

DETAILS

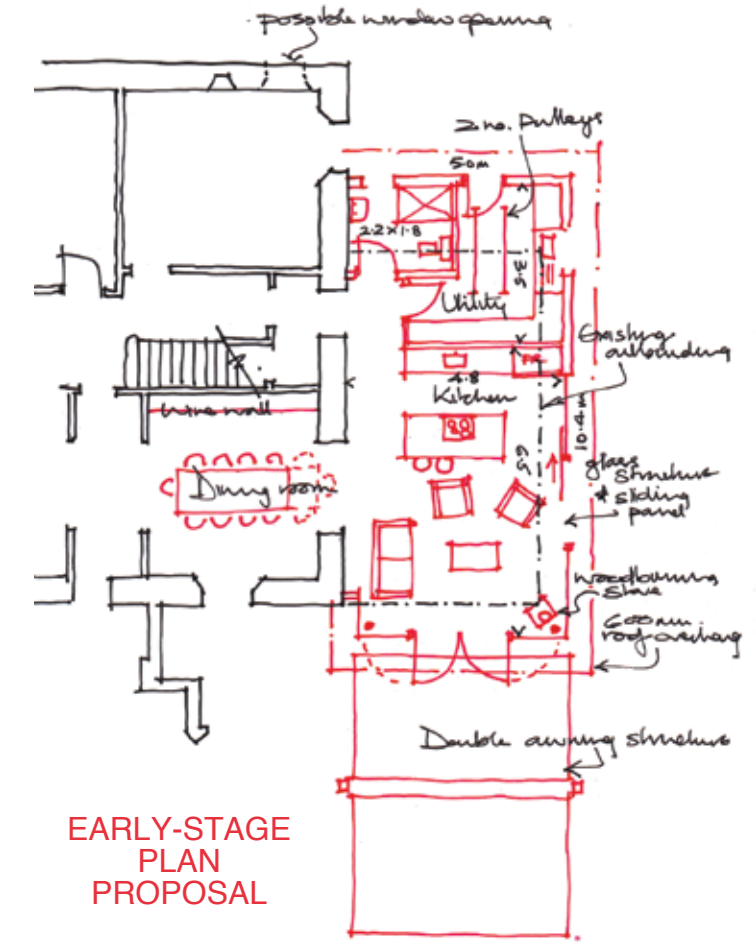
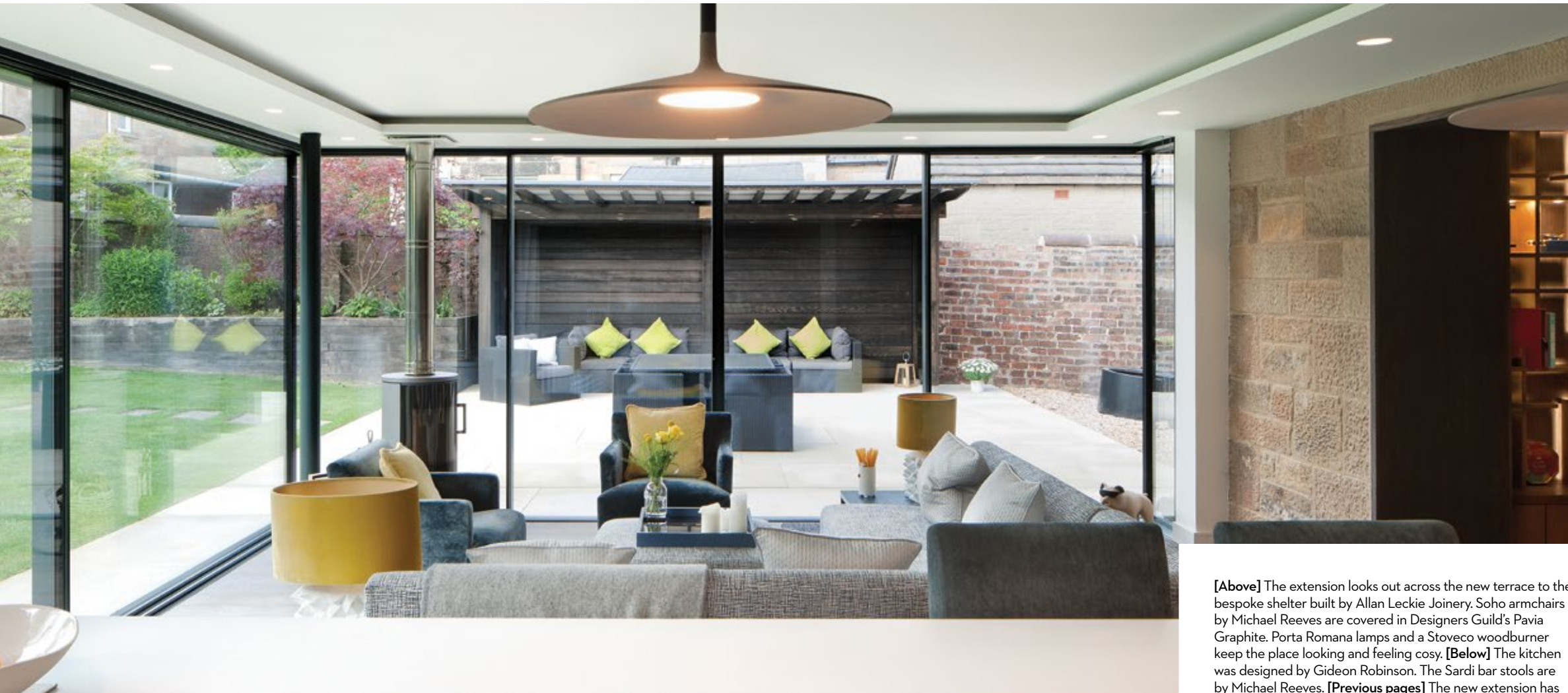
What Kitchen/garden room extension
Where Pollokshields, south side of Glasgow
Architect McInnes Gardner Architects
Interior design Catherine Henderson



