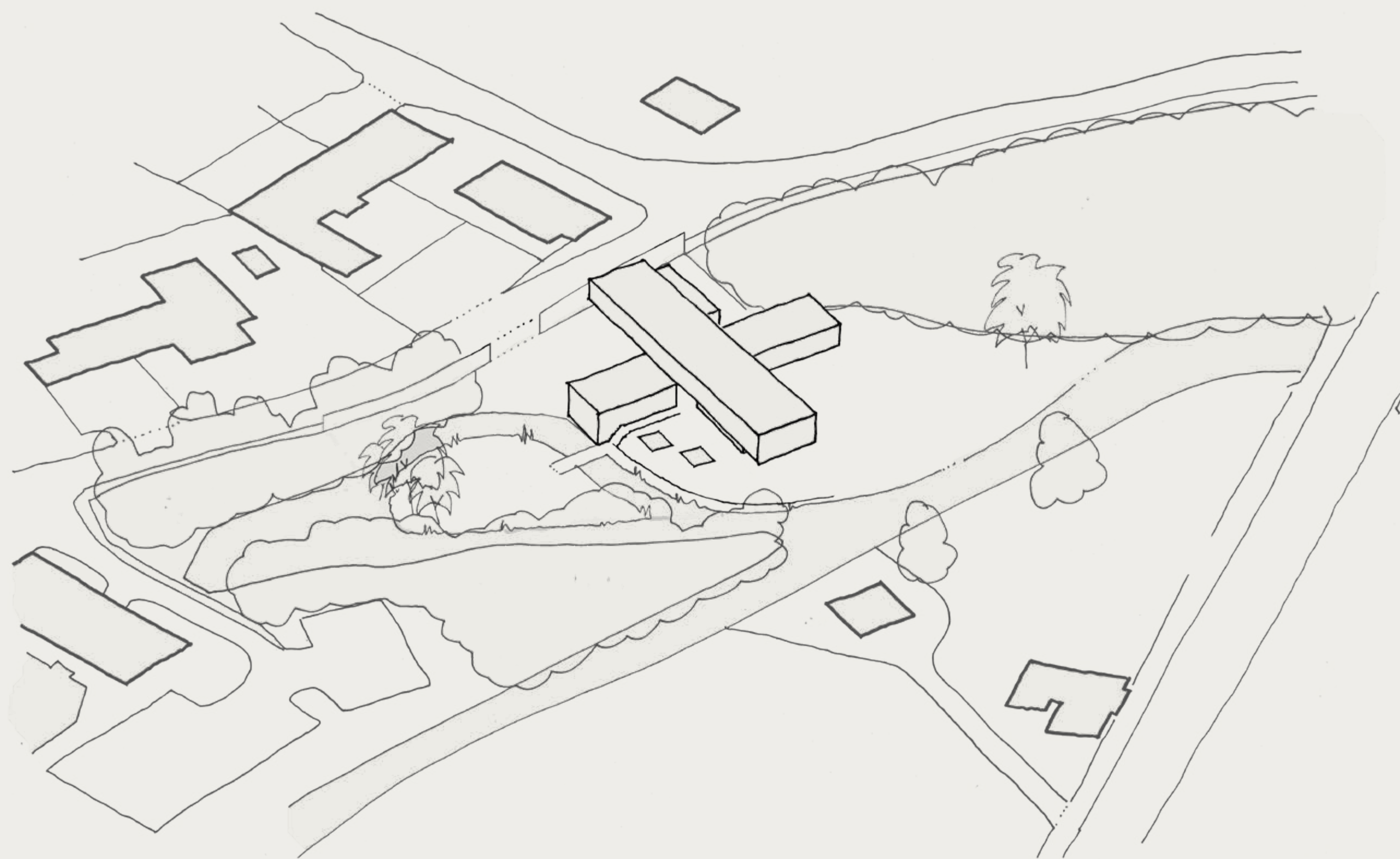
Griffin Inn, Plumtree

Influenced by the way farm buildings are often linked with steep pitched roofs and changing eaves lines, we have combined timeless materials with strong gable-forms and glass balconies, to provide something of a traditional aesthetic with refreshing modern detailing.

As part of this approach, at the heart of each house is a double-height space which affords views of the village cricket pitch and countryside beyond.

