


TIMBER GARDEN ROOM

A REAR EXTENSION CREATES
A WARM CONTRAST TO A
BRICK HOUSE





"A bright and atmospheric dining room, maximising views of the garden" was the brief for Eden Architects.

Like so many period houses, the relationship of the living spaces with the garden had been somewhat neglected and the owners wanted to "open up the house to the garden". Architect John-Barry Lowe, who set up Eden Architects, examined first the existing spaces, in particular the well-proportioned and interconnecting double sitting rooms, before arriving at the design for a new extension.

Eden Architects then devised a new internal opening between the kitchen and double sitting rooms as a dynamic axis from the back to the front of the house. The new well-proportioned garden dining room (3-metres x 5-metres) completes the ground floor sequence and 'stretches' the house from the east-facing front room to the west-facing extension. The architects were careful not to over-extend the house at the rear to ensure that all ground floor rooms would continue to be used by the owners.

The timber garden room has created a new modern relationship between the house and garden, which balances the existing formal Victorian appearance of the house when seen from the street. On its west side it has tall centrally placed sliding doors which frame a view of the long and narrow terrace garden but oblique large extensions to neighbouring properties. On the north side, the dining room has a 5-metre long garden seat and window, which provides light to the length of the room and frames views of flower beds. A strategically placed roof light provides a welcome blast of southern light in the darkest corner of the room and creates beautiful light reflections in the adjacent kitchen. Cooking and dining in the room's natural light has become a new experience.

Left: The location and scale of the new garden room formalises the relationship between the house and garden, while maintaining the light and views to the double sitting rooms at the front of the house.

Right: The Iroko rainscreen cladding on the garden room matches the existing brick in scale and rhythm down to the level of the window, which, for privacy reasons, is at the same height as the neighbour's wall.

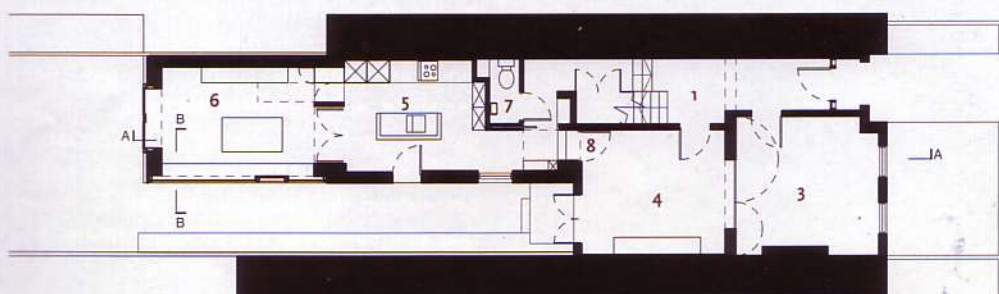
Section and ground

- 1 hall
- 2 stairwell
- 3 front sitting room
- 4 back sitting room
- 5 kitchen
- 6 garden room
- 7 wc
- 8 new connecting door

ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR



Top left: A roof light creates beautiful light patterns in the kitchen. The folding birch ply screens frame the junction between the new garden room and kitchen and also provide storage.

Below left: The sizing and placing of the long window, tall sliding doors and corner roof light all maximise garden views, while balancing natural light and creating a sense of privacy.

Right below: The timber extension complements the brick construction of the existing house. New sliding double doors match the French doors of the front sitting rooms in scale and proportion and are enveloped by vertical Iroko cladding.



Architects: Eden Architects



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EDEN architects were founded in 2004 by John-Barry Lowe and specialise in spaces and structures for working and living. Each design is tailored to the budget, site and circumstances of the client. Issues of comfort and maintenance lead us to examine not only the cost of construction but also the costs of 'operating' a house or building. Best-practice in all aspects of sustainable design is considered at all stages of each project. Particular interests are issues of seasonal natural light, weather and orientation and the practice seeks to create a synergy and harmony between indoor and outdoor spaces. The emphasis is placed on creating the most potential on any site through compact, refined and vibrant designs. At all design stages, the practice considers the process of construction through detailed examination of building products, structure and services.

John-Barry Lowe previously worked with Grafton Architects in Dublin, Ian Ritchie Architects in London and Atelier Barani-Nice. He is a part-time design studio tutor at the School of Architecture, UCD.

PROJECT FACTS

Project Duration: 12 months [Design + Construction]

House Size before: 162 m²

House Size after: 177 m²

Engineering Firm: Roughan O'Donovan

Engineer: Andrew Thomson

Main Contractor: Dream Catcher Design and Construction, Dublin

External Joinery: Callaghan Joinery, Co.Meath

Rooflight: Domes + Rooflights, Dublin

Internal Joinery: Mick Fegan, Dublin

Roofing: RS Roofing, Dublin

Plumbing: R+B Heating+Plumbing, Dublin

Photography: Paul Tierney