NEW BALANCE

Simple, subtle and deliberately understated, this extension to a Glasgow villa nevertheless packs a powerful punch

Photography David Barbour Words Gillian Welsh



[Above] The extension looks out across the new terrace to the bespoke shelter built by Allan Leckie Joinery. Soho armchairs by Michael Reeves are covered in Designers Guild's Pavia Graphite. Porta Romana lamps and a Stoveco woodburner keep the place looking and feeling cosy. **[Below]** The kitchen was designed by Gideon Robinson. The Sardi bar stools are by Michael Reeves. **[Previous pages]** The new extension has a glazing system and sliding doors by Sky-Frame. Glasgow stonemasons MS Stone built the walls using Blaxter and steps and paving using Danrey, both supplied by Tradstocks. The zinc roofing was supplied and fitted by JEL Roofing Ltd

EARLY-STAGE
PLAN
PROPOSAL

Great design brings appreciation, but extraordinary design brings something better and much rarer: contentment. It's a simple pleasure, one that steals over you gradually, and it's what happens at this house in Glasgow's south side. Visually, there's nothing complicated about its recently completed extension. You don't have to work it out. A harmonious addition within the large back garden of a stately Victorian villa, it's all about understatement. Its beauty is its subtlety, yet it possesses a distinct, unique quality.

