



Before & After:

# Opening Up

A contemporary extension transforms a Victorian home

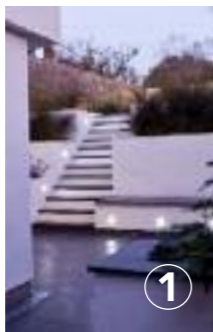


When the owners of this Victorian home in a Colchester Conservation Area wanted to add an extension and landscape their steep garden – while also creating a strong visual connection between the two – they knew a contemporary design would provide the space they required without looking pastiche.

Impressed by his previous projects, the owners approached David of David Nossiter Architects with their brief. A white, cube-like single storey extension – replacing a glass lean-to (ABOVE, RIGHT) – and terraced landscaping scheme was the response. The existing rear wall would be opened up to create a large kitchen/diner, while the former small kitchen would become a utility.

To overcome the challenge of connecting the contemporary extension with the existing rich red brick walls, David designed in a band of frameless glazing. This would not only bring natural light deep into the new kitchen/diner, but provide opportunity

## THE FINER DETAILS



**Contemporary Landscaping**  
The interiors are on a level threshold with the patio. The owners wanted a polished concrete floor – by **Steynson Concrete Floors (0208 553 2636)** – inside, and so careful specification was required to find a product which also offered slip resistance outside.



**Overhanging Roof**  
David designed the roof to overhang to overcome the challenge of knitting together the sedum-covered roof with the blockwork walls. It brings another layer of architectural interest to the cube-like addition, and spotlights bathe the white walls below with a soft glow.

to create a feature window seat inside.

The garden's topography has now come into its own through the scheme. The new patio is on a level threshold with the extension, but a series of rendered walls – flanking central steps – draw the eye up towards a south-facing, raised sun terrace. Here, a lawn, decking and cedar fences offer a softer aesthetic. Complementing this, David specified a sedum roof to cover the extension, offering continuous green views from the first floor windows.

Work began on site in June 2010, and finished eight months later in February 2011, with the owners project managing. David designed the scheme with the latter in mind, meaning the blockwork extension walls could be built by a local builder. Specialists contractors were then commissioned to complete the non-standard finishes, such as the polished concrete flooring and sedum roof. 🏡

**David Nossiter Architects**  
(020 7708 5186 davidnossiter.com)



**Clockwise from above:** A feature wall of shelving introduces colour to otherwise neutral interiors of white render and grey polished concrete; The kitchen, made by Rousseau Design (020 7953 1259), includes sleek white Corian® worktops and high-gloss white Parapan® units; Frameless glazing creates a visual division between old from new, and a window seat inside; With the folding sliding doors peeled back, the polished concrete flooring flows out to create a patio (a drainage channel prevents water ingress). White, rendered garden walls pick up on those of the extension, enhancing the connection between the interiors and the garden

