

Organic warmth: right, the timber extension at Dangan Road, Redbridge; below right, a peep inside a Y:Cube starter home, Merton; far right, award-winning pop-up housing units at Place/Ladywell, a temporary home while planning goes through for new homes



Kitchen in a box: far left, bamboo ply and black MDF insert in a listed Fifties block in Tower Hamlets, and below it, Day House in Islington is zinc-clad outside, Seventies style inside; left, The Yard House in Southwark uses translucent polycarbonate

Open House

Be inspired by fabulous new architecture as 750 London buildings are thrown open to the public, says **Philippa Stockley**

OPEN HOUSE LONDON always draws the crowds and there is something to please everyone this year in a bumper edition. Next weekend's event will see 750 buildings thrown open to the public, with 200 showing for the first time, including beautifully designed private homes. Rich pickings include new builds, extensions, refurbishments and small developments, providing plenty of ideas if you've got the home improvement itch.

SMALL AND BEAUTIFUL Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners offers a double whammy. In Merton, **Y:Cube** is on show after launching a year ago, using "micro-home" expertise. These small, brilliant modular homes are built off-site. The YMCA rents them to formerly homeless people at 60 per cent of market rent as a stepping stone.

Lord Rogers' practice is also showing **Place/Ladywell**, a "pop-up" development in Lewisham that uses similar units to Y:Cube stacked on a plot currently stuck in planning.

Sculptural: Folds House, right, in Haringey features an extension with a "pleated" ceiling meant to give the illusion it was squashed on to the rear of a brick terrace house; far right, Tin House, by Henning Stummel in Hammersmith & Fulham, a compound of orange-red seamed metal huts around a courtyard

Lewisham has 24 housing units. It won the Mayor of London's award for housing. Let's hope other boroughs copy the idea. Hackney has the biggest selection of homes, including two new builds. **The Makers House** is by Liddicoat & Goldhill. This is the second home built by married architects David Liddicoat and Sophie Goldhill for themselves, and this four-bedroom house is definitely worth a look, with its angles and dark cladding.

Finished in 2013 but on show for the first time, **Kyverdale Road House** by Prewett Bizley looks modernist with its smart white brick exterior and brown anodised window surrounds, softened by exposed timber joists inside.

WOOD BE NICE Strong, visual timbers are a theme and feature beautifully again in **Dangan Road** in Redbridge by Tom Kane, where the owners wanted an extension that connected with the garden. Homely timber creates an instant feeling of organic warmth. Similarly, **Clapton House**, in Clap-

ton, Hackney, by Hugh Strange, takes a bomb-damaged house and completely rebuilds the back end, including a new roof, with another glorious display of exposed timber.

METALLIC MARVELS Homes don't get much more fascinating than Henning Stummel's **Tin House** in Hammersmith and Fulham, a compound of huts in an orange-red seamed metal finish set

around a courtyard, that open up

inside into one house – frankly, it's pure genius.

On a smaller scale but equally considered is the **Courtyard House** in Newham. Built on a really tight pocket plot of an old wrecker's yard for a small budget, this smart, black-clad home with striking oversize joists shoe horns in no fewer than four courtyards. Dallas Pierce Quinlano are the architects. Striking metal

cladding is big at the moment – not only Tin House, but also Paul Archer's **Day House** in Islington, a cute, bright, boxy little home replacing a Seventies mews house. Totally zinc-clad outside, it keeps the fresh open Seventies feel within. Also in Islington, Jake Edgley uses different coloured zinc for a small development of homes at **Godson Street**, the fascinating roofline resembling the Cutty Sark in full sail.

GREEN AND PLEASANT

To see our city going greener before your eyes, visit one of two impressive roof gardens at office buildings done by Fletcher Priest Architects. We are not talking here about dingy tufts of moth-eaten sedum grass but smart landscaped gardens slapping in the middle of the City of London.

Nomura Bank HQ, Watermark Place (garden designed by Townshend Landscape Architects) and the **Bevis Marks** building are trailblazers for a future where one day London – from a helicopter – may look like a posh salad.

So be inspired, get online and get planning.

■ Open House London weekend runs September 17-18. All details are available at openhouseto.com.

■ Twitter: @StockleyP

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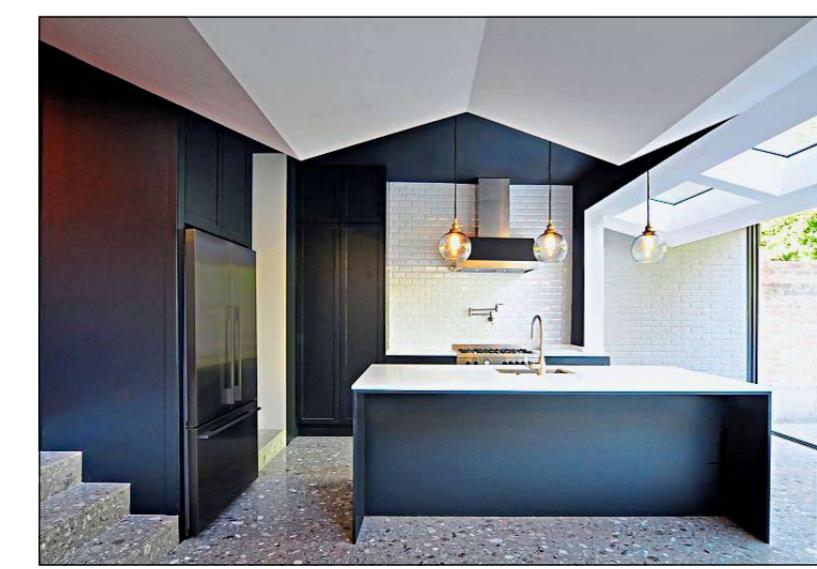
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