



urban  
retreats

**Paul McAneary**  
Architects

# urban retreats

A compilation of the cultural and commercial projects created by Paul McAneary Architects.

Urban Retreats  
Paul McAneary Architects  
First Edition

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And thanks to the Paul McAneary Architects team and consultants  
for all their dedication, skill and hard work in bringing all our projects  
to fruition: Afsa Akbar, Ai Beshio, Alejandro Restrepo, Alexandra  
Sterling, Alexandra Toogood, Aleksandra Waluda, Anastasia  
Prodanets, Andrea Sanchis Nadal, Boyoon Zang, Carlotta  
Poggiaroni, Cecilia Lundberg, Claudia Mayr, Cheng Huang, Daniel  
Milla Pineda, Daniela Schneider, Danny Fryer, Daniel Morgan,  
Edward Stewart-Wood, Eriko Shimizaki, Fabio Ferriani, Francesca  
Menestò, Francesc Regincos Seguí, Fulvio Robustelli, Ilze Pienaar,  
Jenna Larke, Jonathan Schoening, Joseph Shih-Chou Chan,

Jaymee Medne, Jaroslaw Engel, Jorge Bressel Mateo, Justin  
Randle, Karen Malacarne, Karin Joel, Kumiko Hirayama, Laura  
Lerma Sánchez, Lena Osthusenrich, Marina Markides, Mary  
Dymond, Matthias Laumayer, Mike Beacham, Norbert Kurcz,  
Nuria Coll, Oliver Forsyth, Paula Abelairas, Petar Uzelac, Pol Soler,  
Roberto Lotto, Sandra Plantos, Sara Dabouni, Serafina Karahassan,  
Shirley Jones, Sofia Cababie, Ståle Eriksen, Stefan Bagnoli, Susi  
Brakowski, Tommaso Cuni, Tomoko Kagawa, Tony Wilson, Victor  
Cupido Valle, Wendy Richards, Wilfried Thévenot.

With special thanks to our clients, who, without them, none of this would be possible: Alan Maloney & Orlagh Collins, Amir & Caroline Niknafs, Andre Semenza & Fernanda Lippi, Andrew Matthews & Gail Edwards, Arnaud & Julia de Cremier, Bill & Katryn Hakes, Carl Kostyál Gallery, Carter's Educational Foundation, Chariot Oil & Gas, Sir Charles Bracewell-Smith, Claudia Schiffer, Claus & Minka Mansfeldt, Cindy Morelli, Craig Bonner & Jane Fordham, David & Philippa Salvoni, David McDermott & Deirdre Guerin, David McDonald & Diana Layfield, Embassy of Sudan, Erik & Edith Esselink, Elvis Pellumbi & Alexa Duval, Gary Barlow, George & Krissy Kallarackal, Gemin-I, Hermione Norris, Hoxton Waterfront Restaurant, Ian & Kerry Adamson, ICA, IETK Ltd, James Craig, Jamie & Katherine Burgess, Jamie Moore & Annalie Whitfield, Jean-Marie Getto & Sylvie Linard, Jessica Lask, Jim

McDonald, John Korwin Szymanowski, Joseph Henry & Cheryl Donovan, Julian & Ruth Al-Mushadani, Kaldewei, Kent Hoskins, Lina Kanafani, Live Link, Luca Turconi, Lucy Sandring, Malcom Menzies, Manuel & Laurence Kalbreier, Maria Hadjipateras, Mark & Lucy Craig, Matthew Vaughn, Merchant Bridge, Michael & Sacha Von der Geest, Mint Store, Lady Nina Bracewell-Smith, Nick & Charlotte Van Gool, No Curfew, Pew, Raj & Ravi Takhar, Richard & Caroline Piercy, Rugby School, Sara & Peter Sterling, Scott & Fiona Fairweather, Sean Ramsden, Shabbanna and Tony Akabah, Simon Wheeler & Hermione Norris, Stephen & Sheila Clarke, Harry Motors II Ltd, Tara O'Connor, Thomas De Souza-Buckup & Kelly Michel, Toby Latta, Toni & Guy, Villas & Reita Gadkari, Vincent & Natalie Negre, Will & Ceilidh Waddington, Yutaka & Maiko Uda.



**Paul McAneary**  
Architects



structural glass floor, mint store, knightsbridge, london

Pause, relax, reflect the majority of us spend our free time in pursuit of the ultimate way to unwind. Paul McAneary Architects spend their time creating the ultimate architectural space to facilitate this, whether it be an art gallery, a spa or a garden.

This book represents a compilation of their ever expanding leisure projects, bringing together galleries, design stores, boutique hotels and other commercial buildings, products and spaces.

Paul McAneary Architects is a medium-sized British architectural practice, founded in 2007.

They embrace the rigours of minimalism but with a new warmth, creating clutter free spaces that achieve a high functionality yet maintain a welcoming nature.

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 spaces.



Carl Kostyál Gallery, opening party

This book represents a compilation of their ever expanding leisure projects, bringing together galleries, design stores, boutique hotels and offices.

PMA 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.

Their policy for treating each project individually and creating unique features establishes strong working relationships with their clients, contractors and suppliers. PMA are committed to delivering the best value, practical solutions, and design excellence with a high level of professionalism and innovation.

Their professional approach and high quality design and detailing has received acclaim from the design community, leading to the company being awarded the Living Space Design of the Year Award, in 2010 and 2011, "an unprecedented second successive win."



The British Architect Paul McAneary was born in Northern Ireland in 1973 and commenced his architectural education at the Oxford School of Architecture.

Whilst studying for his degree he won the Alan Barnes Travelling Scholarship, which enabled him to take his practical training year in Hong Kong. The fast track environment of Hong Kong facilitated his rapid development; he was appointed project architect on a wide variety of projects for the notable architect Mike Tonkin, only his second position following working under Nigel Cowell in Oxford. Paul then moved to Japan and was employed by the leading Japanese Architect Shin Takamatsu and completed several published projects.

Following his international experience, he completed his training in London at the Architectural Association, under a series of prominent architects including Ben van Berkel, Kevin Rhowbothan and David Green. He completed his professional studies at the AA, where he attained the highest level of architectural registration becoming a RIBA Chartered Architect.

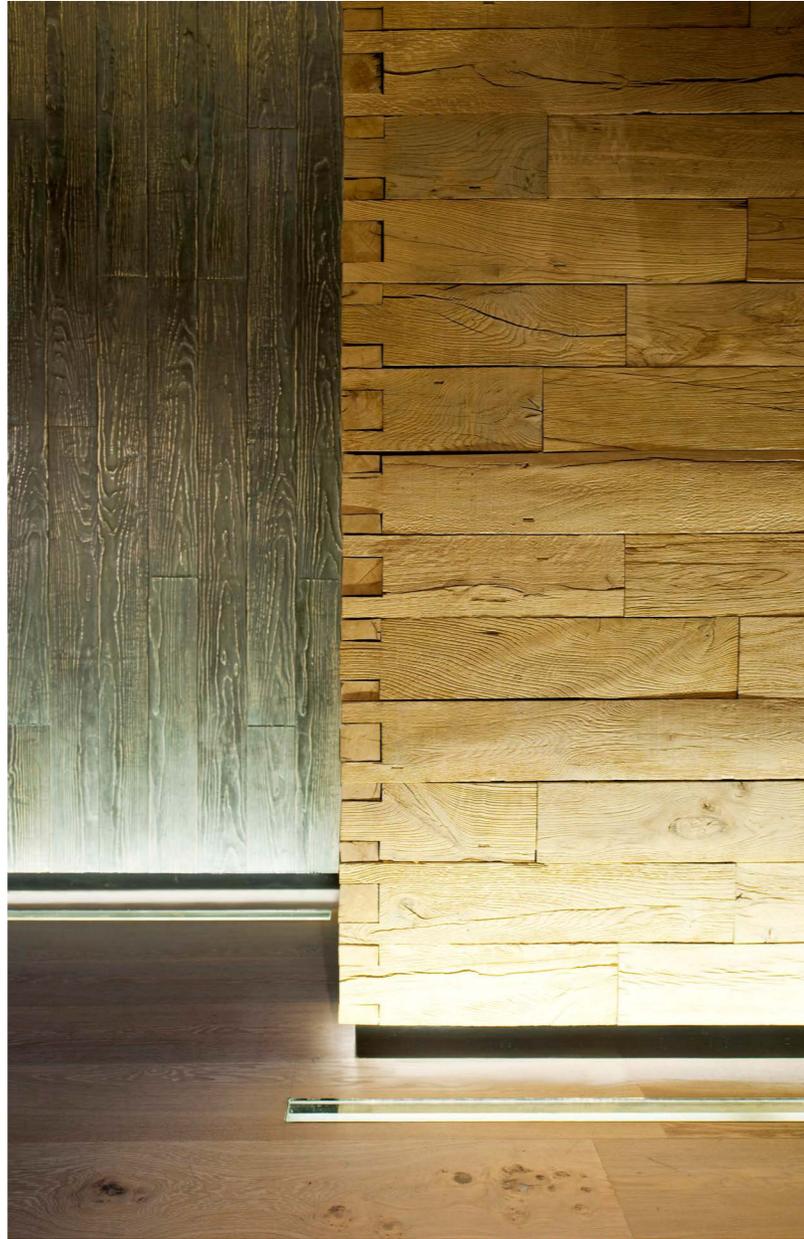
## Paul

He later went on to become the Honorary Secretary of the AA Council. In the following years Paul was self-employed completing a range of architectural projects in the UK. His next position was with the acclaimed minimalist John Pawson, the media famed 'father of minimalism'. There he completed a number of high profile national and international projects. Paul left John Pawson to establish Harwood McAneary Ltd with the Australian architect Robert Harwood.

In 2007 Paul established Paul McAneary Architects Ltd, the studio is now located on edge of Soho in Covent Garden, where they are currently designing and building their own studio on Flitcroft Street.

Paul regularly holds lectures on topics such as his inspiration, concepts and projects to date, at venues ranging from universities, to the ICA, to Ecobuild.

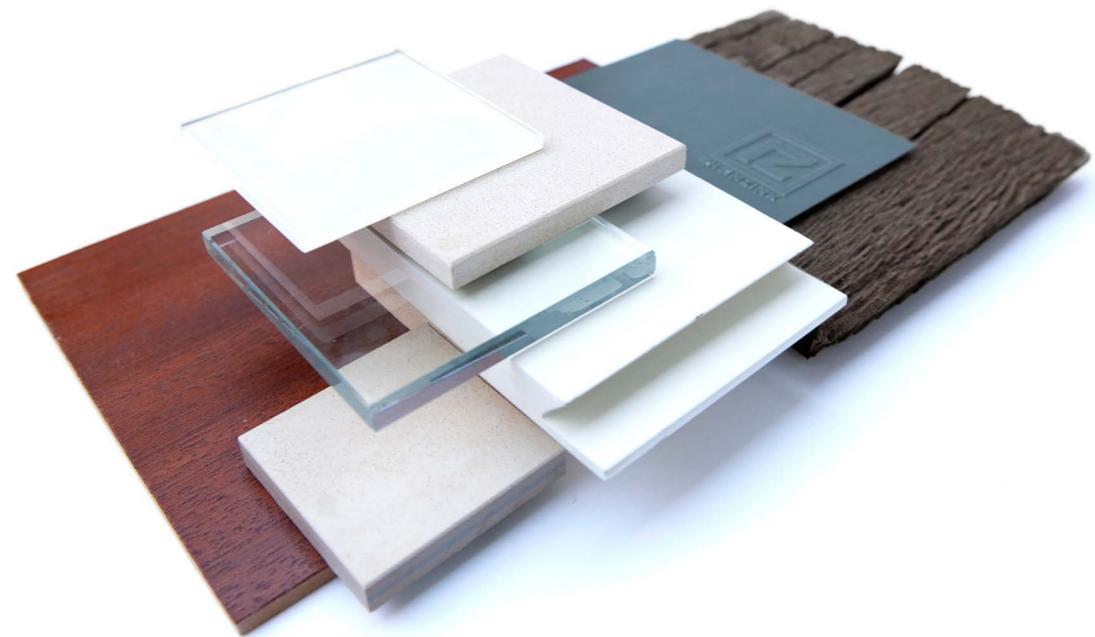
His new brand of 'warm minimalism' is forging ground within contemporary architecture, pushing the boundaries to achieve the best possible outcome for his clients. Paul's exciting new approach has been greatly received, with the notable magazine House and Garden writing a profile on his work, where he was described as 'embracing the rigours of minimalism.' Grand Designs magazine listing him as one of the top 10 architects in 2012 and clients' describing him and his team as having an 'understanding of space, eye for detail, and knowledge of materials, that transformed my building into an intelligent and timeless environment.'



