

The Pilot's House

Architect

AR Design Studio

Calpe House

20 Little Minster Street,

Winchester,

SO23 9HB, UK

www.ardesignstudio.co.uk

https://twitter.com/ARDesign_Studio

<https://www.instagram.com/ardesignstudio/>

Photographer

Martin Gardner www.martingardner.com

Size

Existing- GIA 375sqm

Extension- GIA 170sqm

Total- GIA 545sqm

Contractors and Suppliers

Contractor- Blue Fish Construction Ltd

AV- Pure Home Technology

Swimming Pool- Origin Pools

Tiles- Stone and Ceramic Warehouse

Bathroom Furniture- Bathroom Warehouse Winchester

Kitchen- Designspace London

Awards

Shortlisted for AJ Retrofit Awards 2016- 'Retrofit House Award Over £500,000'

Description

Built in the mid-19th century, The Pilot's House was one of the original 'Winchester Villas'; a collection of family homes built for the wealthy and located close to England's oldest school, Winchester College. Built using fine brick-work and flint masonry, the houses were an exquisite example of a grand family home.

Jumping ahead by nearly two hundred years, a married couple facing Winchester's soaring house prices and in search of a family home for their four children and dog, stumbled upon the house in a sorry state of disrepair. Seeing the potential to restore it back to its former glory they knew they had to purchase it. Occupied with Department of Health and Social Services tenants, the house had a myriad of damp and oddly shaped rooms that had unceremoniously been arranged to maximise occupancy with little care to the quality of the living space or respect to the old home. The roof was also leaky and close to disrepair.

AR Design Studio was approached by the clients with a brief to return the home to its original splendour and add a 21st Century twist. As well as finely detailed conservation and restoration, the clients were keen to add a modern open-plan living space and an indoor swimming pool. As experts in both restoration and contemporary design, AR Design Studio were the perfect architects to undertake the work and proposed a scheme that would give the clients the family home that they had always dreamed of whilst making their mark on the house with a modern enhancement.

The Victorian-era rooms were inconsiderate of the way in which we live today, so without wanting to disrupt the original layout too much, AR Design Studio proposed a large open-plan living space that would allow the family to make the most of their time together. Adjacent to this space, the indoor swimming pool is a further addition that has become a firm favourite with friends and family for gatherings to suit all ages. The whole extension is covered by a familiar pitched roof that runs away from the rear of the house and elegantly reaches east towards the ancient boundary wall and the rising sun. Informed by the buildings traditional gables and clad in anthracite zinc to tie in with the building's slate tiles, the new aspect is a contemporary nod towards the old building's identity. Absorbed in to the garden, the scheme now has a connection to its naturally sloping site. Making the most of this landscape, AR Design Studio included a theme of full-width steps which flow from the garden through the house and into the private courtyard, reducing a visual mass and helping to zone the new spaces whilst responsibly dealing with the changes in level. A further expression of the stepped landscape are the two additional roofs above the living space which help to reduce the contrasting appearance and blur the boundary between the old and the new. The entire southern façade of the extension is glazed and then shaded by an overhanging canopy supported by a colonnade that expresses the form of the new extension and evokes a feeling of grandeur.

The Pilot's House is now a home with a transcendence quality. The clients have finally found a place to capture a feeling of calm and enjoy the spacious family life that they had always dreamed of.

Client Testimonial

"Andy and the team at AR Design Studio have provided us with a place that we are truly delighted to call our home. Knowing they had the skills and vision to restore our crumbling old house yet add a contemporary twist was the reason why we chose them as our architects.

For me, the exciting part of the project was marrying the old house with the new extension and the result is far better than we ever imagined. The new spaces really help us to spend time together as a family and the swimming pool extension has transformed our house into the place to be for the kids and their friends; I think we win best party house in Winchester too!"

[AR Design Studio](#) is a RIBA chartered architects practice, based in Winchester, Hampshire, specialising in elegant and imaginative contemporary [new homes](#), [extensions](#), [renovations](#) and [multi-plot developments](#). AR Design Studio's architectural expertise and flair has been recognised by winning a number of prestigious industry awards including the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 2012 [Regional Award](#), Civic Trust Award, [Daily Telegraph Small House of the Year Award 2014](#) and were shortlisted for BD House Architect of the Year 2014. With a comprehensive knowledge of planning, AR Design Studio has built a stunning portfolio of completed residential projects. It is a specialist designer of [waterfront homes](#).

For further information contact info@ardesignstudio.co.uk

