Richard Murphy Architects

29 Inverleith Gardens, Edinburgh

View From Garden

The most common small project an architect can be asked to design is a garden room. In this instance the site is the rear of an Edwardian terraced house and we were able to persuade our client not to place it in the garden at all - but rather where a bathroom had been above the kitchen in order to see an extraordinary panorama of Edinburgh available only from this height.

The extremely limited space was amplified by incorporating into it the thickness of the stone walls. A window seat occupies the plan of one wall and is constructed out of 'stick on stick' timber construction cantilevered and expressed out from its base. A steel structure was attached to the exterior and this supports an overhanging lead roof leaving the south and west walls free to accommodate a system of sliding windows. The windows can be slid back on the exterior so that from inside they appear to disappear - and the room can consequently be transformed into a deep veranda.

Light is brought deep into the plan by a generous roof light running along the party wall and underneath is placed a 'secret staircase' for quick access to the kitchen below. This together with voids between the two spaces allows a conversation to be continued between the upstairs and downstairs. The wall to the existing staircase is cut to allow constant contact between this space and the new room and above a much larger staircase window was constructed to throw light deep into the plan of the existing house and through which it is now possible to see distant Edinburgh Castle.

The building was completed in 1991.

Other Details

Architects	Richard Murphy
Engineers	Ted Ruddock
Contractor	Inscape Joinery
Construction Cost	£29,000
Client	Marion Blythman

Credits

Awards

1992 RIBA Award
1992 EAA Silver Medal Award

Press

1992	RIBA Awards	RIBA Journal
20 May 1992	Rsa Summer Show	AJ Review
2 October 1992	Riba Names Regional Winners	Building Design
7 October 1992	RIBA Regional Awards	AJ Digest
11 October 1992	Backroom Boys Winning Ways	Scotland On Sunday

15 October 1992	Top Trio Bid For National Award	Project Scotland
18 November 1992	RIAS Obsessions At Scotbuild	AJ Update
8 January 1993	Extending A Town House In Edinburgh	Bauwelt
29 March 1993	When An Extension Lends Enchantment To The View	The Scotsman
13 March 1994	Economics Of Scale	Sunday Times
June 1994	A Tale Of Three Cities	Perspectives
Autumn 1997	Room At The Bank	Signet Magazine
March 1998	Rear Of The Year	Home Show Magazine
February 2011	Designs On Winning	Evening News

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