

House in London

Architects:

Hugh Strange Architects, London

Structural engineer:

Price & Myers, London

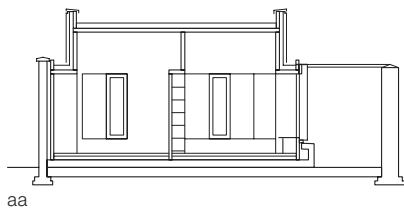
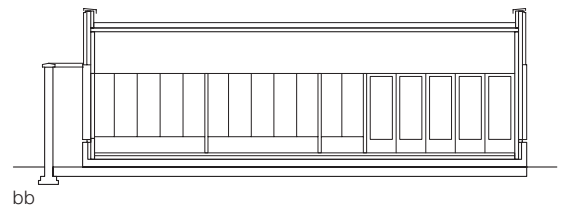
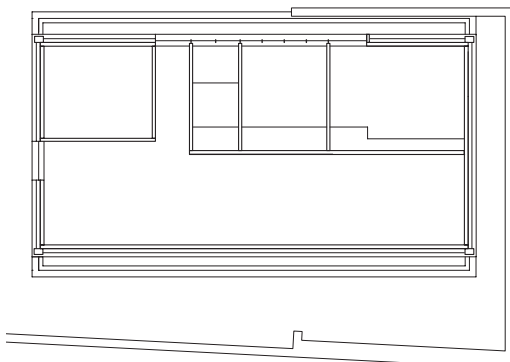
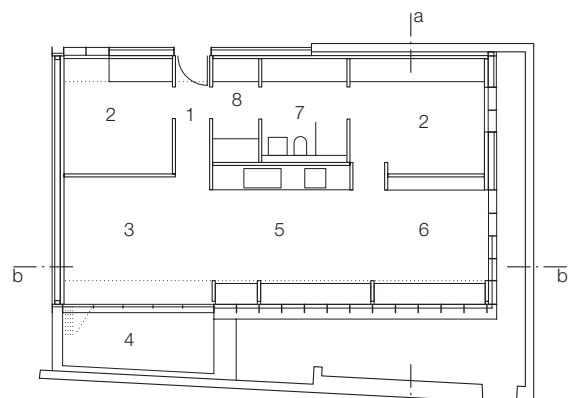
Others involved in the project: see page 220

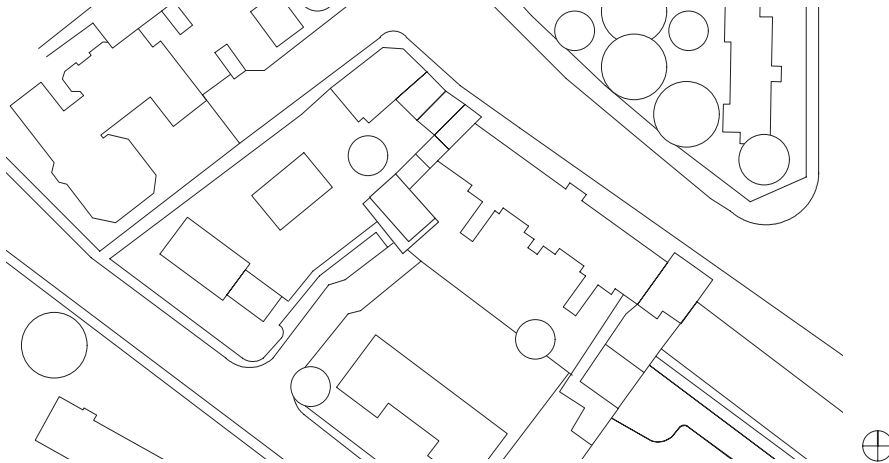


The two-bedroom house is located in Deptford, South-East London, on a small site in an old pub yard, largely concealed from the street outside by an existing brick perimeter wall. The new building stands apart from these walls and thereby produces a series of narrow spaces. The enfilade rooms, high ceilings, and a framed view to a distant church make the home appear to be larger than it is. The surrounding brick walls screen the city beyond to create a private domain. The building frame of solid-timber panels was fabricated from spruce in a Swiss factory, driven to site in a container and erected in a week. The constructional logic of the building's detailing marries an engineered European product and Central American joinery. Fibre-cement panels envelope the