Quality Natural Materials



burnt cedar juxtaposes chipped faced sandstone



typical sample collection co-ordinating the design before construction



natural slate steam room

Paul McAneary Architects are enthusiastic about natural materials and are constantly exploring with manufacturers to develop innovative fabrication techniques, architectural forms and tectonics. They specify warm, natural materials for their longevity, robustness and ecological credentials:

they are sustainable and become more valuable and beautiful as time passes. They also often use recycled and reconstituted materials. They have a vast and ever expanding sample collection to assure the highest quality design results.



## Natural Lighting



Paul McAnear Architects' philosophy is to allow natural light to flood into the space via skylights, floor-to-ceiling windows and walk-in glass terraces. Frameless glass panels reinforce the



perception of spatial continuity and connection between the interior and exterior spaces.



sky showers



9am



11.15am



3pm

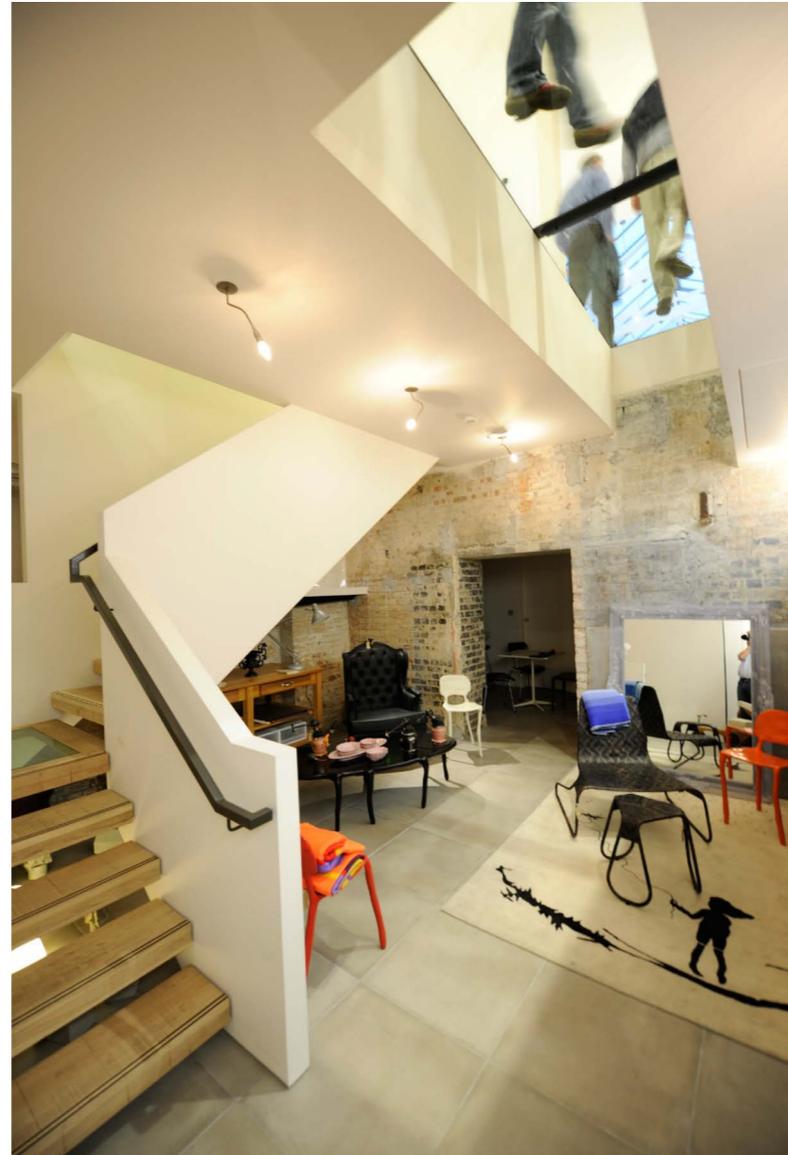


5pm



Light floods into this space through the bespoke PMA detail of the folded frameless skylight. The facade folds back into the depth of the building intentionally in the direction of the sun. A "ballet of light" is the result. The light casts a sharp

beam into the depth of the building. The rays of light accentuated by the light coloured floor and ceiling, dance through the space during the hours of daylight.



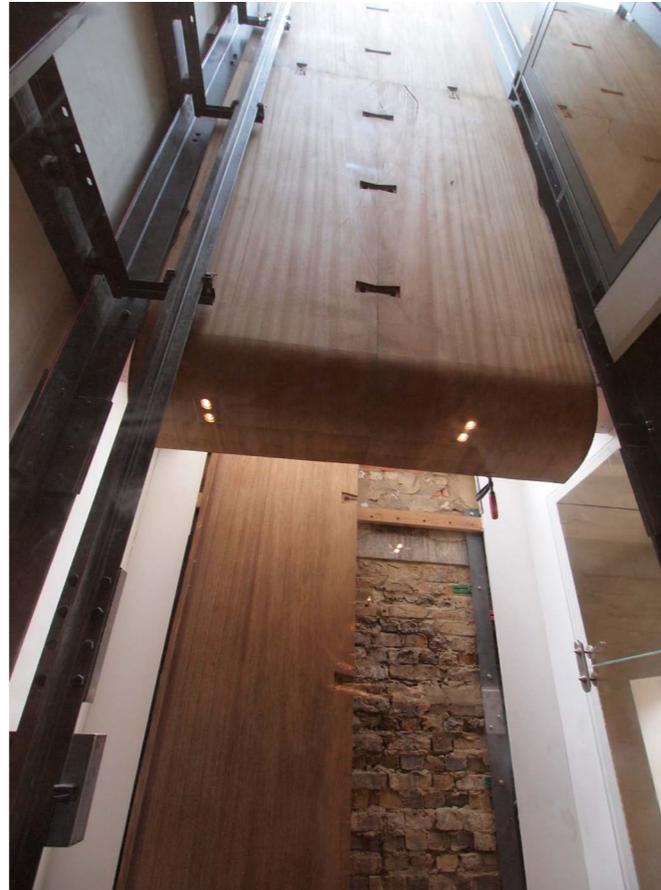
## Building connections



glass balustrades reflect and define the stairs as you descend

Staircases are one of the most important features in architecture. Paul McAneary believes that the architectural experience of the staircase should be heightened by design with tectonic interaction, changing how one experiences movement through space: creating striking connections

between levels in commercial buildings. PMA designs bespoke features that enhance the overall project concept.



1.6m full tree section installation in construction in the lift shaft

Recent projects include the installation of a 1.6m high full tree section in a frameless glass lift shaft extending from the ground floor to the 5th floor roof. The glass lift shaft, complete with a bespoke glass lift car, allows natural light to penetrate through the building in areas that would otherwise

be lacking. The tree installation serves as both the physical and conceptual connection of the building.



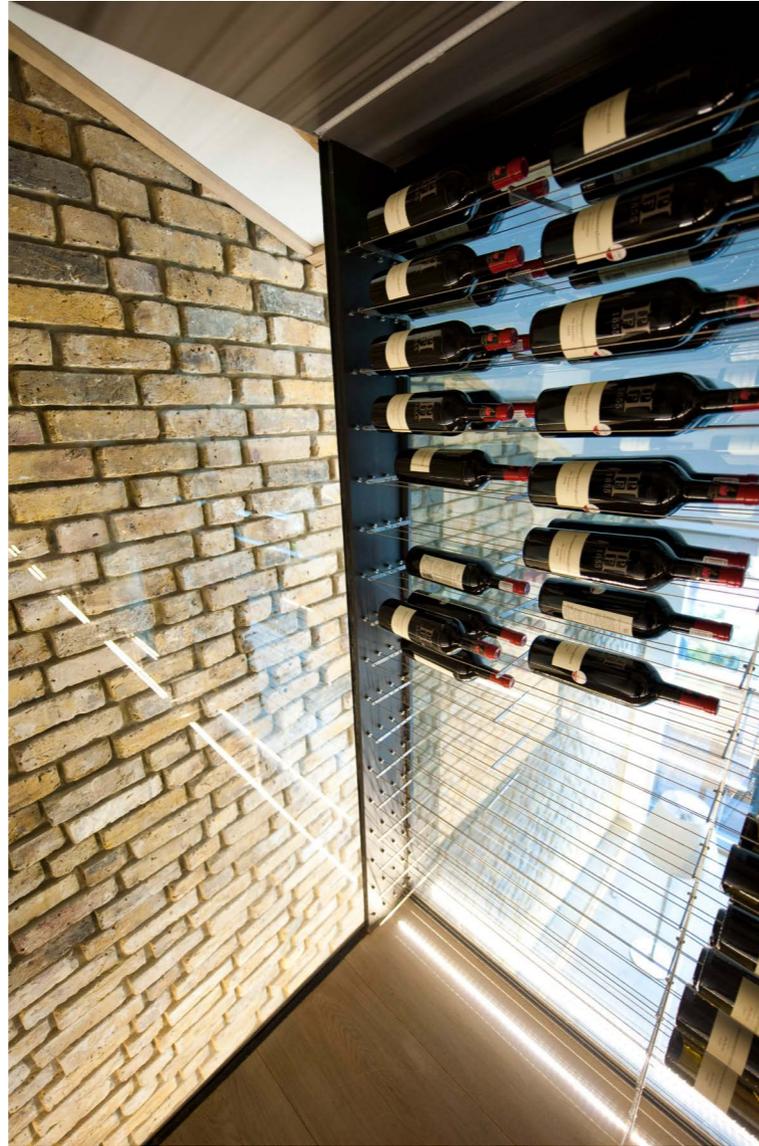
## Functionality



Paul McAnear Architects develop a contemporary design that is minimal and yet very functional. They design clutter-free and calm spaces by cleverly concealing wide storage spaces, making the final user's experience practical and stress-free. Where needed, prefabricated carcasses can be used

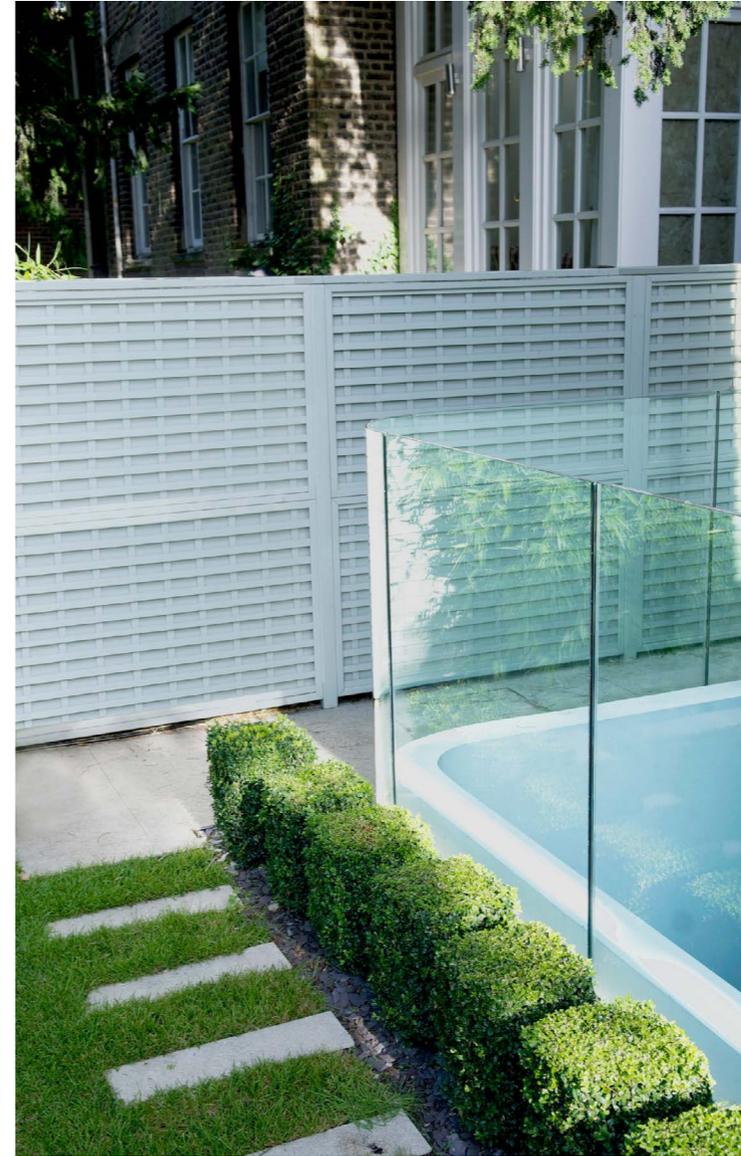
to reduce costs, but quality, bespoke doors are always used for a beautiful façade that disappears into the language of the architecture.

