

The house now has one room in the attic and five on the ground floor: a living room, snug, two bedrooms and a study. It also has a sedum roof to encourage biodiversity



EXTENSION PROJECT

Energy saver

IAN MCMILLAN OF CHAMBERS MCMILLAN ARCHITECTS IMPROVED THE LAYOUT AND ENERGY RATING OF THIS COLD, NORTH FACING BUNGALOW



BEFORE

HOME NOTES

HOMEOWNERS

John and Susan Yates live here, both are in their fifties.

PROPERTY

A two-bedroom 1930s brick and white rendered bungalow.

ARCHITECT


Chambers McMillan
cmcarchitects.com

CONTRACTOR

Orocco
orocco.co.uk

TOTAL COST

£227,000



The exposed steelwork in the ceiling and posts have been painted in the same mustard colour to add to the colourful character of this space

THE PROBLEM

The layout was awkward, the whole house was dark and cold and had a poor energy performance (EPC) rating

THE SOLUTION

'The house is on a north-facing sloped site,' says Ian McMillan, co-founder of Chambers McMillan Architects, 'and the back garden was overshadowed by the building itself, so we came up with the concept of designing a long kitchen and dining extension out into the garden, which catches afternoon and evening sun. From the new front door, a

15m linear rooflight draws you into the garden, and brings in light to all parts of the new building. The house was uninsulated and had a poor EPC rating, so we suggested fully insulating it and chose energy-efficient InfraRed heating panels combined with photovoltaic solar panels on the roof and a home energy battery. The sliding doors to the extension and large attic and bedroom windows,

along with the rooflight, have created a light-filled home, despite it being north facing. The owners say that "when you walk in, the light from the skylight just hits you and lights up the colours on the walls, which is the icing on the cake". Now, when family come to stay, the house can comfortably accommodate seven people (in the two bedrooms, as well as the snug and study), which is great for a house of this size.'

FOCUS ON OVERSIZED ROOFLIGHTS

Ian McMillan, co-founder of Chambers McMillan Architects, gives us the lowdown

1 SIZE MATTERS

The standard size of oversized is 1m x 3m. Above 3m in length you need to have silicone joints between the glazing units.

2 GO LONG AND COMPROMISE

For longer units, you'll have to decide whether to remove or retain structural elements.

3 THINK ABOUT ANGLES

The units can be flat, but remember that rain is never 'clear', and will leave

deposits on the flat glass. Try sloping it at 10 degrees.

4 CHOOSE KEY POSITIONS

Try placing your rooflights along circulation paths, or at the entrance, which gives maximum impact and wow factor.

5 MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

Think about integrating the internal upstand of the rooflight with interior lighting, or a colour to work with sky blue, or using mirrors to accentuate the length.



Rather than add a bedroom, the couple chose to create this relaxed living space, which opens out onto views of Edinburgh



High performance, frameless bespoke glazing was used, along with internal wall and underfloor insulation

“Creating a space with lots of light in a north-facing property has been the most rewarding aspect of this design project”

IAN MCMILLAN, CHAMBERS MCMILLAN ARCHITECTS