Photography by Geoff Kirby Photography





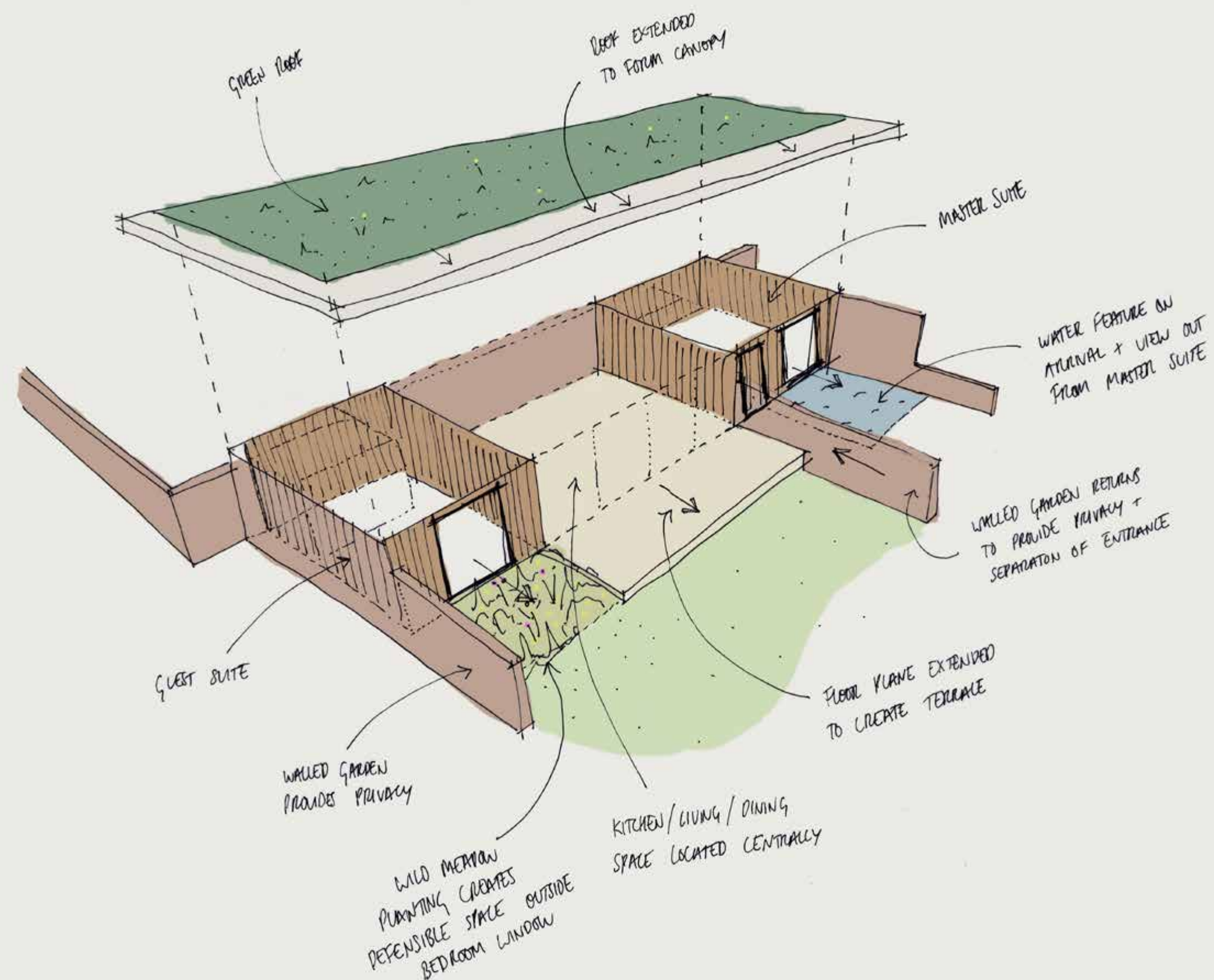
Newstead, Stamford

A competition winning entry for a 5 bed dwelling, with a brief to develop a family home with a timeless aesthetic.

The result is a stunning contemporary building - incorporating local materials and geometric planes created about a cruciform plan. All of which go to compliment the setting against a listed mill building and the stream running through the grounds.





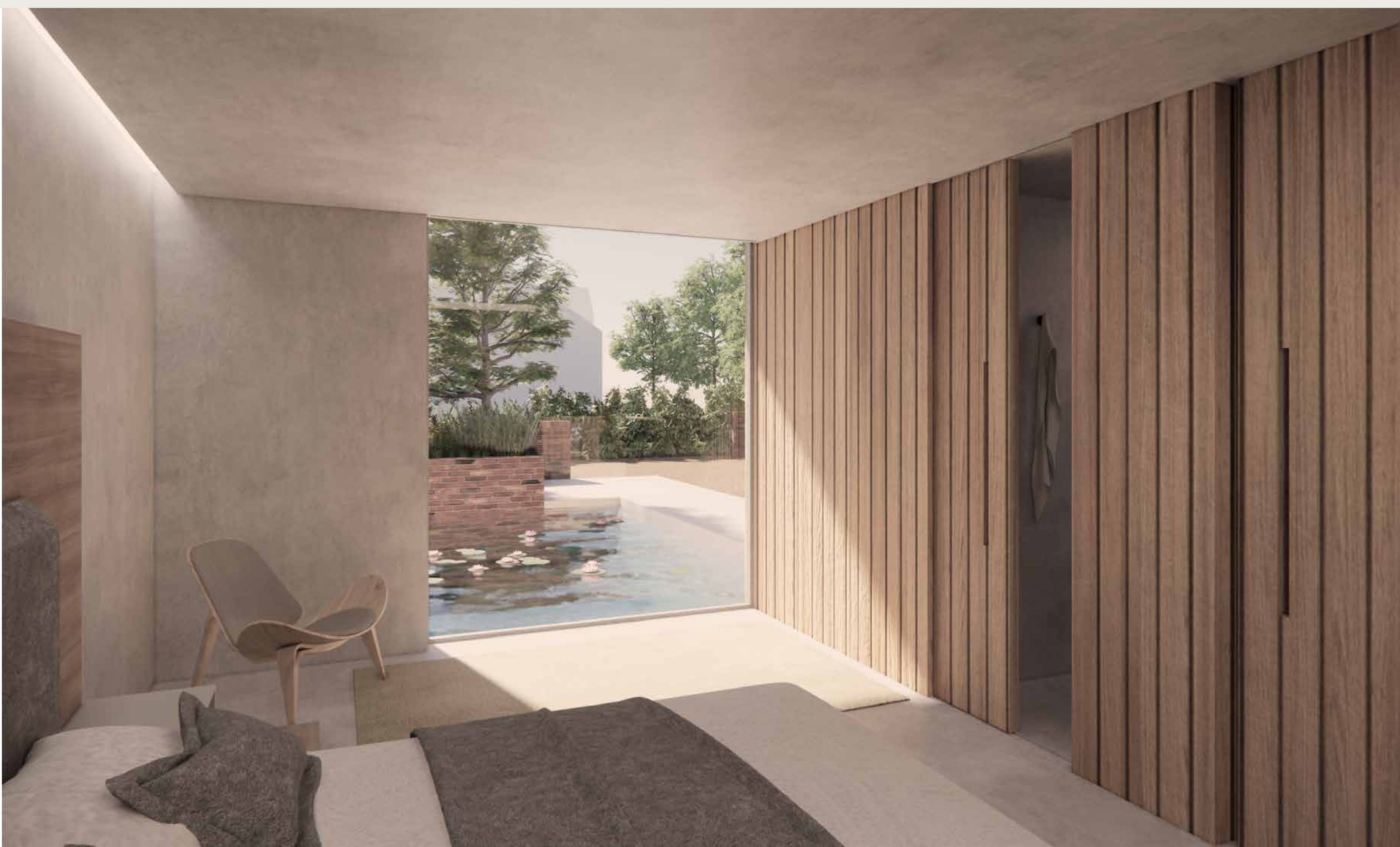


Littlefield, Colston Bassett

Built against two garden walls, this mid-century inspired dwelling sits within the grounds of an existing property in the Vale of Belvoir.

