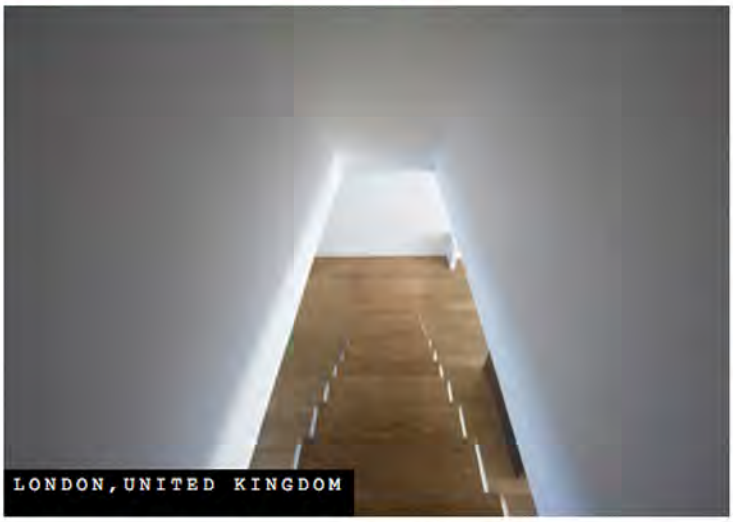
PAUL MCANEARY ARCHITECTS



A team of international architects who excel in groundbreaking design and research

Posted by Alessia Pincini - 10.26.2010 ShareThis

Paul McAneary Architects Ltd is a medium-sized British architectural practice, founded in 2007. Based in the heart of London, they are a team of international architects who excel in groundbreaking design and research, creating functional and timeless architecture. Their design process is driven by sensitivity to the given context and deep understanding of the project's brief rather than by a predetermined style. Inspired by the minimal modernist architectural tradition, Paul McAneary Architects promote a new spatial narrative where the least number of lines and details, the pureness of forms and the use of warm natural materials create peaceful sustainable, solid architectural spaces. They are involved in a wide range of projects at different scales including bespoke interior design pieces, furniture design, high-end residential, commercial and cultural. The projects are all across the UK but mostly in Central London consisting of refurbishment, extension and new-builds. Their project sizes range from small fit-outs to multimillion pound buildings, with their largest built project budget to date being £12M. They are enthusiastic about natural materials and they are constantly developing finishing techniques which evolve in tandem with the new architectural forms and tectonics.

15°Off-White House, Holland Park, London. Private house, 2009

The clients requested a large space for their young family's life. Paul McAneary Architects responded with an open-plan design concept, to remove all of the internal walls of the existing building without any trace of columns nor beams and to create a seamless connection from the entrance right through to the garden. A faceted ceiling-scape was designed to force light deeper into the ground floor plan. Storage space is vital to be discrete in the open plan so PMA excavated a vault below the ground floor and the kitchen's perimeter became storage walls whose doors repeat a vertical and tranquil rhythm throughout. By utilizing Ikea carcasses hidden behind bespoke high quality lacquered doors we managed to keep to budget. The design of the top two floors required a comparatively smaller intervention however Paul McAneary Architects felt that the staircase connecting the new open plan ground floor to the rest of the house should be an important central feature. Like a passenger aircraft staircase it appears to have been dropped from a flawless cut in the ceiling as its glass balustrades reflect and define the stairs as you descend into what used to be an old garage. Design team: Paul McAneary, Daniel Morgan, Matthias Laumayer, Stefan Bagnoli. Photography: Ståle Eriksen.

