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Contemporary Architecture Practice of the Year 2018 – London Best Residential Extension Design Project: Maury Road, Hackney

PLANSTUDIO ARCHITECTURE

P.LANSTUDIO is an innovative London based architectural studio specialising in refurbishment, conversions, extensions as well as new build.

rawing on its team's expertise, P.LANSTUDIO offers allround skills and service to its clients. To deliver high-quality
architecture, the continuity of the idea and the project team
from the initial design inception sketches to construction
on site is key. For that reason, many of the firm's clients engage the
practice not only at the design stage, but also appoint it to oversee the
works on site.

The practice is led by Peter Lancaric, who has been practicing architecture for over 15 years and has a track record of award winning projects. Before founding P.LANSTUDIO, Peter worked as an Associate Director with a leading architectural practice where he developed a robust understanding of building structures and a keen eye for detail. His rich experience in running high-profile projects for corporate clients has transpired into the structured and well-organised approach to every project that P.LANSTUDIO is involved in, always aiming to exceed the clients' expectations.

From the beginning of every project, the practice is very open-minded in its approach to the client brief and focuses on what the client's needs and aspirations are. With their very personable approach, the team always work very closely with the client and end user to ensure that they deliver creative and innovative, yet pragmatic design solutions.

Among the firm's core strengths is its technical knowledge and ability to consider buildability and detailing from early concept design. The team at PLANSTUDIO pride themselves in their attention to detail, which very often makes the difference between mediocre and excellent architecture.

Collaboration is key to the firm's success, as the company works to ensure that it creates unique projects. Working closely with the planning authorities and engaging them in the design process helps the team to streamline the determination process and secure planning

permissions. It also enables the planning authorities to bring forward projects that enhance the urban fabric. This is of particular importance when the projects are located in conservation areas. P.LANSTUDIO's portfolio features a number of contemporary schemes delivered within conservation areas, which have received support from the local planning authority and have been praised as enhancements of the overall area's character.











The project at Maury Road is a prime example of P.LANSTUDIO's skill to deliver contemporary interventions within the existing context. It is a striking kitchen extension to a terraced house located in the Northwold and Cazenove Conservation Area in Hackney. The conservation area location meant that only high quality design would be acceptable to the local planning authority. Made entirely of frameless glass, this new addition to the original house creates a seamless connection between the inside and the outside. The minimal frameless glass structure was chosen so that the views from the existing windows at the rear of the house would remain unobstructed and continue enjoying the views of the garden and benefit from the daylight coming in. In addition, being made entirely of glass, the new structure sits inconspicuously against the original building.

The removal of the existing loadbearing walls required new steel frames to be installed. These had been designed to be fully disguised within the building fabric, avoiding unsightly down stands and bulkheads often seen in similar extension projects. The integration of the perfectly engineered glass panels into the existing structure required careful design coordination to ensure that elegant and precise details were achieved. This was aided not only by thought-out design

documentation, but also by **P.LANS**TUDIO's involvement during the delivery of the project on site.

The result is a light-filled, smart and contemporary addition to the existing property. Veneered kitchen units with white worktops are complemented with concrete effect floor tiles, which seamlessly flow out into the garden. The entirely glazed structure blends the boundary between the inside and the outside, creating a sense of al-fresco dining throughout the year.

Having gone from strength to strength over recent years, **P.LAN**STUDIO has a bright future ahead of it. Several of the practice's projects secured planning consents recently, and as such the team will be looking to deliver these on site this and next year.

To further enhance its success, the practice's team is expanding and the recent move into a new studio in Hackney Wick will create further opportunities for growth. PLANSTUDIO's reputation helps the firm to secure a consistent workload, mainly through recommendations from past clients, which is testimony to the level of excellence that the firm has provided, and will continue to provide over the coming years.