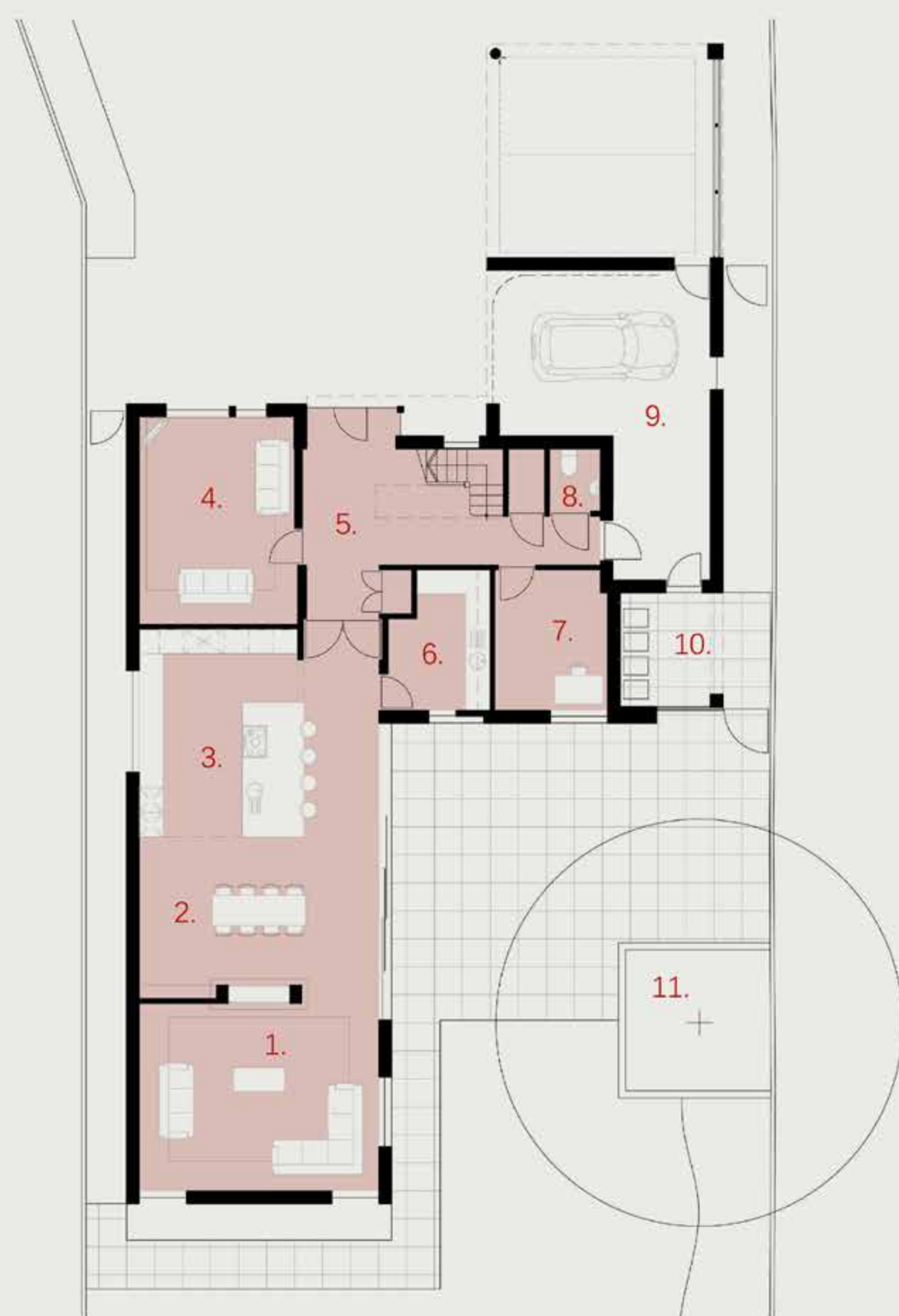
The layout is orientated around a large open plan kitchen, living and dining space with a master suite to one end and a guest suite at the other. Large rooflights bring light in to the rear of the plan and offer sky views whilst the glazed South-East façade offers views out to the private garden.







GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



The Limes, Nottingham

We were appointed to design a family home for a client in north Nottinghamshire, on a site that already had outline planning permission, but which had a poorly considered design accompanying it.

We fell in love with the Victorian walled garden that surrounded the plot and wanted to design a home that incorporated this and a mature tree that sat in the corner. The result was an elongated plan in the form of an L-shape which created a courtyard around the tree and views all the way through the house to the walled garden.

Photography by Geoff Kirby Photography



House Amongst the Trees

Set within a pocket of woodland and designed to work around existing trees, this high quality, sustainable and thermally efficient family home retains the verdant character of the site.

Based on Passivhaus principles, the dwelling will take a fabric first approach to achieving a sustainable and comfortable new family home.



Witham on the Hill

A local housing developer contacted us to design a home for him and his wife in rural Lincolnshire

The modest plot is bound by a grass-verge lane on one side and a small stream on the other which creates an idyllic village setting for this three bedroom home set within a Conservation Area. To compliment the material palette of local stone, slates and stained timber we chose a building form that is strong and angular, with galvanized elements to the canopy and rainwater goods to add a twist of the contemporary.



Great Gate Rein, County Durham

In recognition of our technical abilities to deliver complicated buildings that not only look good but work well too, we were appointed to produce a detailed construction package for a paragraph 79 house in County Durham, which meant working to high sustainable standards (Passivhaus) innovative technical solutions and stringent planning conditions.