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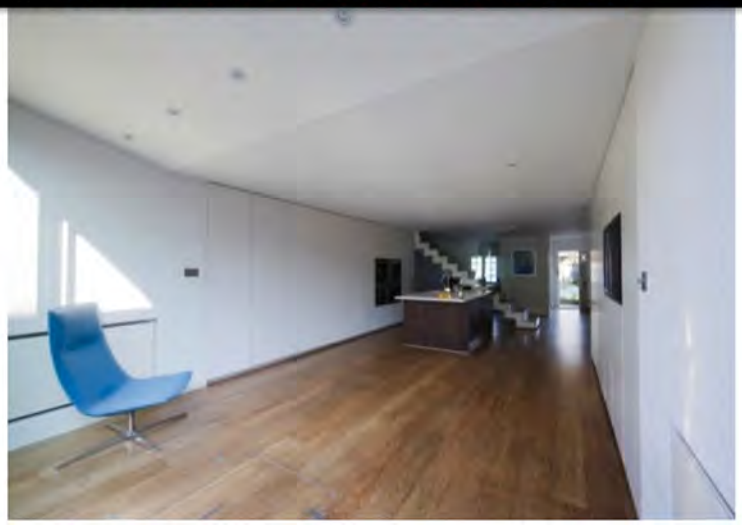
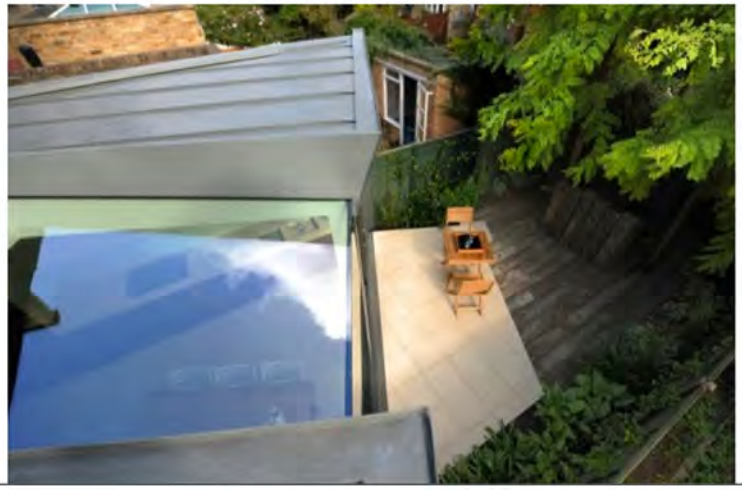


Faceted House 1, Hammersmith, London. Private house, 2009
A remodelling and extension to an Edwardian terrace house located within a conservation area, in Hammersmith, London. This three bedroom two storey house was in a decrepit state and in need of considerable refurbishment and modernisation. The client asked for a contemporary design and functionality and he also expressed the desire to be able to perceive the garden as a continuation of the domestic space rather than 'the outdoor'. The concept driving the whole design is a 30° twist that allows physical and perceptive overlapping between the indoor and the outdoor spaces that dramatically improves the natural lighting into the house. In terms of spatial composition, there are two driving forces that compete and finally coexist: the kitchen-living area expands and transforms the external landscape, whilst the natural vegetation surrounds and perceptively invades the domestic space through the frameless glass skylight and open façade. The angle facilitates the overlap between the garden and kitchen thresholds – so whilst at the sink you feel the garden is actually behind you. This conceptual idea is manifest in the details of the faceted zinc facade and the floating external deck, being cut back to a fine angled edge. Design Team Paul McAneary, Matthias Laumayer. Photography: Paul McAneary Architects Ltd.



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Mint Store, Knightsbridge, London. 2009

"The most unique dynamic and visionary design store in London," said Max Frazer of Mint in the London Design Guide 2010. "Converted by Paul McAneary Architects, it is the perfect blank canvas on which owner Lina Kanafani can layer her treasure of her next retail adventure." Previously, the John Pawson designed Bulthaup kitchen showroom occupied the building's ground floor. Coincidentally Paul McAneary worked for Pawson before he established his studio and demolished his old master's work. The project's brief was to reconfigure and expand the existing space. Paul McAneary Architects designed a new contemporary timber facade that plays with the traditional proportions of the classical building and expanded the space by forming a new basement. Paul McAneary Architects most important detail is the new staircase to the lower level. It has a very flush glazed balustrade and floating rough sawn oak treads, together with McAneary's special handrail that has a hidden inner radius to make the act of descending the staircase a more pleasurable tectonic experience. Other important details include two structural glass floors which serve to allow transparency and visual connection between the levels and allow natural light to the new lower space. Design Team Paul McAneary, Oliver Forsyth, Stefan Bagnoli. Fotografia Paul McAneary Architects.