

**SPACE**



# What lies behind

From the front, it's a 30s suburban semi, but the back has been transformed into a four-storey confection of timber and glass. Photographs by Neil Bridge







One year ago, this 30s semi in suburban north London was a collection of dark, boxy rooms over two storeys – two reception rooms, four bedrooms and one bathroom. The owners wanted a lighter house with a larger kitchen, an extra bedroom and bathrooms, and better links between the house and garden. Architect Martyn Clarke designed an open-plan space stretching from the entrance hall through to the garden, making the most of the views over playing fields. Oak flooring throughout helps the spaces flow together. He created a light-filled kitchen with floor-to-ceiling windows, and an adjacent dining room with an outside deck, accessed via a retractable glazed screen, and with steps leading to the garden. The garden can also be reached through the new lower-level playroom. Clarke has also converted the attic space to create a fifth bedroom. The project was completed in six months: what was once a creeper-covered brick rear is now a four-storey, contemporary exterior. [martynclarkearchitecture.com](http://martynclarkearchitecture.com)



Let there be light (clockwise from top left): The view from the hall to the garden; the kitchen, with glass roof and walls; the dining room's retractable screen leads on to a deck