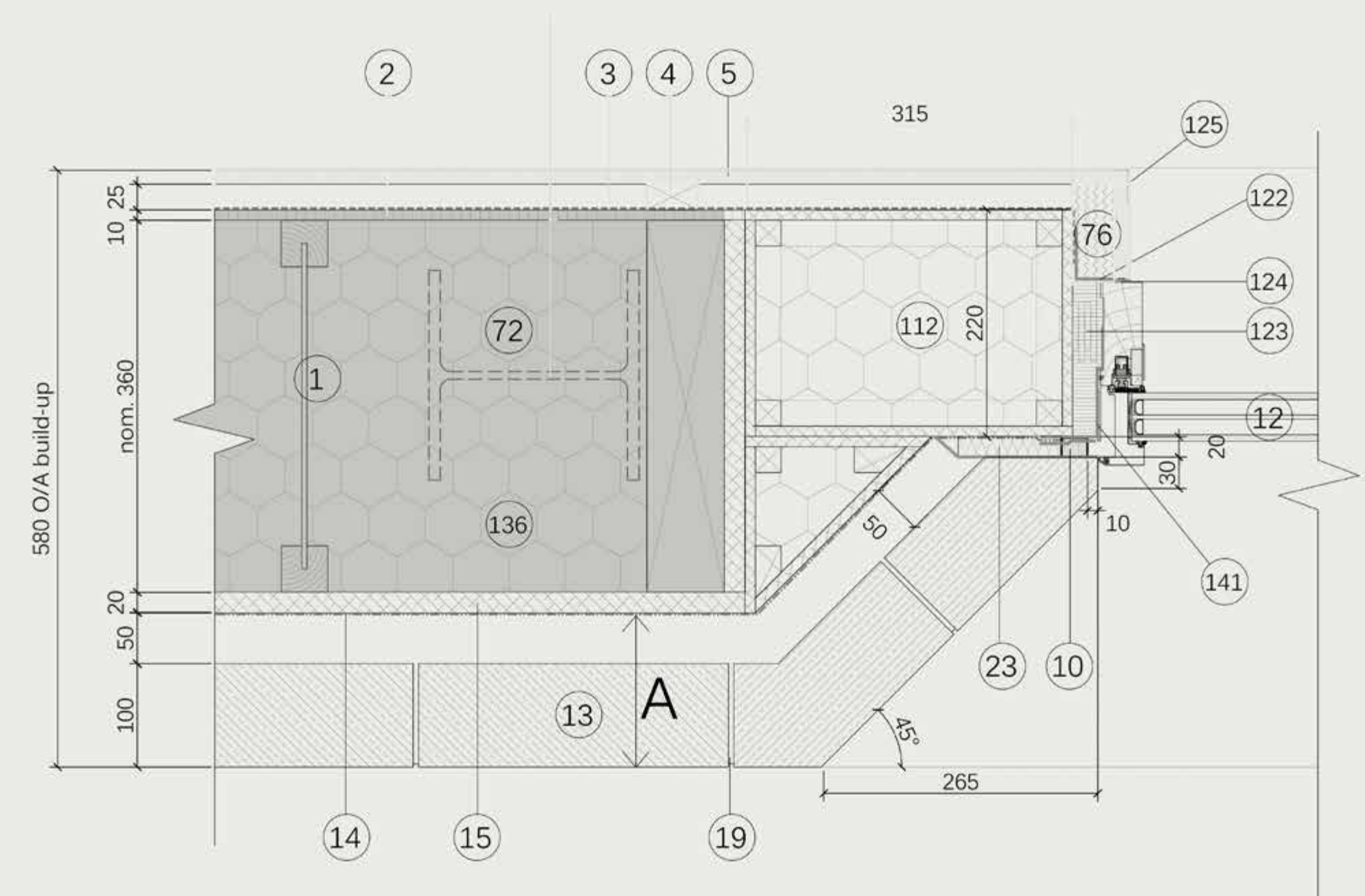
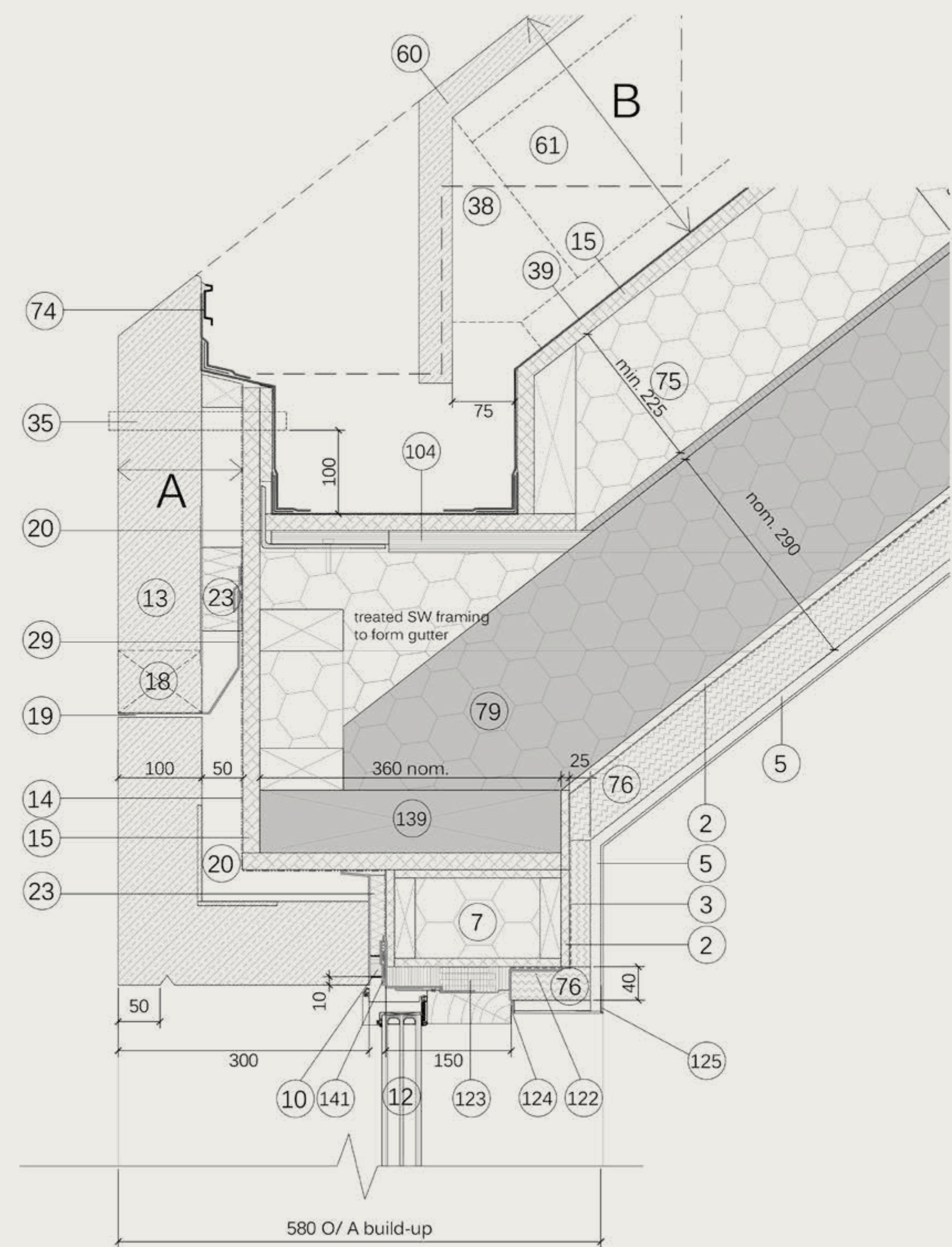
The strikingly rugged design is dominated by a stone facade that seamlessly wraps over the whole building - combining the wall and roof, with relatively large areas of glazing and deep, chamfered reveals.



These elements combined to pose significant technical challenges, not least in the context of Passivhaus and the fact the super-structure was a lightweight timber frame. However, with the help of a dedicated team, leading a series of design workshops and collaboration with many specialists, we were able to successfully overcome the many technical issues.

So specific were the design parameters of this project, that we produced 3D sequencing details to convey how the building would be constructed, ensuring both the stringent environmental and aesthetic needs could be met by the construction process. In addition, details were modelled and thermal bridge calculations undertaken to test their performance. The modest challenge of designing a stone facade and roof connected to a lightweight timber frame involved dialogue with stone-masons, engineers, facade specialists and rain-screen cladding experts.

The result - a design that features a self-supporting stone facade and rain-screen stone roof: elegant, waterproof, breathable and of course, low energy and thermally superior to many buildings in the UK right now.



Dean House, Edwalton

At the heart of the client's brief was a desire to provide clean lines and open plan design; along with the need to operate their boutique business from home whilst separating it from the day to day running of the house.

First floor bedrooms benefit from fabulous distant views across the south-facing courtyard and beyond whilst the north side is bathed in light thanks to a glazed strip rooflight that runs the length of the corridor.

The structure will be mainly timber with light-weight cladding and steel structure where there are large openings and cantilevers. A combination of air and ground source heat pumps will provide the heating and hot water, whilst the fabric will be super-insulated to minimise running costs.