Lighting details are applied above and below the doors, creating ambient light that emphasises the clean lines of the architecture.

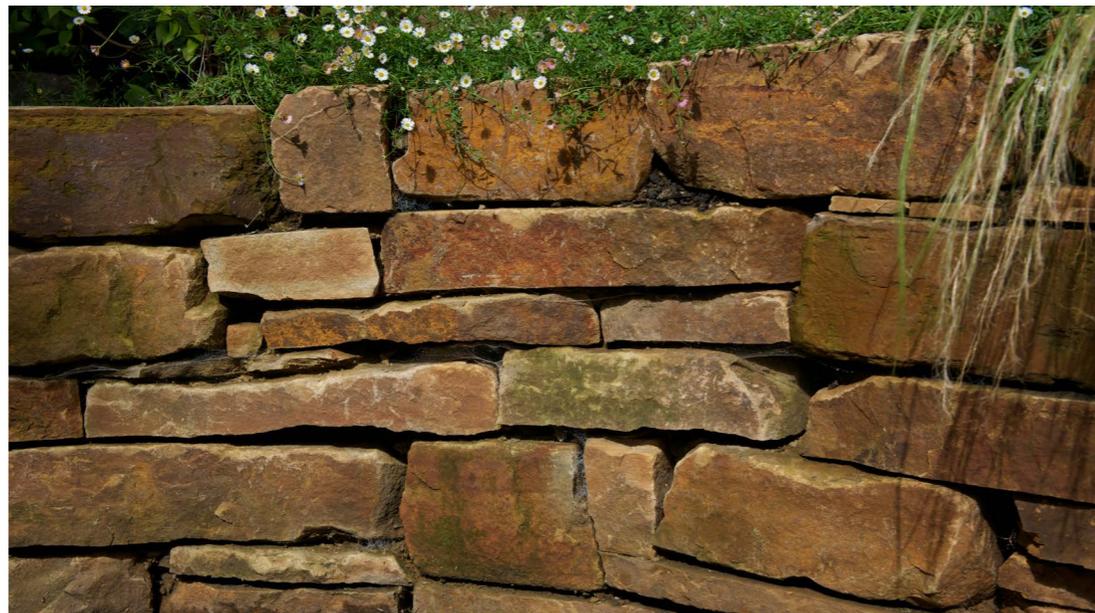


This innovative design allows the wine bottles to be stored so that the labels are visible, enhancing the functionality beyond that of a typical wine

cellar. The lighting has been designed deliberately from below to create a wall of glowing wine bottles.



## Landscaping



Paul McAnear Architects develop large and small scale urban landscaping projects, including living walls and roof gardens. Boundaries are pushed to discover new ways of incorporating vegetation

into design, to work with the existing building and create exciting spaces that respond to their environment.

### Tortoise Enclosure

Completion Date: 2012

Area: 8 sqm

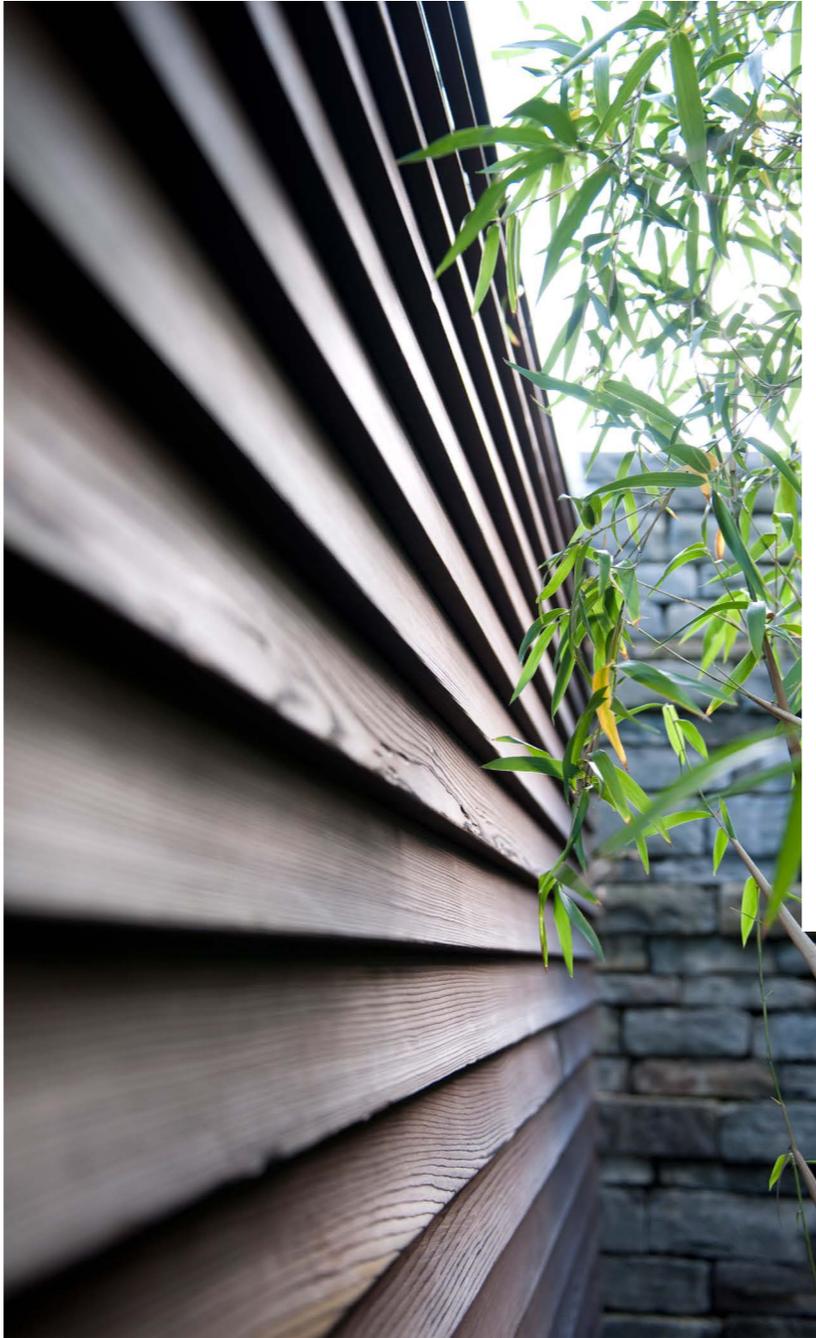
Location: Northern Ireland

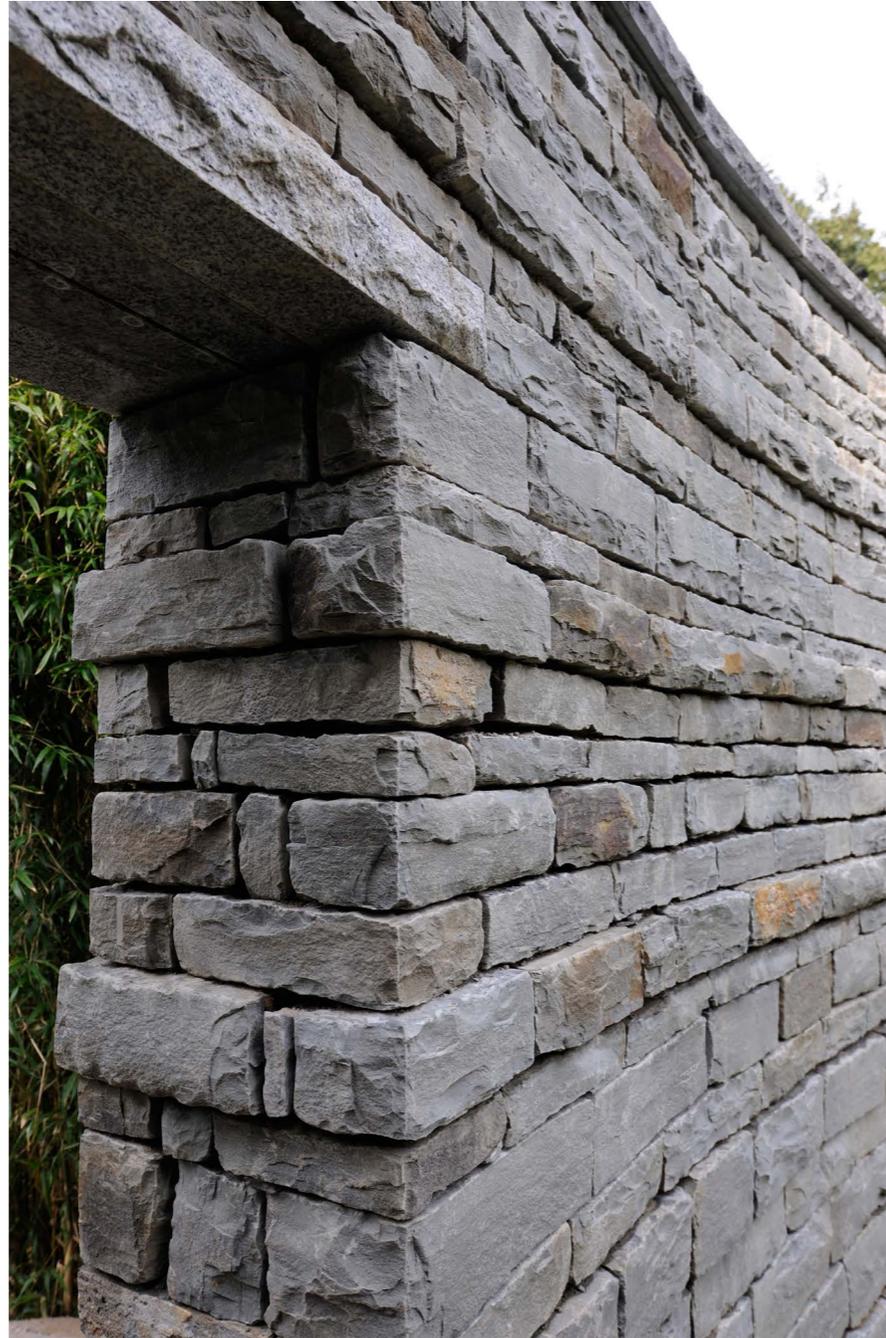
Surface Design Awards 2013 - Highly Commended



An exemplary eco project, the stone wall of the Tortoise Enclosure was built with responsibly selected, locally sourced, chisel faced sandstone. One of the project's merits is the development of a innovative method of treating timber by burning

it. The effect is not only beautiful, but about functional and ecological as the treated timber does not require continual maintenance using toxic and chemical products.



