

Carefully crafted

A far cry from the minimalist-glass-box style often showcased by architect-designed new-builds, this house in south-east London by Nick Willson Architects (020 7012 1674; nickwillsonarchitects.com) is clad in flint, timber and lead; the clients were keen to steer clear of contemporary clichés and wanted to engage with traditional crafts (the flint wall, lead cladding and timber joinery were all handmade by specialists). The result is a textured and character-rich exterior. It's also a star on the sustainability charts. Construction cost £600,000.



Dizzy heights

While the soaring ceilings of this apartment in Moscow might have made for optimal acoustics and show-stopping proportions, they didn't make the best use of the space. To capitalise on the eight-metre height, architect Peter Kostelov (kostelov.ru) inserted a timber structure to introduce a mezzanine floor and upper storey. This addition has given tons of extra space (each of the family of five now has a designated zone) and Kostelov managed to avoid blocking out light by cutting openings in the walls and floors of the wooden behemoth.

ARCHITECTURE

Grand ideas to use in your grand design

Sound proofing

By day, there's something a little sinister about the closed-off, cool exterior of this house in Engerwitzdorf, Austria, but when night falls the translucent sliding walls that wrap around the central courtyard are set aglow by the interior lighting. The walls allow sunlight into the interior, while remaining in keeping with the white, minimal facade. Designed by tp3 (+43 732 77 30 9712; tp3.at), the scheme is a response to a busy motorway; small windows with white shutters muffle the noise on the road-facing aspects while, on the south-facing courtyard side, the house opens to the garden and orchard.



IN THE KNOW

Google's Shaderlight rendering tool has just been upgraded; the newly launched v2 has tons of unique additional features. Like its predecessor, it works with Sketchup, the must-have program for drawing 3D models. The upgraded version allows you to render animations directly from Sketchup, and thanks to a collaboration with DynaSCAPE it can offer a selection of detailed models. Shaderlight Pro v2 is \$299 (approx £190), or download a basic version for free. (01223 424 466; shaderlight.com)

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