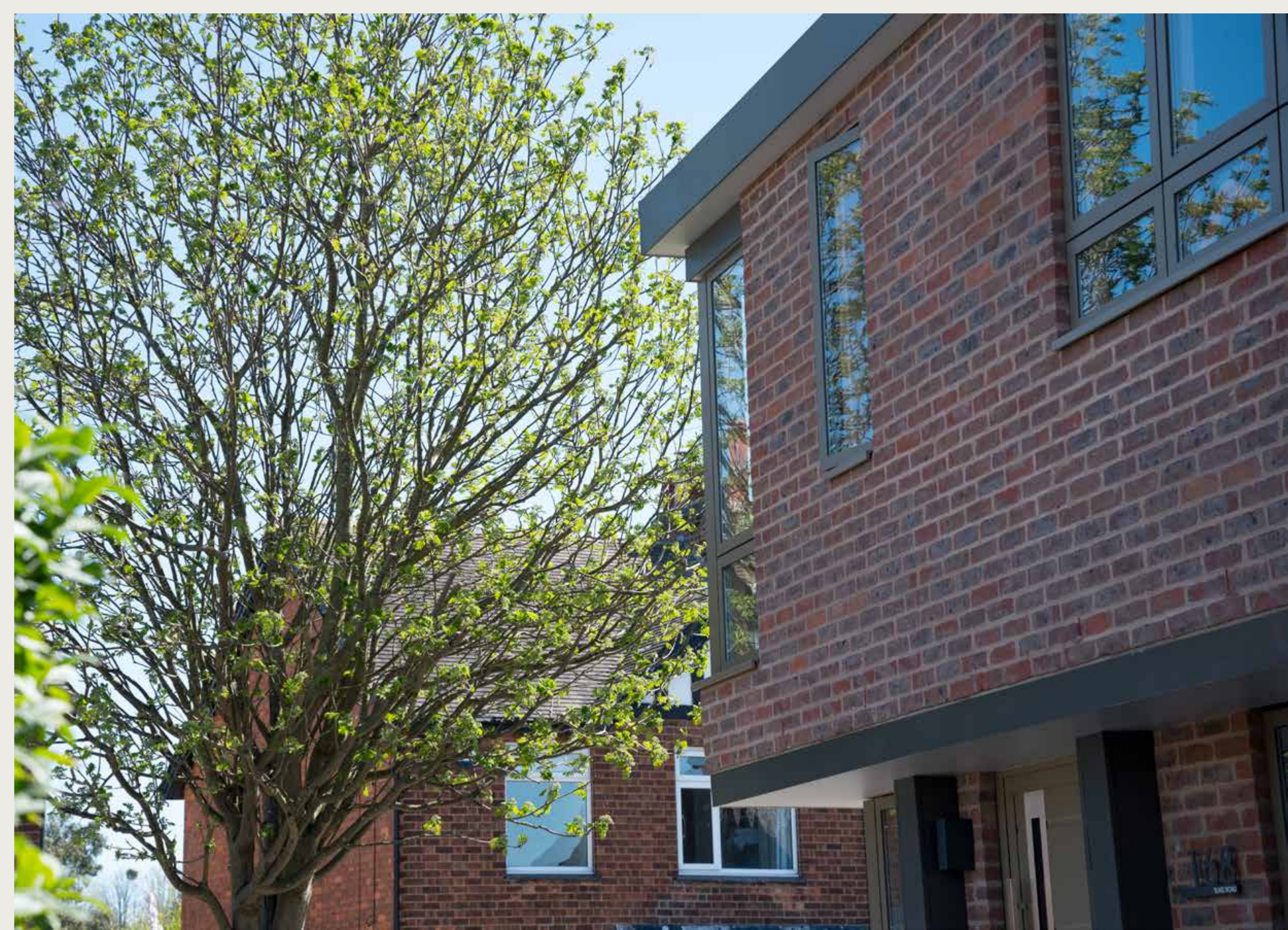
Blake Road, West Bridgford

A tricky corner plot provided the back-drop for this highly articulated suburban house.

The new dwelling has been designed to sit well within the street-scape - primarily due to the carefully considered massing, combined with recognisable forms, scale and fenestration, all of which take their cues from the surrounding housing stock. In addition, by replacing the low-quality open space formed by the end-gables of two houses, the house helps to reinforce the attractive character of the area and provides a positive contribution to the street-scape with active frontage on both sides of the building.

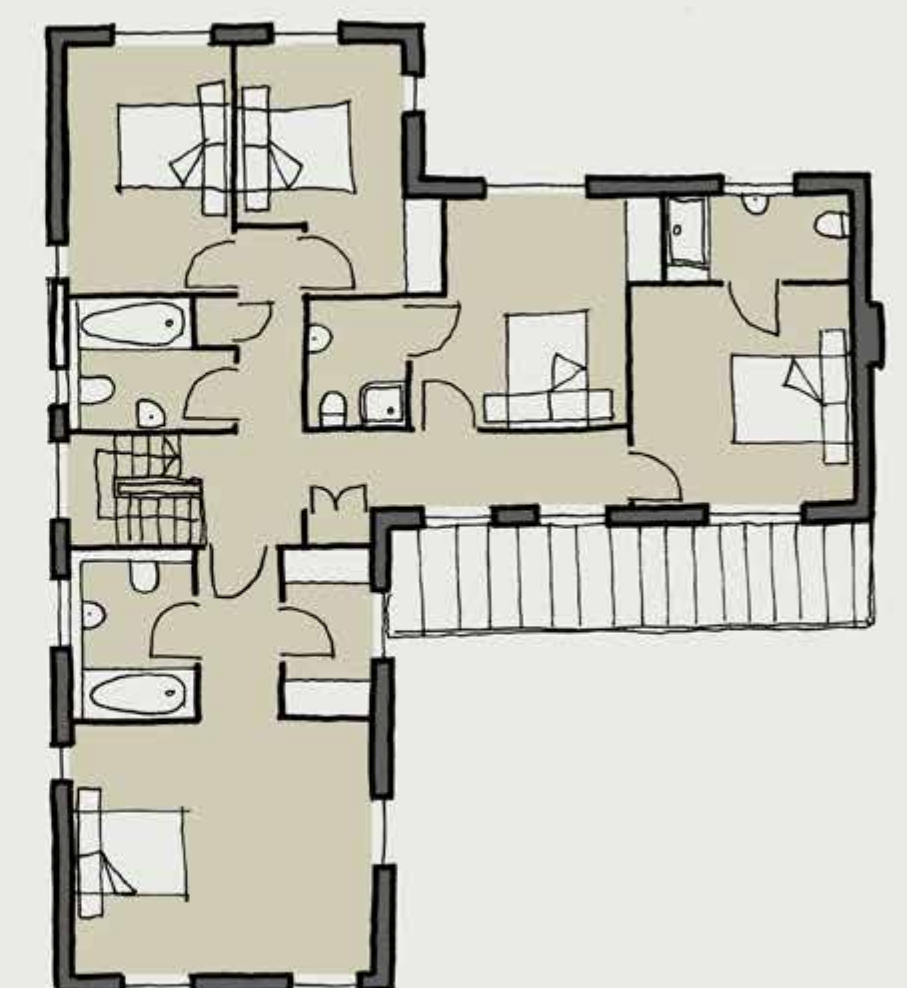
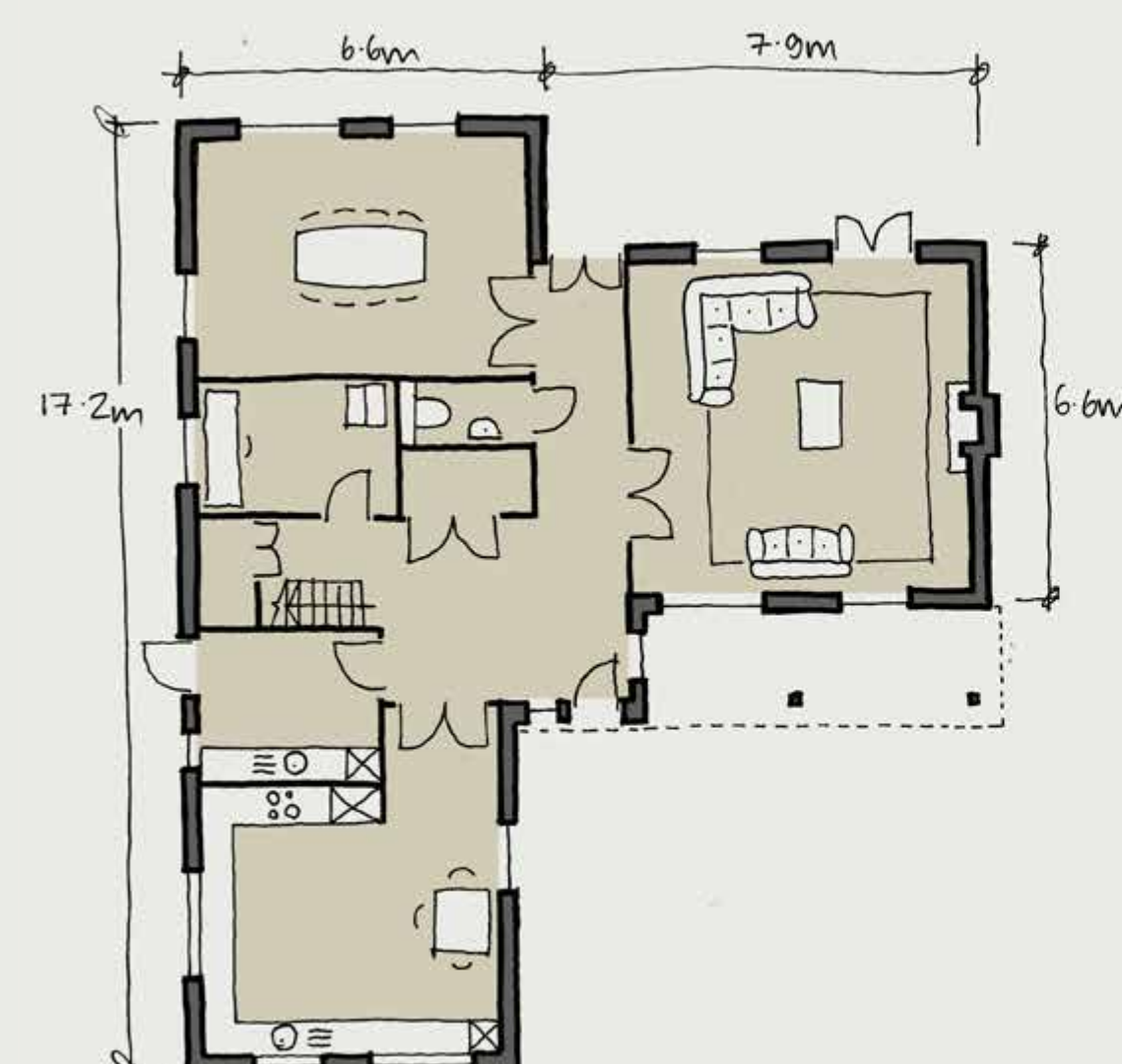
The treatment of the articulated facade is underpinned by a considered materials palette of red multi-brick, burnt larch and coloured cementitious boards, designed to provide a playful and interesting accompaniment to the building form.