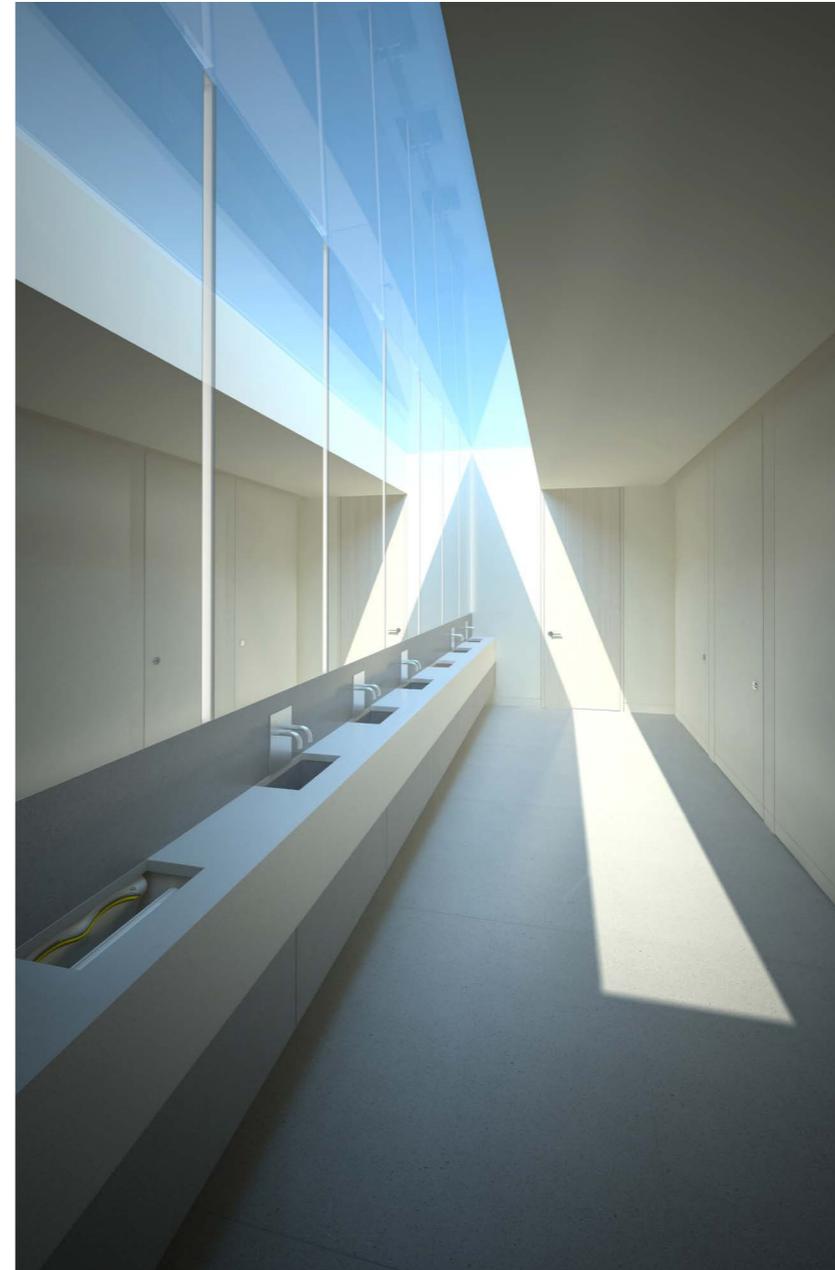


Luxury Powder-rooms

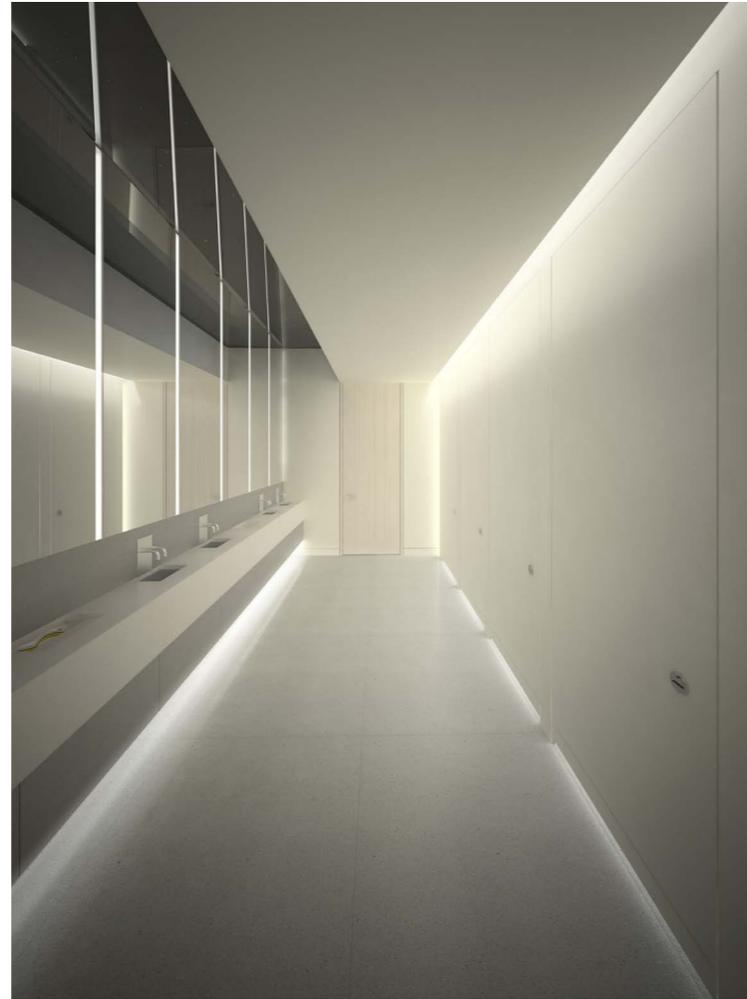


The quality of space and detail in WCs and bathrooms often reveals the quality of the whole building project. PMA's attention to detailing and

knowledge of the latest developments in sanitary ware fittings always produces the very highest calibre of spaces.



Dyson Airblade Washroom Competition

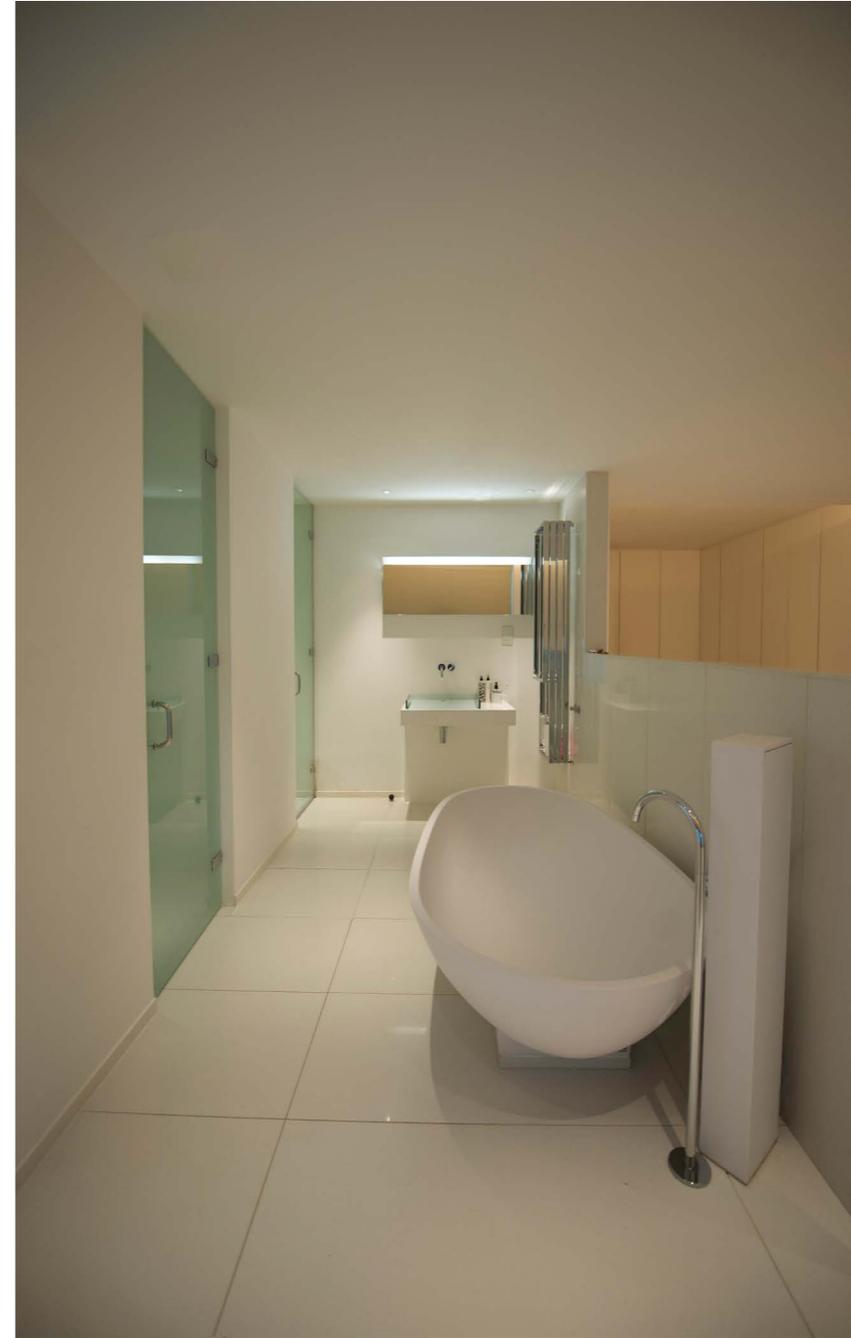


Paul McAneary Architects won the Dyson Air Blade washroom competition with their sleek, minimal design that achieves the next generation of "0% waste". Their winning concept is sustainable in terms of waste, durability and energy consumption, without compromising their

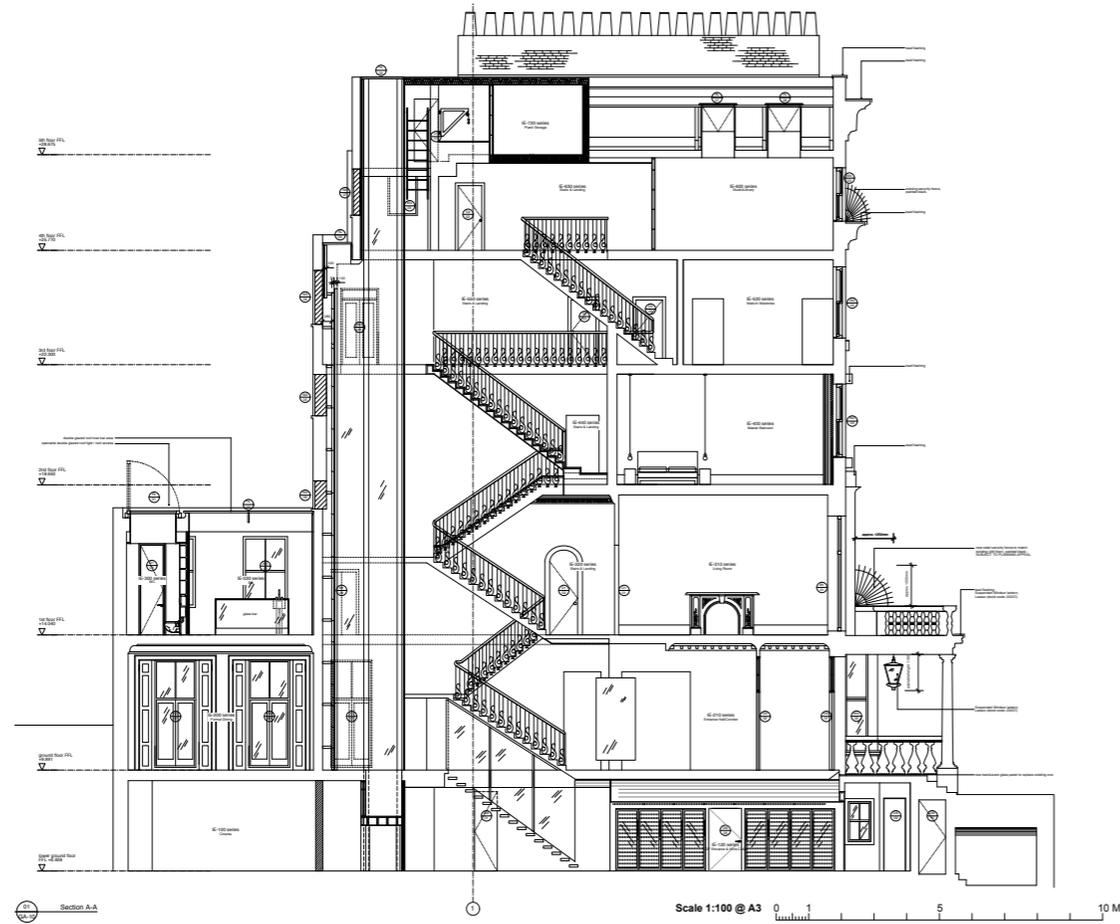
minimal design aesthetic. Ergonomical, functional and space saving, the design application is intended to be used as both a single auto-wash stations in spaces such as hotel rooms, hospital wards and restaurants and as 9 auto wash stations side by side in large public washrooms.



