



“ The new extension, although modern in style, complements the original 1930s house ”

Matthew Withers - Architect

EXTENSION PROJECT



Somersbury House

MATTHEW WITHERS, DIRECTOR OF STYLUS ARCHITECTS, EXPLAINS HOW REMODELLING HAS CREATED A SUSTAINABLE FAMILY HOME





HOME NOTES

HOME OWNERS

Sam and Jess Wilson live here with their three children

PROPERTY

A six-bedroom 1930s house in Guildford, Surrey

ARCHITECT

Stylus Architects
(stylusarchitects.co.uk)

BUILDERS

Cast London
(cast-london.co.uk)

TOTAL COST

£500,000

THE PROBLEM

The dated property was not thermally efficient & didn't allow in much natural light or meet the family's needs

THE SOLUTION

In reimagining this home, the design takes a careful and considered approach to the existing building, balancing sensitivity with ambition. The brief was to transform the house into a more sustainable, future-facing home while unlocking a stronger relationship with the garden. At the centre of the scheme is a generous open-plan kitchen, dining and living space, where a vaulted ceiling rises to over five metres at its apex, lending the interior a

sense of drama and lightness. Corner glazing blurs the threshold between inside and out, allowing the garden to become an ever-present backdrop to daily life. The kitchen itself is both refined and highly functional, with an island that doubles as a breakfast table and a layout that conceals ample storage within clean, contemporary lines. Yet for all its scale, the space remains grounded and liveable. The design subtly organises the

interior into distinct zones: the kitchen is anchored by bookended brick walls, the dining area sits alongside expansive glazing, and the seating area is oriented towards a bespoke media unit. Elsewhere, additional living spaces on the ground floor and within the basement provide quieter, more intimate settings, giving the house a flexibility that suits both sociable gatherings and moments of retreat.

FOCUS ON

Matthew Withers shares his top tips and ideas

1 PLAN CAREFULLY

Consider your sustainability strategy early in the design process to ensure it performs effectively. Thoughtful decisions at this stage can significantly enhance a home's energy efficiency and overall environmental performance.

2 KEEP IT COOL

Air conditioning powered by PV panels can offer a more sustainable solution for managing peak summer heat, reducing reliance on grid energy while improving comfort.

3 CONSIDER BUILDING ORIENTATION

Where possible, introduce glazing to the north and east elevations, bringing in consistent natural light while minimising excessive solar gain.



“A rooflight on the northeast elevation ensures lots of sunlight, but avoids overheating”

MATTHEW WITHERS
DIRECTOR, STYLUS ARCHITECTS