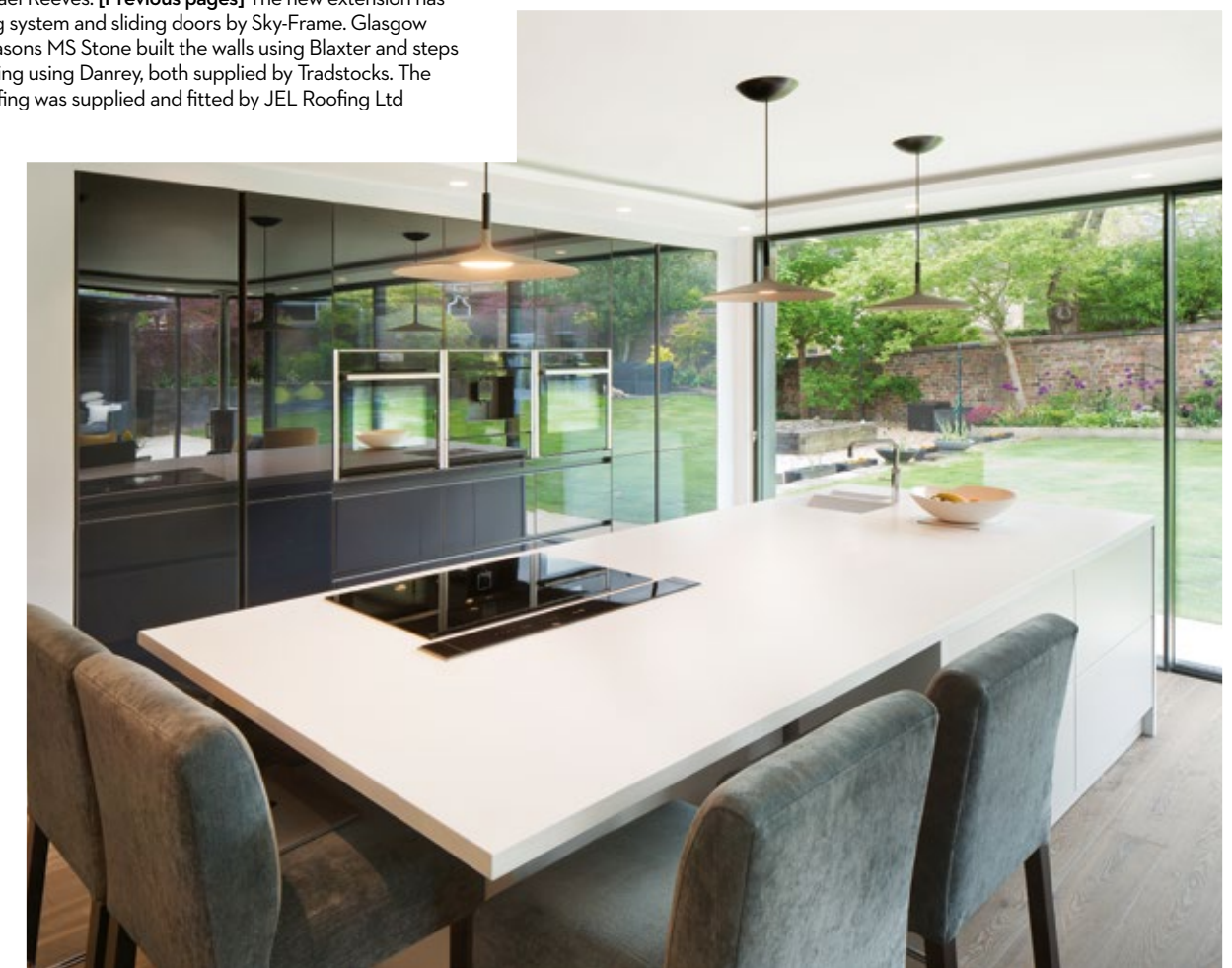
"Our initial conversations with the owners revealed their appreciation of feng shui," recalls Alastair MacIntyre, principal at McInnes Gardner Architects. "There was a desire for a certain 'zen' sensibility, particularly with the relationship to the garden,

which already had quite an ordered and formal structure to it."

The existing kitchen, which spilled over into an old outbuilding, was inadequate. That extra space, in a stone scullery, was small and dark and had limited views of the garden. There was just room for a kitchen table and a bank of cupboards, along with a washing machine and tumble dryer. "For a house of this size, it was woefully under-provisioned with kitchen and utility space," recalls the architect.