Boutique Hotel







refurbishment and re-design of a grade II listed Victorian town-house.

### Backpacker Hotel

Location: Hoxton, London

Client: No Curfew Ltd





Located in the heart of the fashionable district of Kingsland Road, Hoxton London, Backpacker Hotel 'recycles' the existing architecture and create a new hybrid accommodation that is affordable and unique in design. With this innovative approach, the budget hostel meets the boutique hotel.

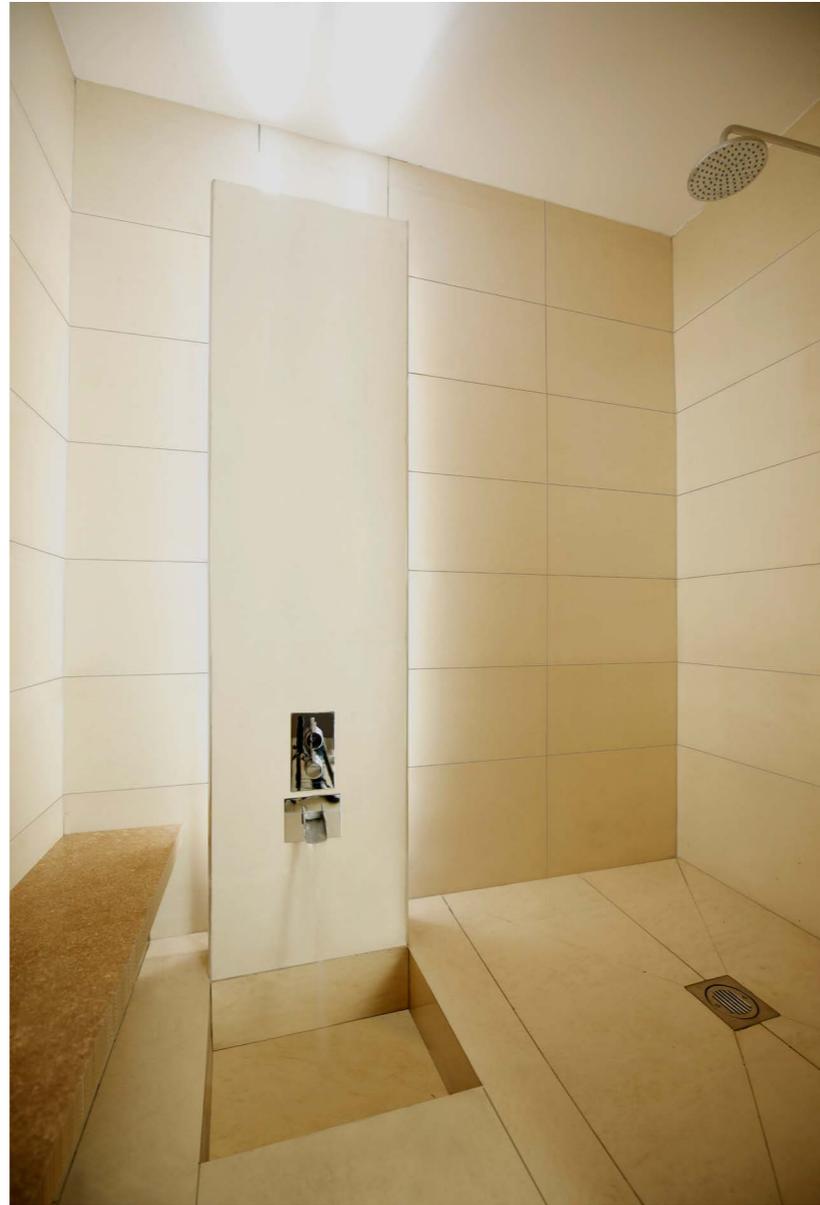
The proposed design adds a double height space to the existing building and places an expanded

corten mesh screen in front of the facade to afford privacy.

The original Victorian facade is retained and enhanced by the sculptural rusty see-through steel curtain. The rusty shade of the steel creates beautiful reflections during the day while at night, it perfectly blends and glows with the London orange street lights. The result is visually striking: urban and sophisticated at the same time.



## Theological



a Wudu washroom, created specifically for the Islamic cleansing ritual

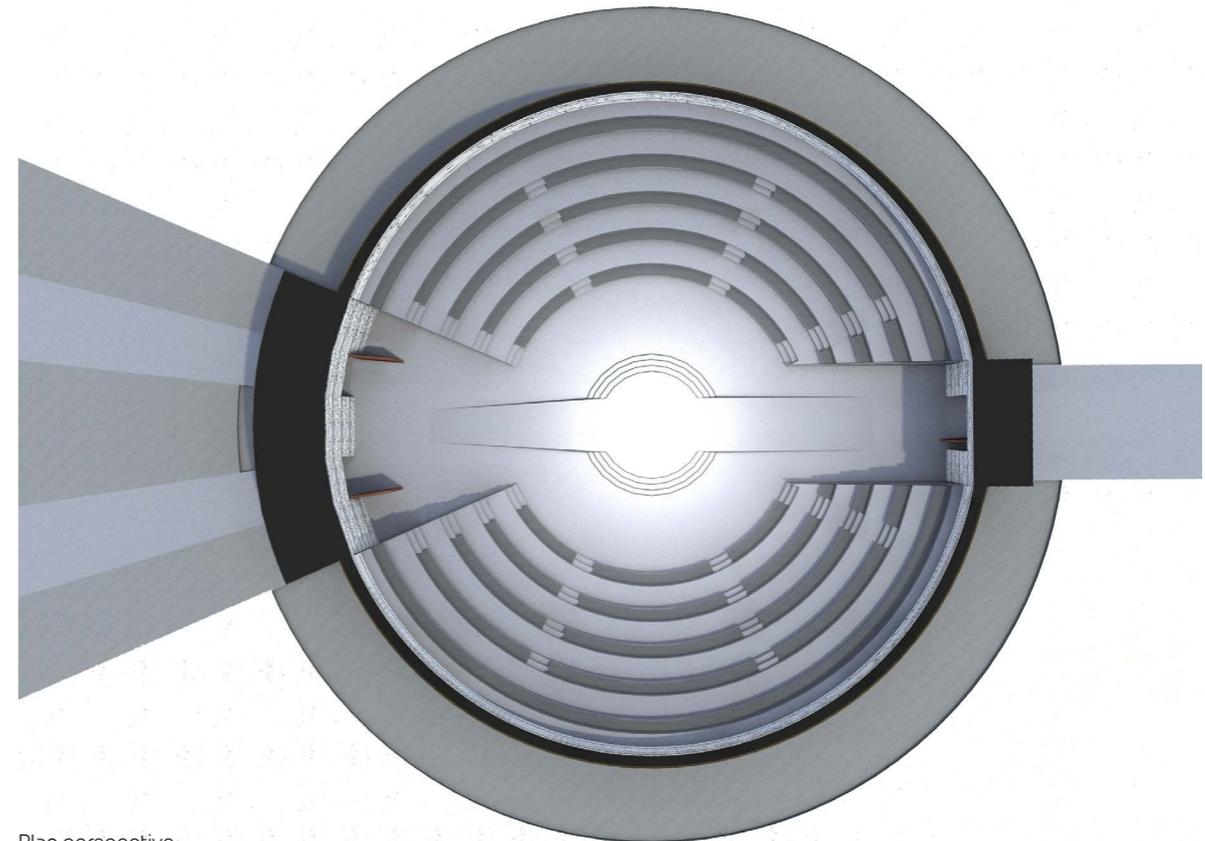
### Multi-Denominational Wedding Venue

Completion Date: Pending

Contract Value: Diameter dependant

Area: Diameter designed to be scaleable  
to clients requirements

Location: Non-site specific

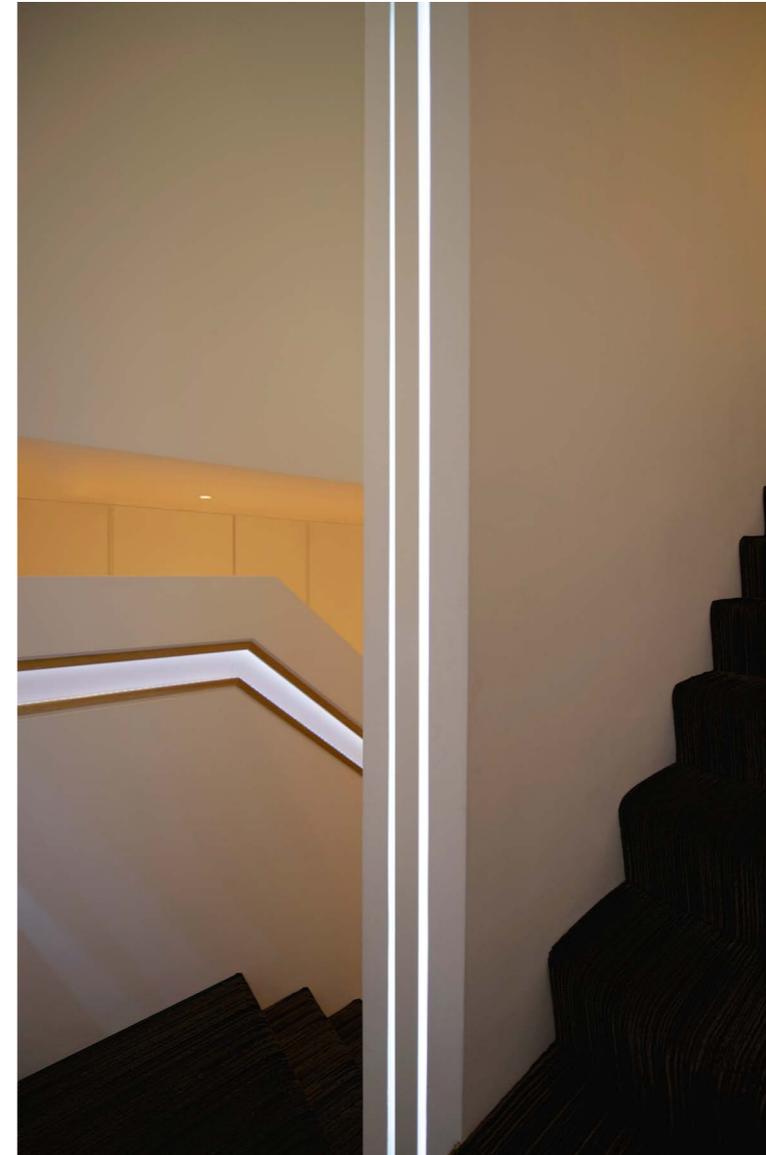


Plan perspective



In essence London is the truest metropolis where the greatest number of different nationalities, races and cultures live. This new typology provides a wedding venue for members of every denomination to share their ceremony. Two tapered pathways enter the mirrored

amphitheatre and converge at the centre point; geometry forms the ultimate metaphor for unity for both sides of the family. The families exit the venue together through a single door on a parallel path, completing the architecturilisation of the union of marriage.