building exterior; their lightness and verticality both relate to and contrast with the weight and horizontality of the rough in-situ concrete base situated atop the existing slab. The horizontality of the new building's concrete plinth is an expression of the original slab. It is still visible in the residual space cum garden, and even in the previous building's sliding door track was retained. Inside, the polished concrete floor represents the new slab. It also extends out-doors to form a terrace. Each room has the same palette of materials: washed timber walls and ceilings, concrete floors and bespoke joinery comprising hardwood windows, doors, and furniture. Glass is sandwiched between the exposed structural timber and the hardwood frame to

form the fixed windows; the top and bottom frames are not visible, emphasising the vertical mullions. The internal hardwood doors and frames are face-fixed to structural softwood openings, reducing site work, accommodating site tolerances and visually expressing the relationship between primary structural timber and secondary fit-out timber. The bespoke furniture is set within recesses in the structural frame. The bed, chairs and a dining table, made from a single piece of solid hardwood, are all provided by the same carpenter; these elements unify the timber interior. The building's energy requirements are low thanks to the high standard of air-tightness and insulation, the timber panels' thermal mass, minimal glazing to the north, and plentiful daylight.

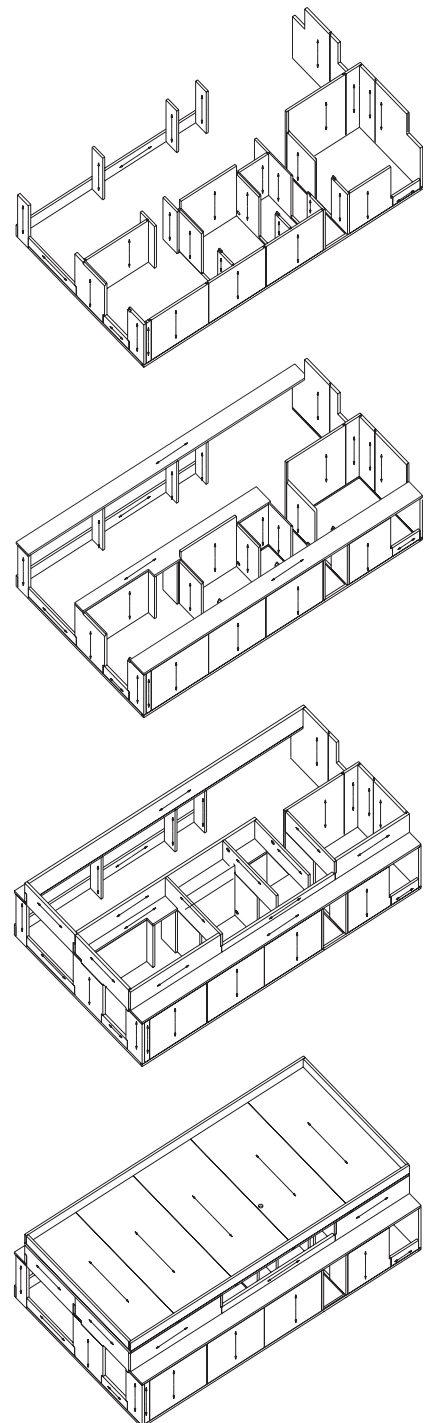


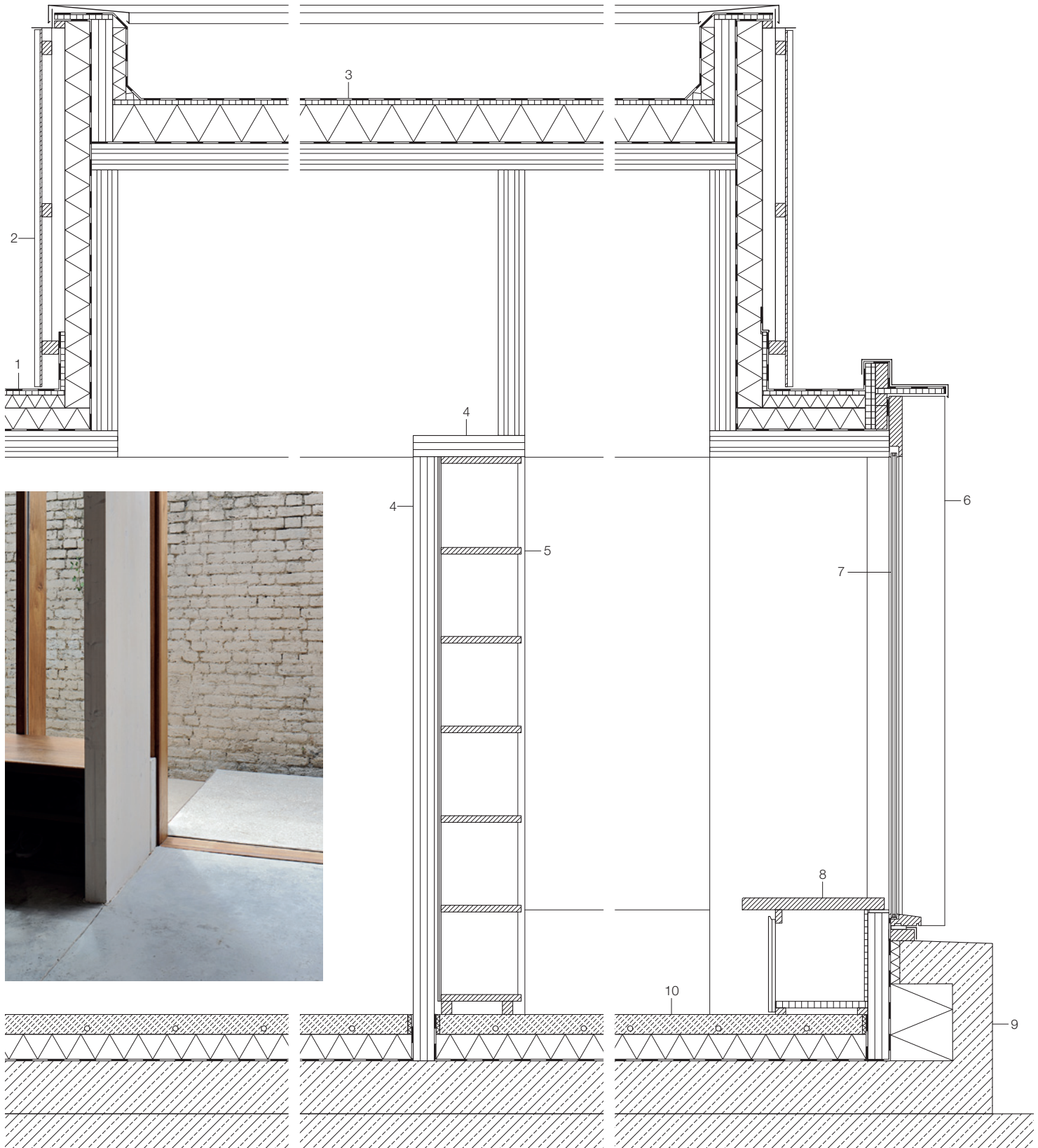


Floor plan • Sections
scale 1:200

- 1 Hall
- 2 Bedroom
- 3 Living
- 4 Terrace
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Dining
- 7 Bathroom
- 8 Utility room

Site plan
scale 1:1500
Axonometric drawing
Framing sequence





- 1 felt roofing
18 mm exterior-grade plywood
100–150 mm insulation to falls
vapour barrier
100 mm laminated cross-boarded timber
white woodwax oil
- 2 6 mm profiled fibre-cement cladding
38/50 mm timber battens
38/50 mm timber counterbattens
100 mm glass-wool insulation, low density
breather membrane

- 3 100 mm laminated cross-boarded timber
felt roofing
WBP Plywood 18 mm
130–210 mm insulation to falls
vapour barrier
100 mm laminated cross-boarded timber
white woodwax oil
- 4 80 mm lam. cross-boarded timber
- 5 25 mm hardwood
- 6 45 mm hardwood mullion
finished in Danish oil

- 7 24 mm double glazing
- 8 45 mm hardwood
- 9 150 mm concrete plinth
240 mm insulation
waterproof membrane
80 mm laminated cross-boarded timber
- 10 75 mm concrete floor, polished
underfloor heating, 100 mm insulation
waterproof membrane
200 mm concrete slab (new)
50 mm concrete slab (existing)

