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EXTENSIONS

Major update Changing the shape of the house with an extension is another possibility which, if done properly, can add substantially to the value of your property – not only because it provides extra space, but also because, for instance, it can make sense of the layout of the entire house and lift it into another league. An extension by Belsize architects transformed this house in Highgate, below and right, from a 1960s horror. Always seek good design advice for a project such as this – a poorly constructed extension can make an ugly house worse.

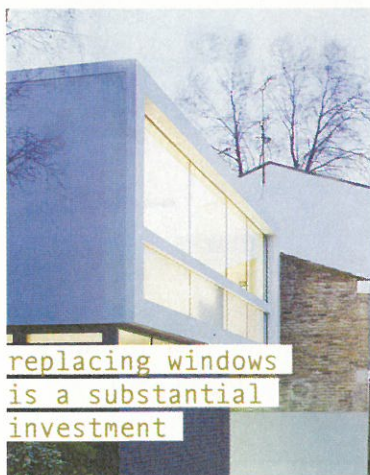


an extension can lift your home into another league



GARAGE DOOR AND DRIVEWAY

Basic update It might be time to abandon that motorway-looking tarmac drive or stand-out garage door colour. For driveways, gravel is a cheap and easy way to update a tired looking entranceway. For a more permanent solution, or on steep slopes, a resin-bound system – whereby gravel is actually stuck to the surface – is an attractive alternative. For a smart garage door, follow the same rules as for a front door (see opposite).



replacing windows is a substantial investment

WINDOWS

Major update Neither the 1960s, the 1970s nor the 1980s were good decades for windows, and many houses from that era suffer from vast but not very attractive fenestration that simply looks out-of-date. Worse still, many windows were replaced with uPVC versions of the same, which date the house in an even more ghastly way than the originals. Replacing windows is a substantial investment and the design decision shouldn't be trusted to a firm plucked out of the local telephone directory – use a proper design company.



consider cladding or rendering your exterior



CLADDING

Major update According to Yolande Hesse of Back to Front Exterior Design, the New England look of cladding on the front of houses is very popular. Many architectural projects will feature unusual, appealing woods such as cedar; some projects are even clad in metal. Cladding adds character and interest to a bland house. This can further be enhanced with new windows.

Cladding is also a great unifier, especially for disjointed houses that have been added to piecemeal over a number of eras. Render can play a similar cosmetic role, evening out surfaces and adding colour, as in the house, left, by architect Tony Fretten. o

THE PROJECT

ANY QUESTIONS

OPINION

THE MARKET

PROPERTY

BIG PURCHASE

WIN

SOURCE