## Detail Design



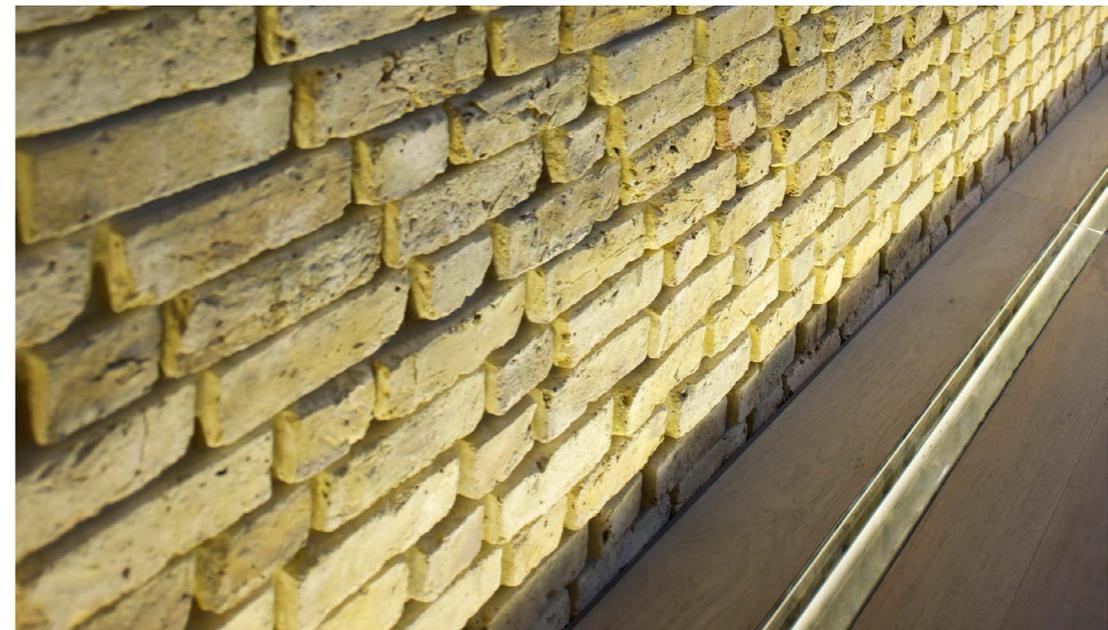
Paul McAnear Architects are known for their particular attention to the detail in the design of all their projects. They create bespoke features

appropriate to each client and space, each project has at least one 'special' innovative design detail.

Inspired by the Japanese concept of Tsukubai, Paul McAneary Architects developed a bespoke naturally tectonic stone basin.



PMA also developed a hyper functional steel faucet capable of filling a large bath in under two minutes at up to 200 litres per minute; faster than anything commercially available in the world.





Installation of the largest double glazed unit in Europe, stretching over 2 and a half stories it

creates a vertical light well connecting the rear of the project.



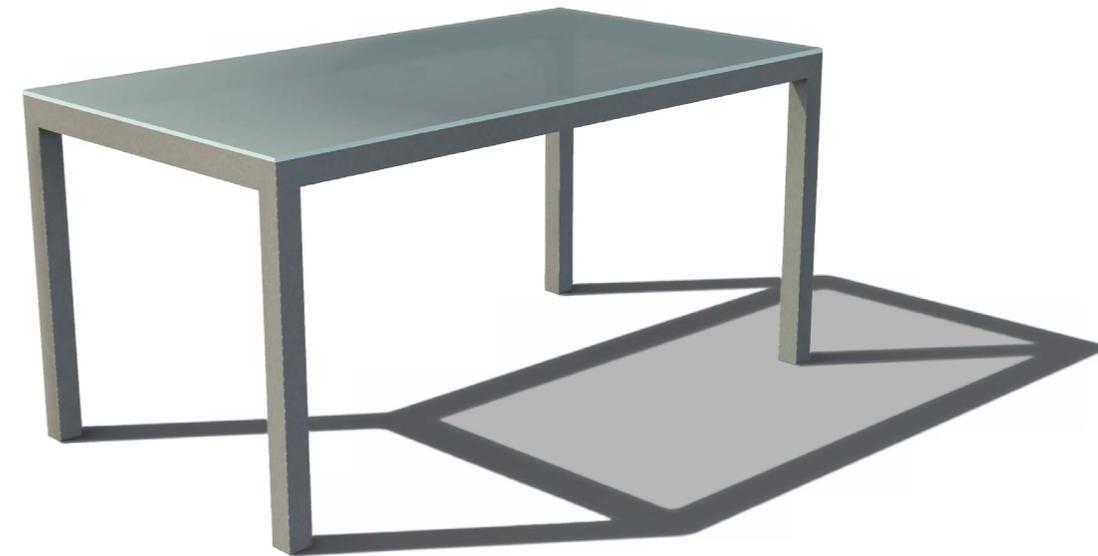
In tandem with their architecture, Paul McAnearny Architects have developed numerous pieces of product design. Here is their sofa called 'the couch board', this is a piece of furniture that changes its

form as its user changes the programme. It has a desk behind that can fold up or down, and side arms that fold out like an aeroplane's arm tray table.



'the light table', similar to the 'the couch board', is a piece of furniture that responds to its user by changing its function as required. It is foremost a desk or table, being highly durable and of the simplest form and detail.

It changes to act as a light box, so can glow to enhance a space, or illuminate overlaid documents. This is achieved via a concealed light tube within the inner top frame.



paul mcaneary architects light table



## Hospitality

chilled white and red wine on demand with the installation of these units  
keeping wines fresh for many weeks



**Zhaal Restaurant**

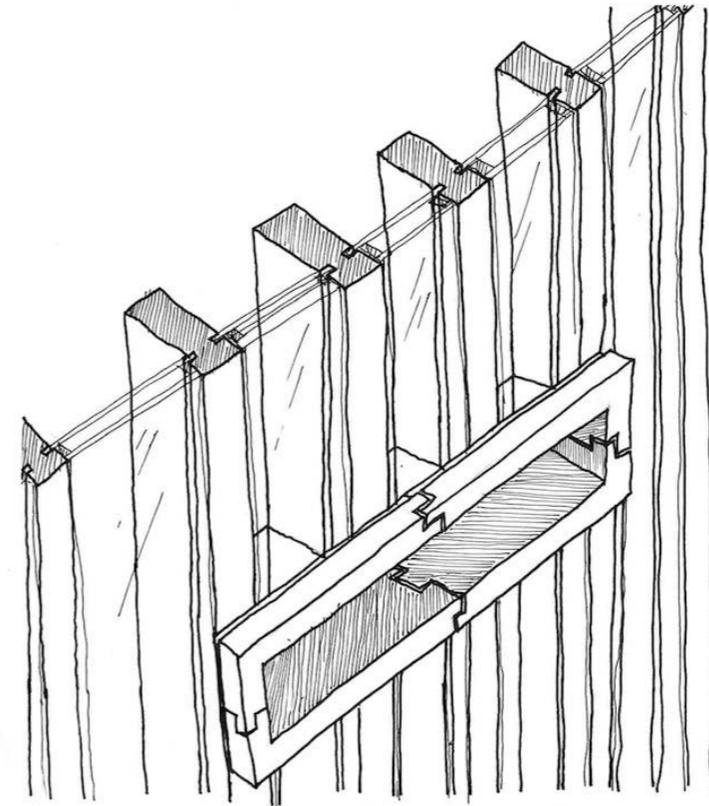
Completion Date: 2007 (unbuilt)

Contract Value: 50k

Area: 100sqm

Location: Soho, London

Client: Private



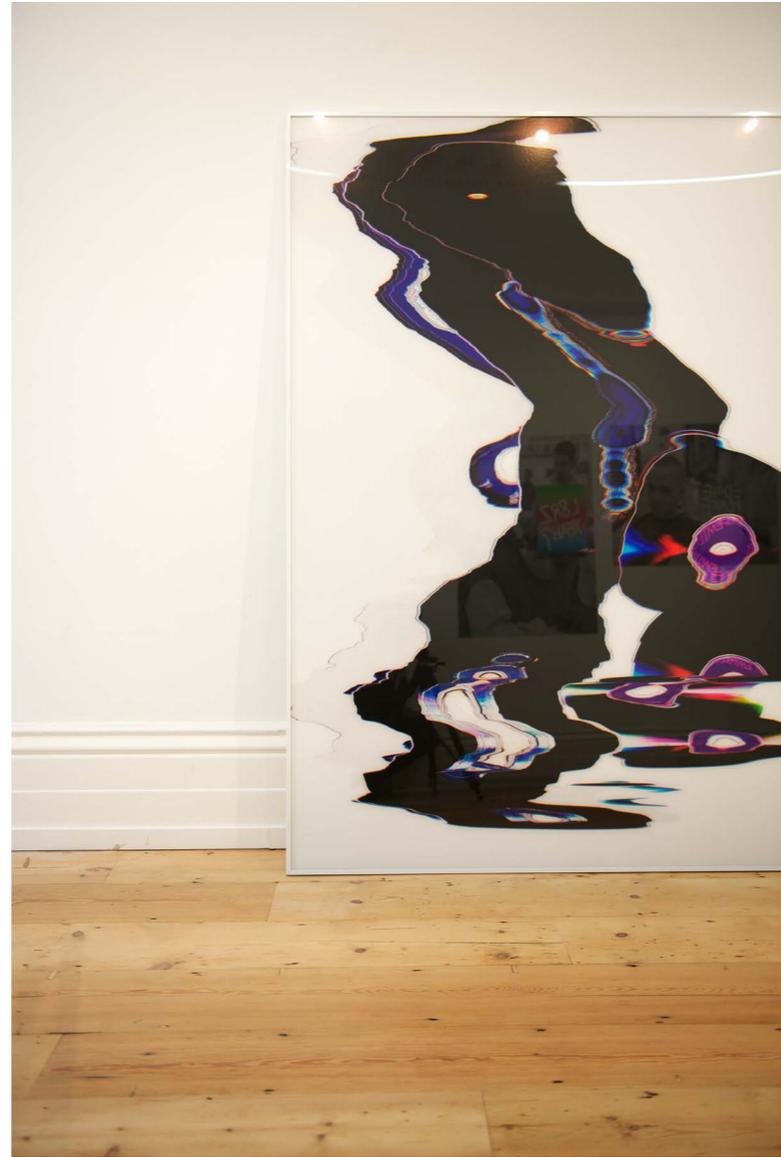


## Conservation



Paul McAnear Architects often work with listed buildings, or buildings in conservation areas, producing extra challenges due to planning restrictions. They work with the existing materials,

restoring important features then juxtaposing contemporary design details against them. They push boundaries to create unique and new, yet beautifully restored buildings.