His brief was to create a new kitchen/garden room, giving it a proper separate utility space, along with a shower room and a back door. His clients, both keen gardeners, wanted the new room to act almost as enclosed external space. Their original kitchen would be converted into a dining room and serve as a link between old and new.

McInnes Gardner Architects came up with an extension that spans the full width of the house and measures 10m x 5m. The challenge, says MacIntyre, "was to take a rectangular box and ▶



[Below] The area previously occupied by the kitchen is now a dining room and has space to display the owners' wine and whisky collection. The cabinetry was designed by the architect and built by Allan Leckie Joinery. Above the Capricorn dining table by Tom Faulkner is an Avant Linear pendant in bronze, designed by Kelly Wearstler. The Vienna chairs, also by Tom Faulkner, are covered in Manuel Canovas Bellevue Soleil fabric. The wooden oak flooring throughout is by Charlie Murray of Murray Timber Products. [Right] A painting of Keith Richards by Ronnie Wood gives the tasting corner a rock'n'roll vibe. [Below] The sanitaryware in the new shower room is by Victor Paris, with glazed screens from Hurry Brothers



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make it fit into the context of an established garden and partner it to a heavyweight piece of Victorian architecture.”

Because the brief was simple and the site clearly defined, he would essentially be replacing an old outbuilding with a new one. The plan was relatively quick to agree. The main focus was the look and feel of the completed spaces from inside the house and from out in the garden.

Structurally, the architects envisaged a glass enclosure with as few obstructions as possible, eventually arriving at a design with just one visible column – and that a mere 12.5cm in diameter. A shallow pitched roof, with a generous overhang and zinc finish, fosters the feeling of enclosure, protecting the stone and glass below and providing shade in summer. “Aesthetically, I wanted the roof to float above the ‘box’ and terminate in a sharp fascia, so we designed a bespoke aluminium gutter section,” explains MacIntyre. The soffit has been layered recessively to disguise the thickness of the roof and these layers are highlighted by polished stainless trims that create narrow bands of colourful reflections out of the deep shadow. “That’s purely for effect and is something we borrowed from car design,” he adds.

The sandstone terrace, path and steps are integral to the design, marrying the extension to the villa and emphasising the notion of fluidity between inside and out. This is clear when you’re in the kitchen too, where you’re surrounded by fully glazed sliding panels that act as a thin veil between the interior and exterior space. When these panels are fully open on a hot summer’s day, the two areas become one.

The room comes into its own at other times of the year too. Secret slots conceal electric blinds which, when down, align perfectly with the window frames; it turns this part into a snug winter room, which is warmed further by a woodburning stove.

Contrasting with the glazed box is the other end of the extension – a solid sandstone block containing the utility ▶



ARCHITECTURE

[Right] The utility room and shower are encased in a solid sandstone block defined with rusticated bands and a slot window to more completely enclose the function of these spaces. The new back door provides an alternative entrance to the house.

[Below] Made from timber and steel, the new shelter is solid without being overbearing. Its white soffit reflects the light, making it a pleasant place to sit on dull days as well as sunny evenings



room and shower. This section can be entered via the new back door, which doubles up as a dirt buffer for the family's dogs.

As well as their new kitchen, the owners wanted a terrace and sitting area that would encourage them outside more often. MacIntyre devised a shelter, made from timber and steel, that works beautifully as a sunny evening seating space. "It has a slight Japanese aesthetic and is colour-matched to the timber finishes of the house," he says. A white soffit finish highlights the structure but also reflects the light. "That way, it has a sense of enclosure without becoming oppressive."

The benefits of the extension are clear when it's viewed from the garden, but they're equally obvious as you step through the front door. The opened-up vista takes you on a journey down the hallway to the new kitchen and views of the green space to the rear. It's the lined-up glazing, according to MacIntyre, that "makes the traditional hall experience a much more engaging and optimistic one". ■