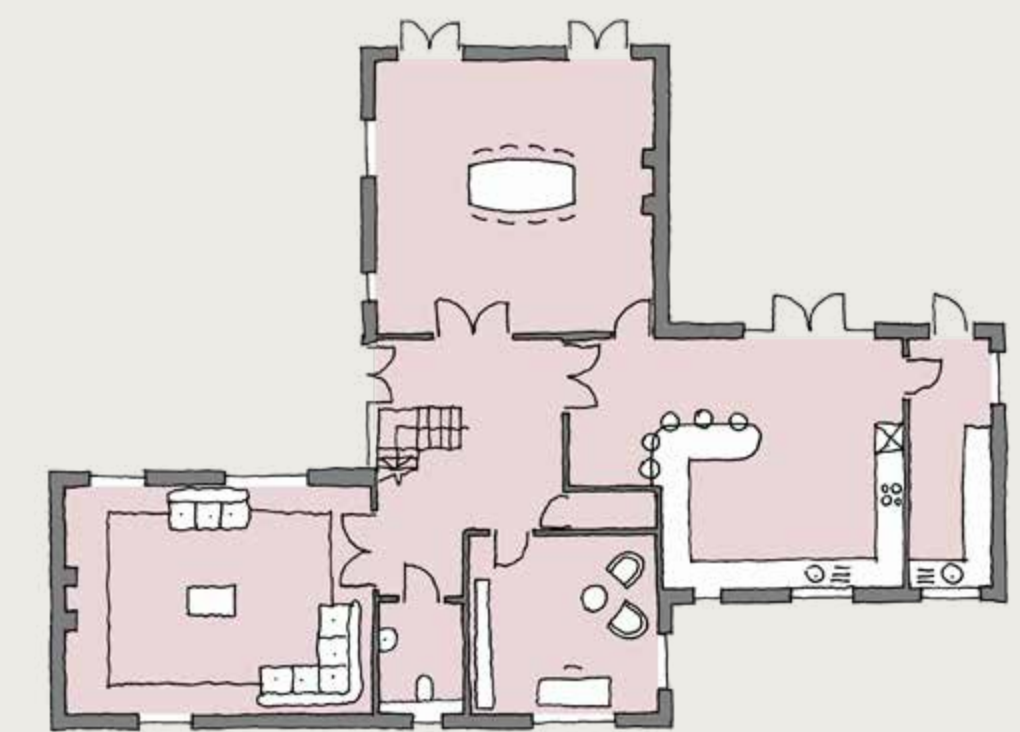
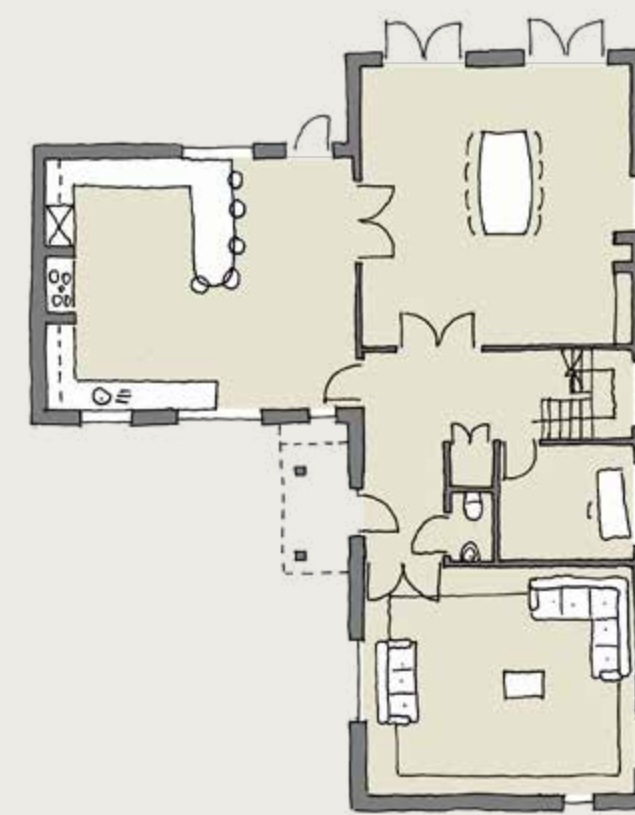
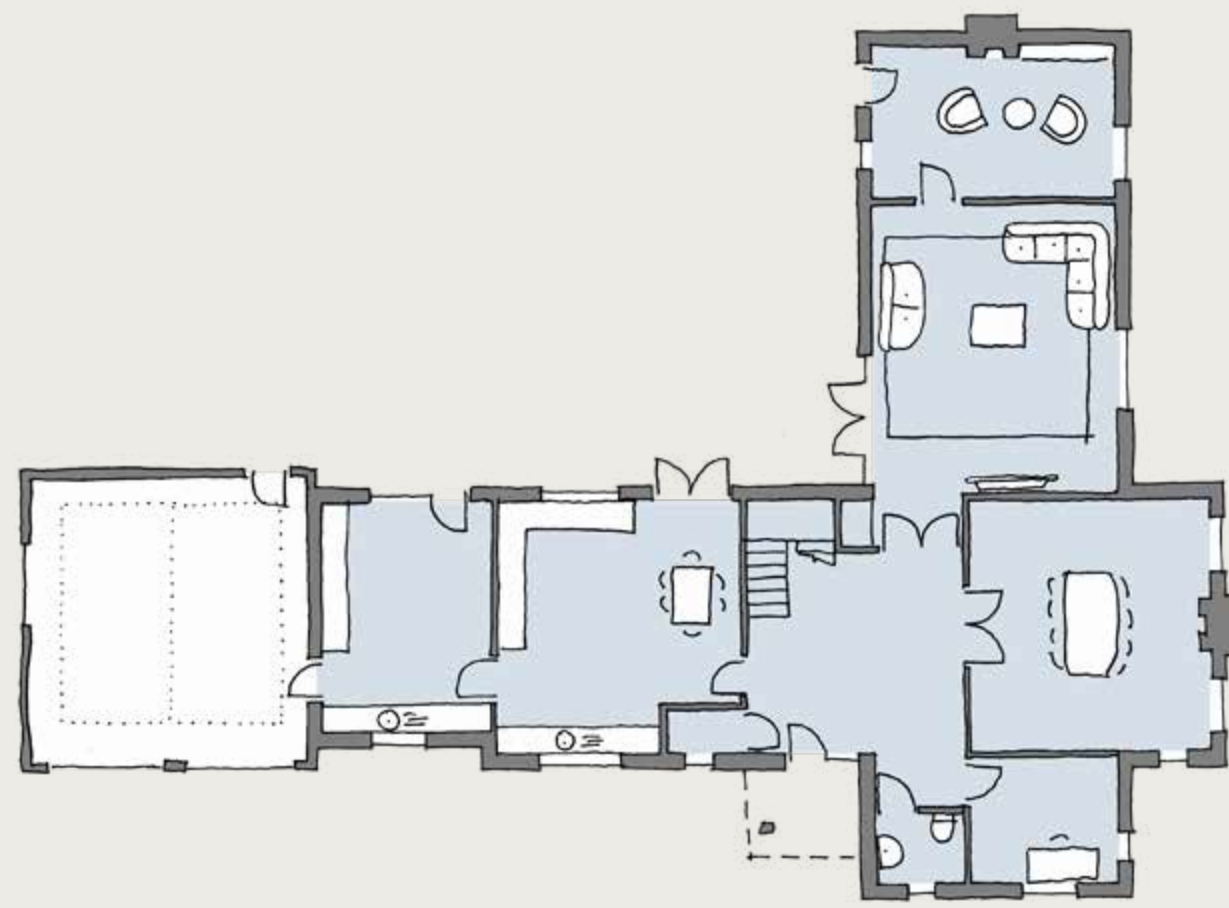
Upton on Severn