Art Galleries

**Carl Kostyál Gallery**

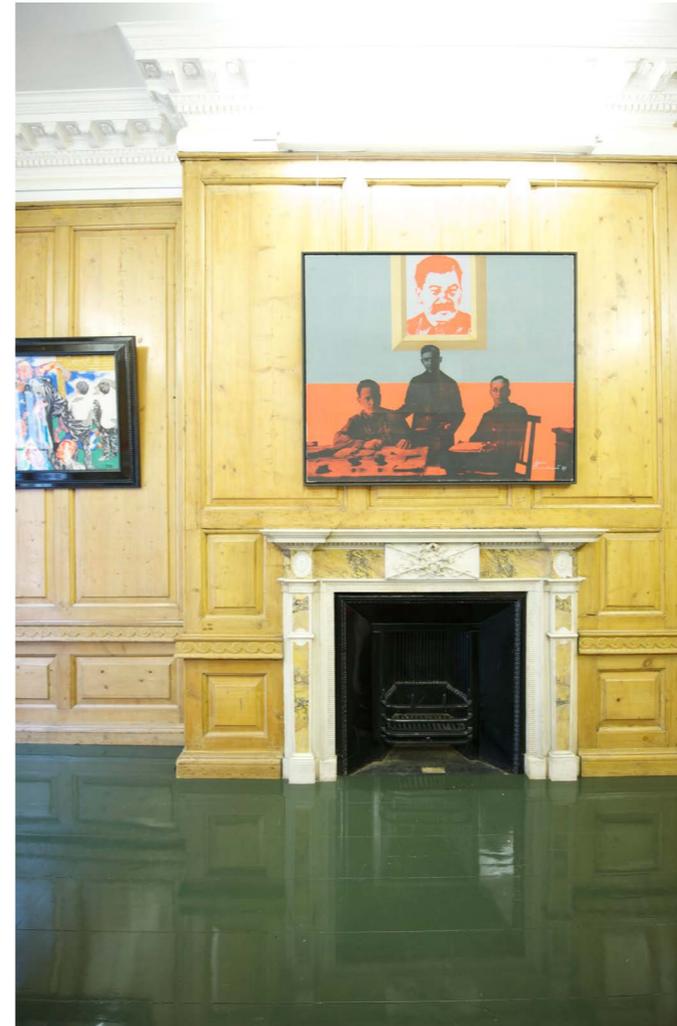
Completion Date: 2011

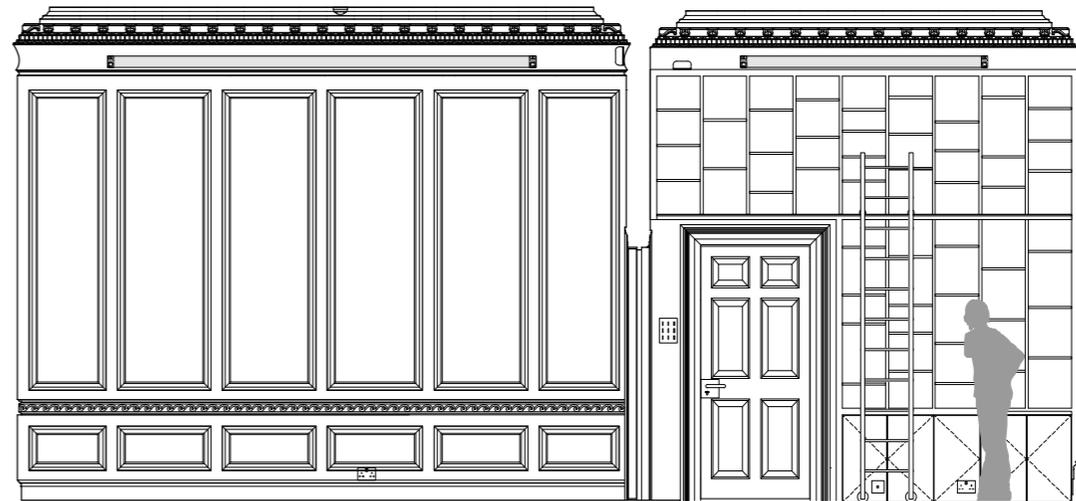
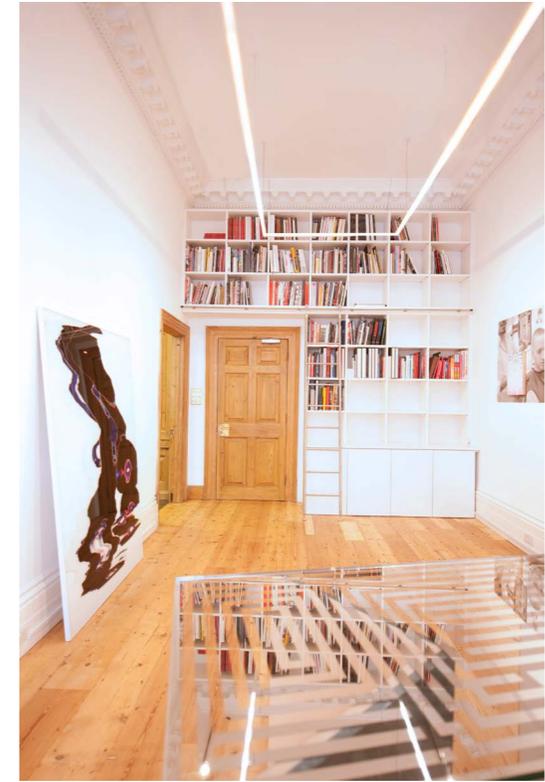
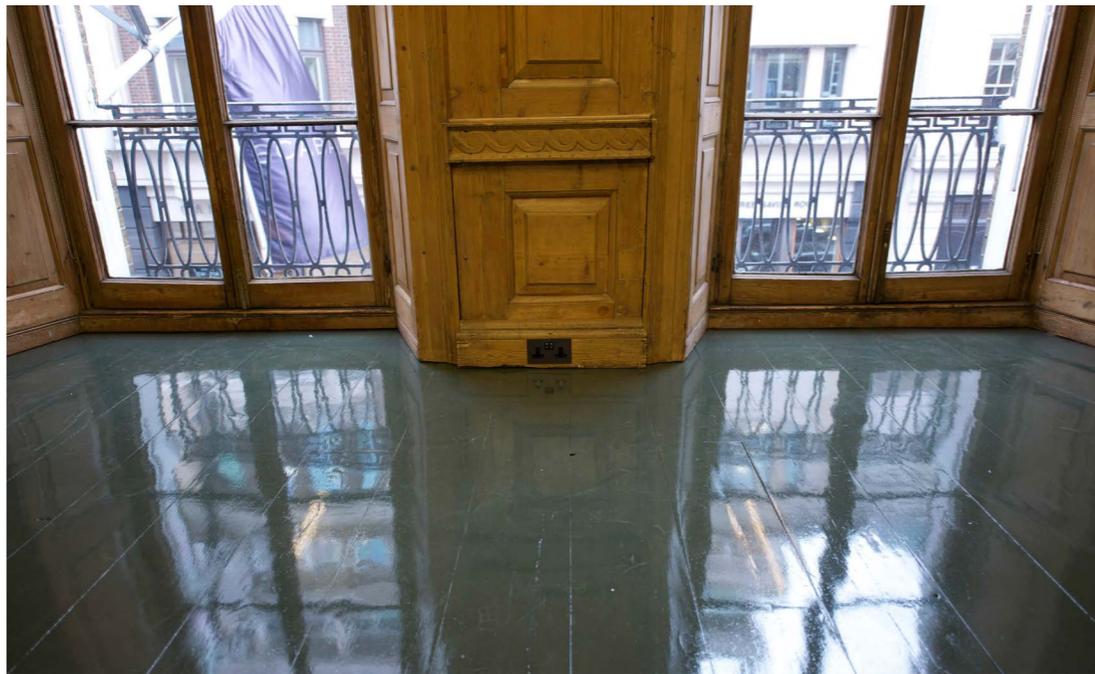
Contract Value: Private

Area: 145 sqm

Location: Savile Row, London

Client: Carl Kostyál





**Institute of Contemporary Arts**

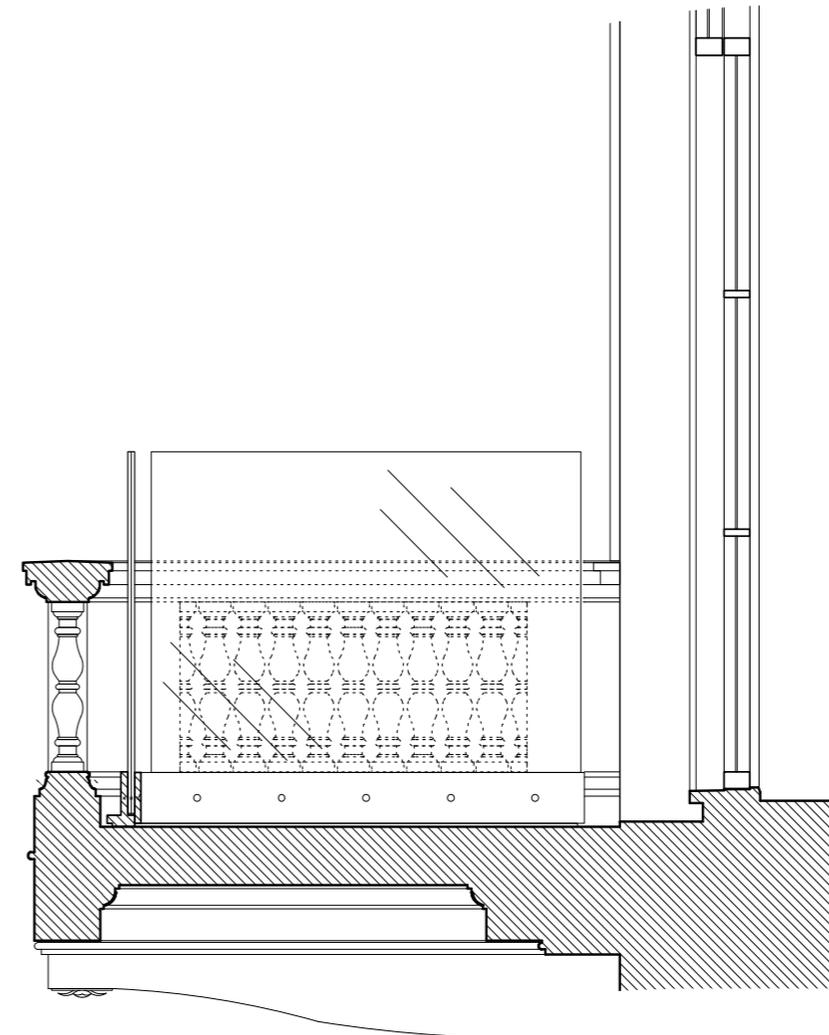
Completion Date: Live

Contract Value: Private

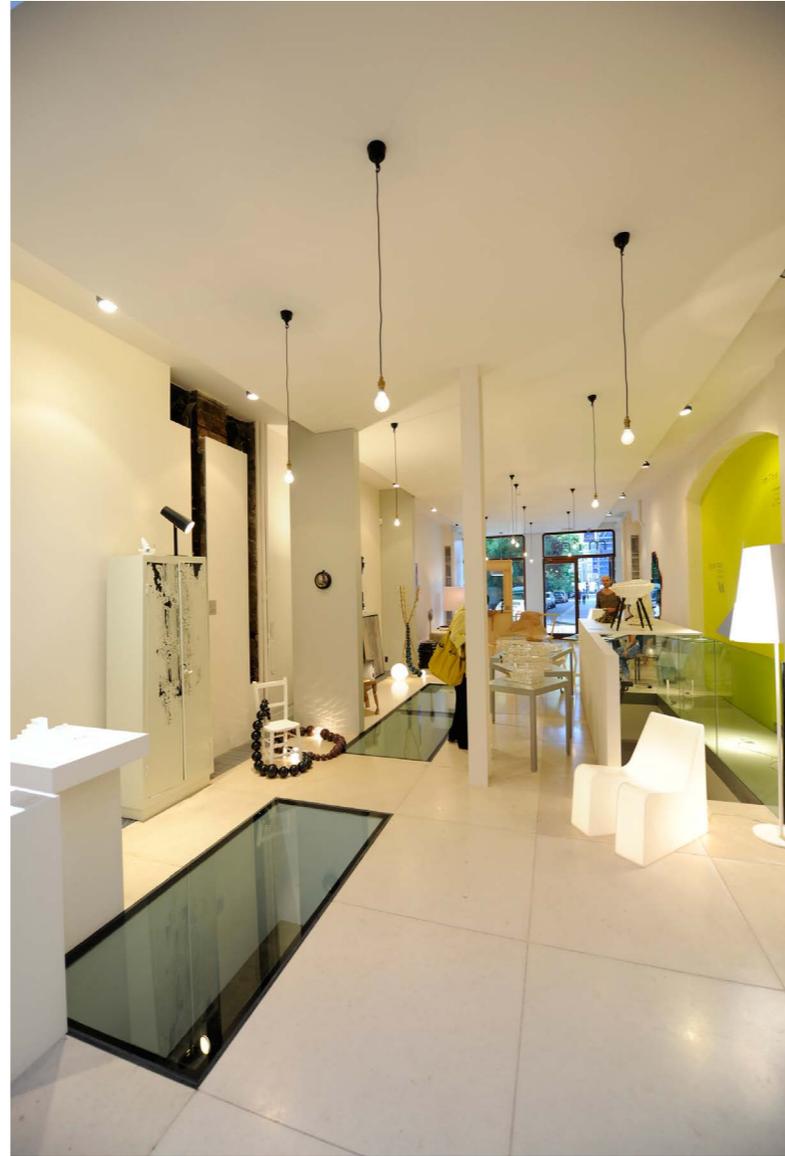
Area: 145 sqm

Location: The Mall, London

Client: Institute of Contemporary Arts



a section through the ICA balcony, crisp, contemporary glass juxtaposed against the restored stone masonry



