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GRAND DESIGNS

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PROJECT DETAILS

Location West London

Style of property Edwardian detached house

Length of project Two years

What they did Remodelled and extended the whole house, including a new porch and front door

Size Porch 3sqm; whole house 390sqm

CASE STUDY

A NEW APPROACH

An Edwardian detached house gets a modern update, with a glass and timber porch for maximum kerb appeal

Andrew and Emily Ingram's new porch on their west London home is a lesson in how a small space can still be design-driven. The maximum size a new porch can be before planning permission is needed is three square metres and they were able to do this under permitted development rules.

The couple bought their house in late 2013. The front exterior with a small timber porch looked pleasant enough, but as Andrew explains, he wanted the new facade to 'give an inkling of what was to come in the rest of the house, without giving too much away'. With big plans internally

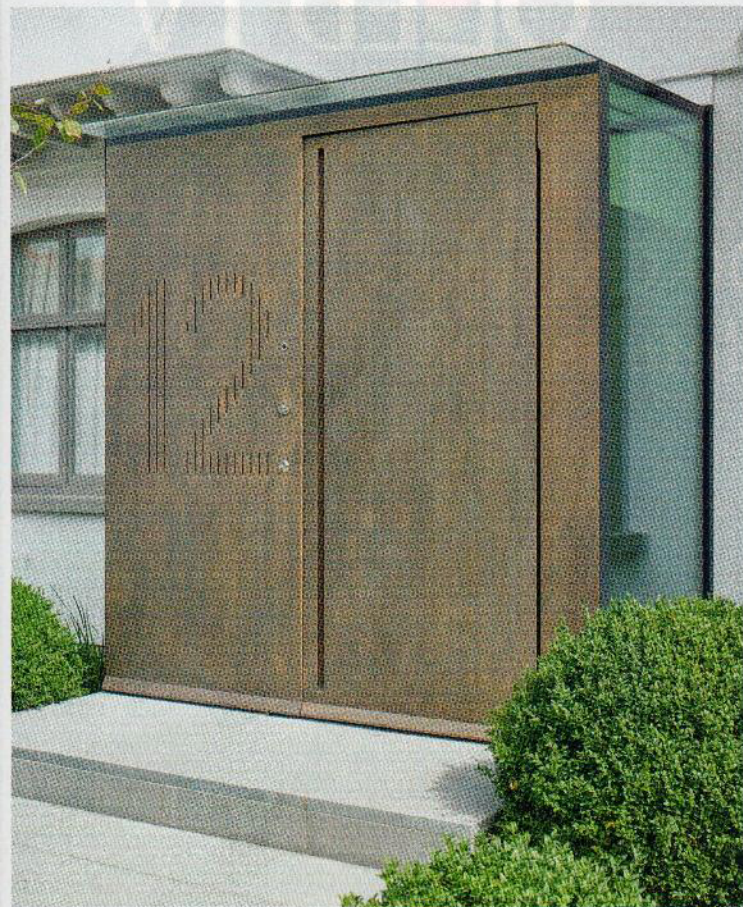
as well as an extension, the front had to match up in terms of its modern style and the materials used.

Relocating to the UK from Los Angeles, Emily and Andrew had grown accustomed to the space and light there. So their design plans were partly driven by a desire to recreate a similar feel – albeit in a way that would also suit an Edwardian home.

This is particularly relevant when it comes to the porch: with its flat, wide frontage and oversized house number, it is an echo of the kind of design you might see in a mid-century-modern Californian house. Wide, bulky doors have become the preferred style for

above The homeowners wanted a front facade that had clean lines and was modern, to reflect the contemporary style of the interior. As well as installing the new porch, they also replaced the glazing, redesigned the soft and hard landscaping, and relocated the guttering downpipes to the side of the house

WORDS EMILY BROOKS



above left The door is a RAW E80 oak pivot door with a matching flush side panel, from Urban Front. The unusual finish and the sill are bespoke, while IQ Glass supplied the glazing surrounding the new porch

above right The porch has extended the internal hall space by three square metres. A full-width integrated doormat helps to zone the porch inside and is practical for shaking off dirt

contemporary homes and renovations, and we're used to seeing them with sidelights to increase daylight. Here, the glass forms the sides and roof of the porch instead.

'The architectural concept is that the front door has floated off the front of the house,' says Andrew. 'That was partly to make it more interesting, but also to let the light in. There are five square metres of glazing, which makes a big difference to the light inside. It now seems much wider.'

The porch project was a team effort. Robert Dye Architects (020 7267 9388; robertdye.com) designed it as part of the house renovation and extension, and IQ Glass (01494 722 880; iqglassuk.com) supplied the glazing. Contemporary door specialists Urban Front (01494 778 787; urbanfront.com) created the front door set, working with the couple to achieve the timber finish that continues inside.

The surface of the wood has a patinated appearance, providing

a contrast with the crisp white render.

'We were quite particular about the shade,' says Andrew. 'The one we chose has a metallic pigment that has been sanded away by around 80 per cent, which is where the patination comes from.' Although it has an almost rusted look from a distance, up close the warmth and grain of the timber really comes through.

While the original porch was a separate addition to the house, the new space has now been incorporated, meaning that structural steels had to be added to support the upper floor. A structural engineer was also brought in to calculate the wind-loading of the porch – the glazed roof projects out slightly to provide some shelter, and the main concern was whether it could stand up to strong winds.

The guttering downpipes were moved to the side elevation to add to the clean look of the facade, along with new glazing throughout and smart grey window frames. **GD**

IN FOCUS

MINIMAL DESIGN

The understated look of Andrew and Emily's porch is thanks to a number of features: Urban Front's flush door design means that the frame is unobtrusive, and the hinges are concealed. The door has no furniture and it is opened by using a slim vertical channel set into the timber. The oversized house number is etched into the front panel and the glazed side panels are as slim-framed as possible, to let in the maximum amount of light.

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