Set on an escarpment overlooking Upton in Worcestershire is this beautiful development of 8 dwellings. The brief was to design a layout for large individual dwellings, with a shared driveway and access to an existing duck pond. All set within a mature landscape of hedgerows and trees.



Thoroton Farm

We were appointed to work alongside a planning consultant to produce a high quality residential scheme on farmland on the edge of Thoroton. Taking inspiration from rural housing forms and materials, we produced a scheme for eight units set along a grass-verged lane, with a mix of 3, 4 and 5 bed traditional homes.



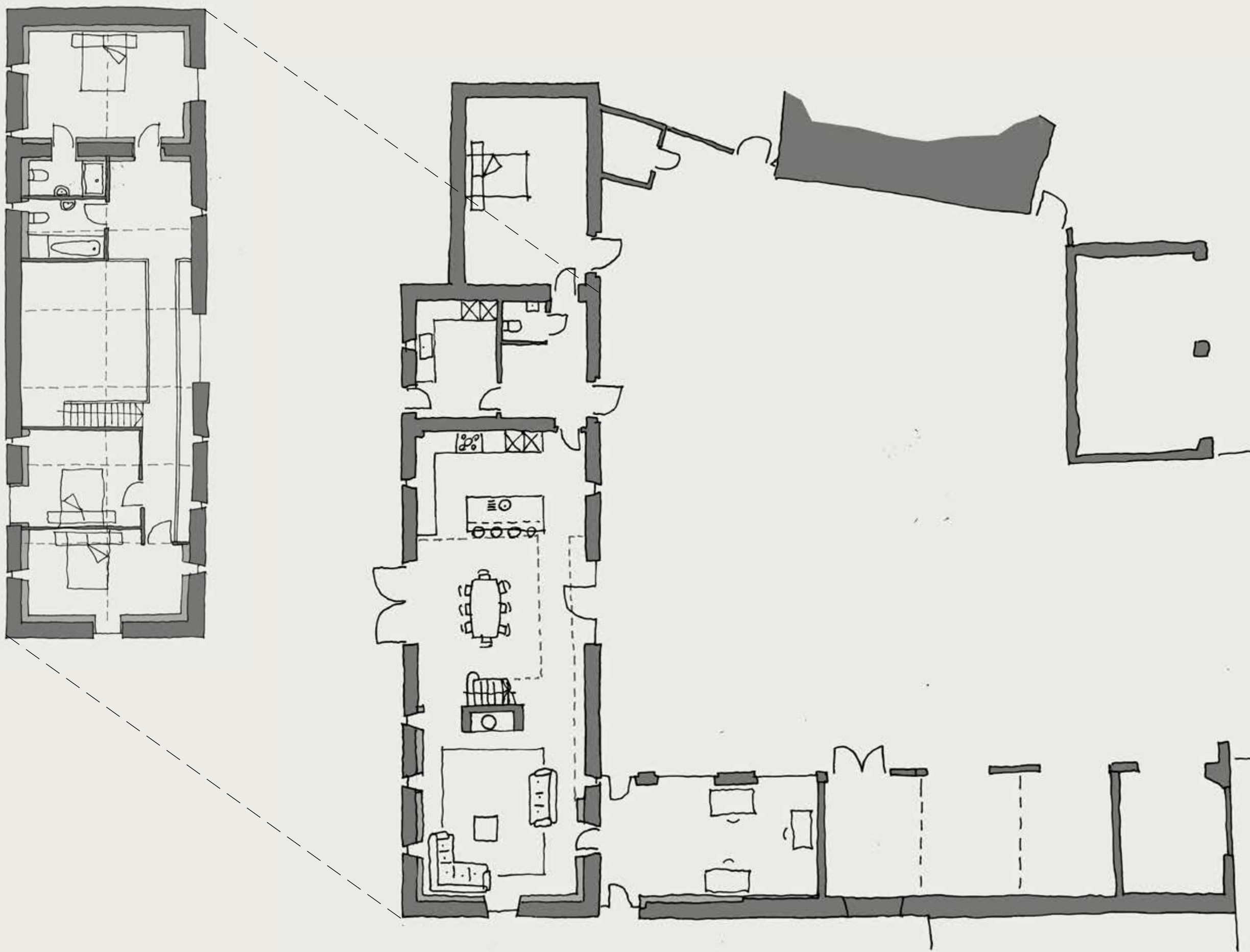
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Old Buildings