Boutique Store

**Mint Store**

Completion Date: 2009

Contract Value: £ 200k

Area: 325 sqm

Location: Knightsbridge, London

Client: Lina Kanafani





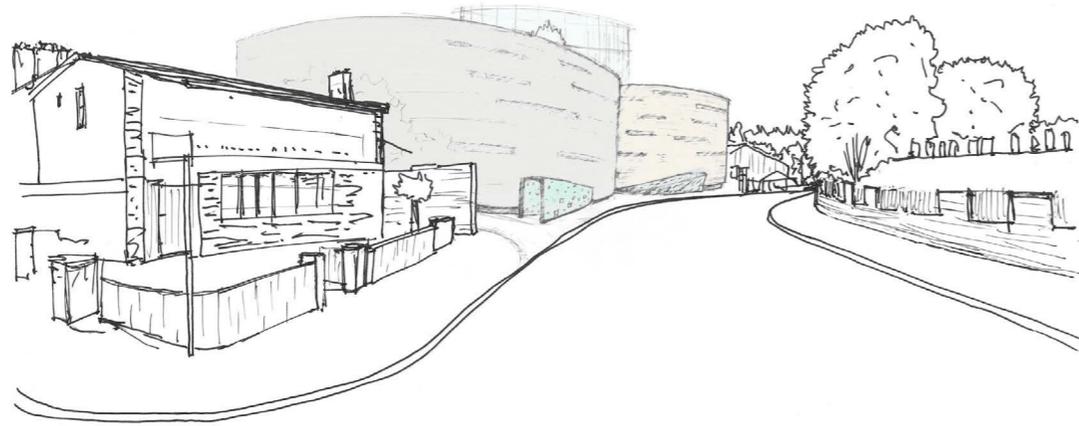
"The most unique dynamic and visionary design store in London," said Max Frazer of Mint in the London Design Guide 2010. Previously, the John Pawson designed Bulthaup kitchen showroom occupied the building's ground floor. Coincidentally Paul McAneary worked for Pawson before he established his studio 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. 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.



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.



### Expo West Belfast Competition

Location: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Client: The Northern Ireland Department for Social  
Development Belfast Regeneration Office



## Mixed use development

The Expo West Belfast Competition is for proposals to regenerate the former site of a security facility in an area of Belfast that has witnessed the worst effects of the Northern Ireland's political conflict.

**Innercity Affordable Housing**

Completion Date: 2010

Contract Value: £ 150k

Area: 336 sqm

Location: Central London

Client: Private



Offices

**Chariot Oil and Gas Office**

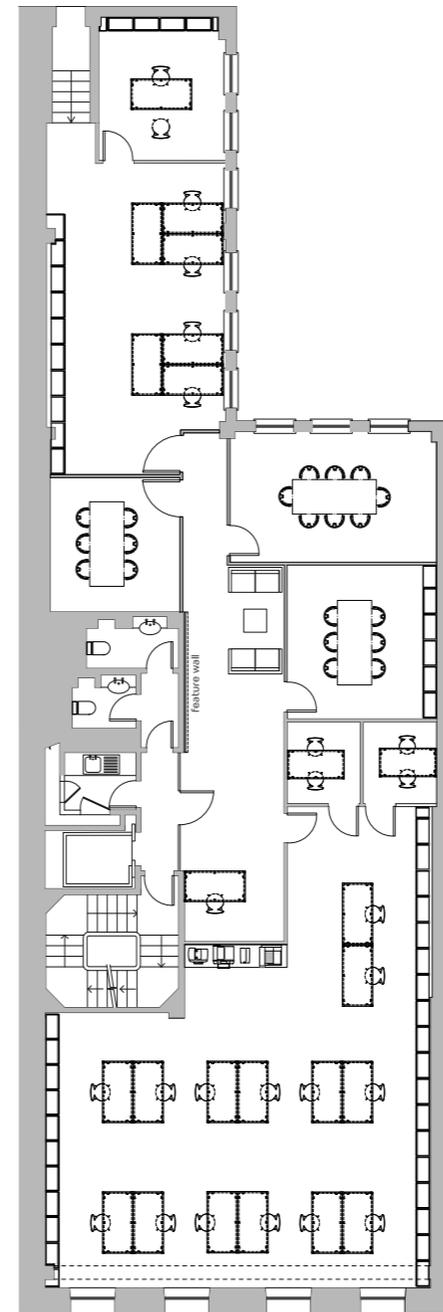
Completion Date: 2010

Contract Value: Private

Area: 276 sqm

Location: Mayfair, London

Client: 36 Dover Street Ltd





This project was developed for a minerals company in Mayfair, London. The company mines various precious and semi-precious stones, elements and fuels. All are extracted, so this key feature wall in the company is conceptually a vertical section through the earth- with evident striations. Natural

slate was employed to achieve 7 different surface treatments, all emphasised by a bespoke, special continuous high power LED linear down lighter pushing the mineral layer concept to the maximum expression.

### Merchant Bridge Office

Completion Date: 2009

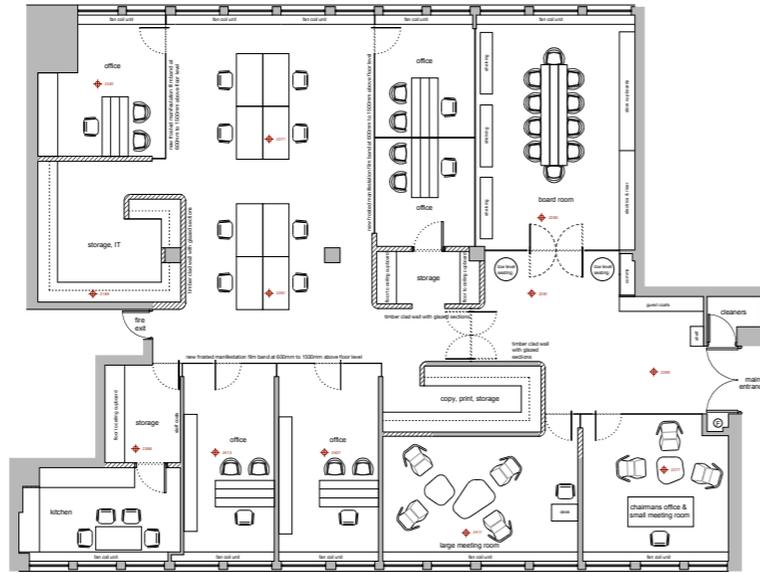
Contract Value: 150k

Area: 316sqm

Location: Knightsbridge, London

Client: Merchant Bridge





**KITCHENS  
BEDROOMS &  
BATHROOMS**

"With such inspiring creativity and the ability to push ideas beyond the boundaries of convention it's no wonder that Paul McAneary Architects' concept for this incredible project not only won the pitch but also scooped the Living Space Design of the Year Award."

**Alison Nicholls, Kitchens Bedrooms & Bathrooms, February 2012**

**HOUSE  
& GARDEN**

"He embraces the rigours of minimalism, and for him, perfection is all."

**Judith Wilson, House & Garden, January 2012**

**Ideal Home**

"To create an indoor-outdoor space more in keeping with Kent's New Zealand roots, he hired Paul McAneary Architects Ltd, who created the most adventurous design they could within planning rules."

**Luke Trebutt, Ideal Home, January 2012**

**designer**

"An unprecedented second successive category win for Paul McAneary Architects was secured with Tex-Tonic House 1...this is a breathtaking space that won the judges vote for Living Space Design of the Year in what was a particularly strong crop of shortlisted entries this year."

**Martin Allen-Smith, Designer Magazine, October 2011**

**GRAND  
DESIGNS**

"Wooden Wonder. Here's a no-holds-barred project that's proof of the potential of wood. Designed by London-based practice Paul McAneary Architects, it's been shortlisted for the Wood Awards 2011, and no wonder."

**Sarah Baldwin, Grand Designs, September 2011**

**Wallpaper\***

"From the outside, Paul McAneary Architects's Tex-Tonic House is a subtle addition to London's roofscape. ....McAneary, who once worked in John Pawson's office, has tackled the client's demands with gusto."

**Jonathan Bell, Wallpaper, August 2011**

**LONDON  
DESIGN GUIDE**

"By no exaggeration, Mint is the most unique dynamic and visionary design store in London."

**Max Frazer, London Design Guide 2010**

**LD**

"The space was treated to become functional at the same time as beautiful and in connection with all the elements of the house. The use of natural materials gives a cosy and modern look"

**Carolina Calzada, SBID Awards 2010**

**Press**

"The simplicity of the lay-out, the honest quality finishing, openness, flow of natural and perceptive light, efficient use of vast space with simplistic but bold features is a dream come true."

**Private client Tex-Tonic House 1 & 2, Victoria, London**

"Many people have congratulated us on the renovation and made very positive comments on the architects' work. Most importantly, the design has achieved to make this house become our home and to somehow be an expression of our personalities."

**Natalie Sahrā-Naward, client, 15°Off-White House, Holland Park, London**

"Paul is a highly competent architect who balances strong technical ability, creativity and people skills."

**Jason Godwin, client, France**

"Paul came up with some wonderful ideas for my London home, sourced and managed all contractors extremely well, and ensured that every detail of the project was completed to the highest standard, on time and within budget."

**Sean Ramsden, client, Glass House, Shad Thames, London**

"With his understanding of space, eye for detail and knowledge of materials, Paul transformed my flat into an intelligent and timeless environment."

**Private client, Notting Hill, West London**

"Paul McAneary and his team brought not only the expected dedication to detail and technical proficiency but a real can do attitude and personal enthusiasm to the project. Paul translated my thoughts and wishes into an extremely functional, modern, beautiful extension."

**Kent Hoskins, client, Faceted House 1, Hammersmith, London**

"At the outset Paul skilfully extracted and enhanced our initial ideas and translated these into plans. From our first meeting he gave us confidence in his abilities. His sense of space, light and materials resulted in just the right balance between design and practicality."

**Will Waddington, client, Loophouse 1, Brent, North West London**

"You would find it hard to come across a more passionate professional in his area."

**David Salvoni, client, North London**

## Clients' References



**Faceted House 1**

**Winner**

'Living Space Design of the Year'

Design Awards 2010



**Winner**

'Space Planning Category'

SBID International Design Awards 2012



**Tex-Tonic House**

**Winner**

'Living Space Design of the Year'

Design Awards 2011



**Finalist**

Structural Category

Wood Awards 2011



**Tortoise Enclosure**

**Highly Commended**

Surface Design Awards 2013



**BD Dyson Airblade**

**Winner**

Washroom Competition 2010



**Paul McAneary Architects Ltd**

**Shortlisted**

'Young Architect of the Year 2011'

## Awards

**Exhibitions**



NLA  
'Dont Move, Improve!' 2010 & 2012  
Faceted House 1 & Tex-Tonic House 1



Architect Foundation  
'Young Architect of the Year 2011'  
Tex-Tonic House 1

**Lectures**



Institute of Contemporary Arts  
London 2009  
'Paul McAneary Architects'



Pecha Kucha  
Belfast 2009  
'Love Hate Doing'



Izmir University, Department of Architecture  
Turkey 2011  
'Paul McAneary Architects'



EcoBuild 2012  
UK 2012  
'Natural Materials; Elegant Style'



the PMA team outside their Flitcroft Street office



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