Rural residential development, Crossroads, Eastwell

The opportunity to convert a beautiful listed ironstone barn doesn't come around too often and we jumped at the opportunity to create a beautiful new home in this gorgeous building.

To retain the character of the space, with its high, sloping roof and large oak trusses we maintained a dramatic double-height living space in the middle, with exposed walls, floor and roof. Either side are the smaller cellular spaces of the bedrooms and utility. Altogether sympathetically creating a liveable space relevant to today's modern homes.



Glebe Farm Cottage

Restoration of a beautiful old cottage into a small 2-bed home.

Remedial works to this Grade II Listed Building, involved careful replacement of rotten timbers, wholesale replacement of the lime-ash floor and installation of a new internal timber frame to make the building structurally sound. Brickwork was partially replaced and re-pointed throughout with lime mortar.

In addition, a poorly constructed brick link-building was partially rebuilt to provide a new roof, floor and walls, along with new sliding doors and a kitchen.

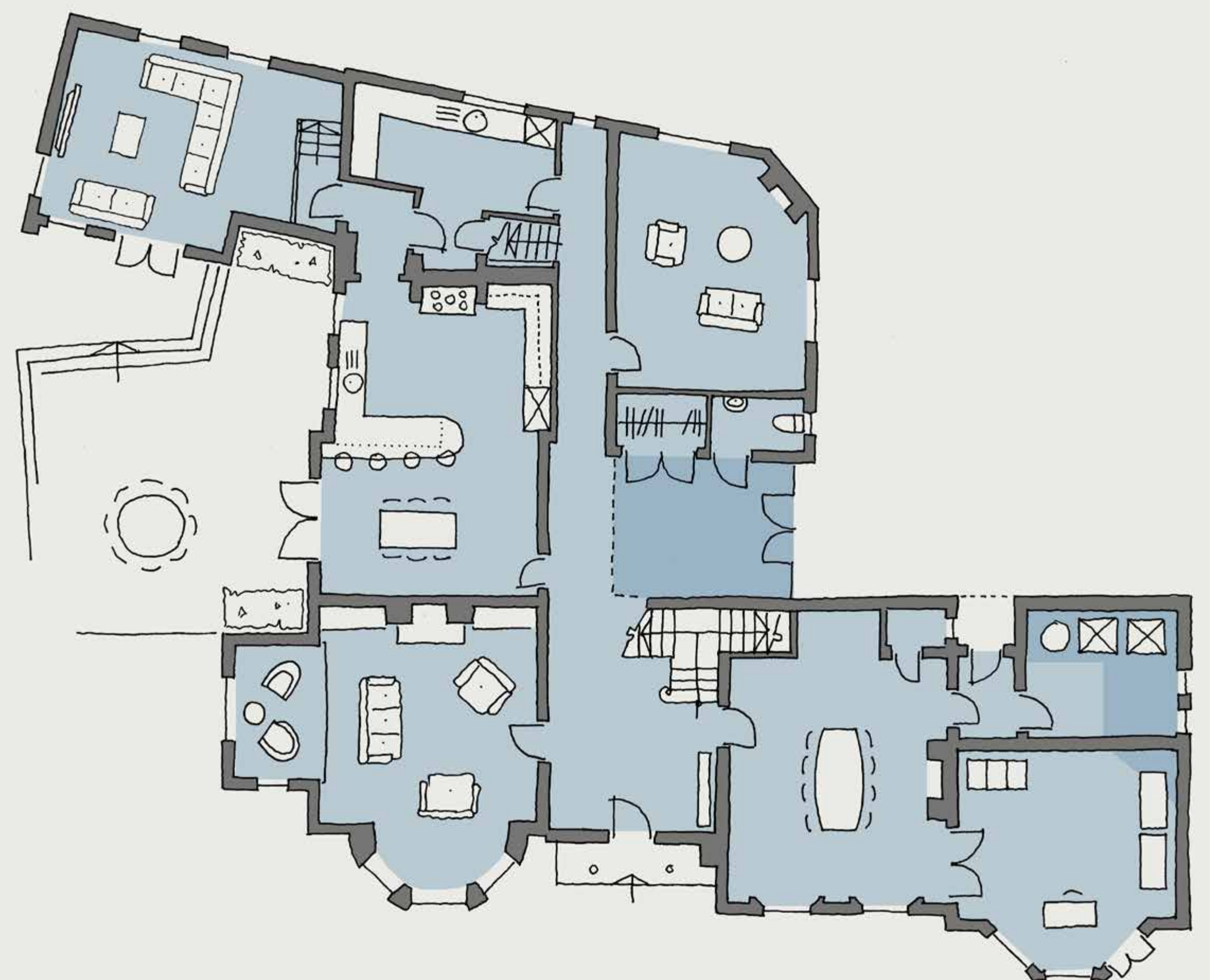




Sulney Fields

The dwelling originates from the 1680s when it was built as a small farmhouse. Like many such buildings as the owners became more wealthy they extended their property, with additions in the Georgian and Edwardian periods as well as extensive alterations in the 1960s.

We were appointed to help rationalise the way the building was used as part of a comprehensive programme of works to renovate and extend the property. This included adding a new rear wing to provide a formal double-height entrance lobby along with an en-suite and dressing room for the master bedroom.



Friar Gate, Derby

50-51 Friar Gate is a four storey, prominent Georgian property located within the Friar Gate Conservation Area, on the western edge of Derby City Centre, where it is Grade II Listed having formed part of the old Derby Gaol and dates back to the mid 18th Century,

We were appointed by the client to gain consent for a change of use to 4 apartments with office space retained on the ground floor. Following a lengthy consultation period; where numerous changes were made to the scheme; essentially to retain as much of the existing fabric as possible, consent was granted in 2014 and the works commenced in 2015.



Let's create something special...

if you like what you see, why not visit our website or better still give us a call on 0115 8700434 to speak to one of our talented team today.

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