



Having lived in a large Victorian flat with high ceilings, Chris and Sue Baldock found the smaller proportions and reduced natural light somewhat disappointing when they moved in to their 1930s mock-Tudor home in 1999. The Baldocks, both former dancers, run the Italia Conti Associate School in Yurbridge Wells. "I was expecting our daughter Bella at the time," says Sue, "and we wanted a house and garden. This house was basic and in good condition, but I could see its potential to be extended at some point." Downstairs, the dining and living rooms had been knocked into one, and there was a small kitchen and a conservatory at the back. The front of the house, with its leaded lights and original solid oak front door, had barely changed since the day it was built.

RUNNING OUT OF SPACE

"Five years after we moved in, we eventually decided that we needed more space," says Sue, "but as local house prices had shot up dramatically, we felt that extending our home was a far better option than trying to move to a larger one." Initially, the couple wanted to expand to the side. Planning regulations, however, dictated that any new building work would have to match the style of the property. "I wanted a very contemporary, open look," says Sue, adding, "we wanted more space downstairs and we also wanted something useful with the large attic."

Despite contacting several local architects, none came up with a solution acceptable to the couple. Then, having seen a magazine feature about a house extended by the architectural practice of William Turner, the Baldocks asked him to visit.

LEFT Glass doors by J. Kalfus, 0788 540000; hallway console can side table by Greg Sumner; brass address sign. The table and bench by Jane Heigra, 020 8482 3900; new heights.co.uk; and chairs by Habitat, 0844 499 0111; habitat.net; work with the victors.

OUTWARDS & UPWARDS

In the mock-Tudor home of Chris and Sue Baldock, a temporary rear extension and new attic rooms give the family extra space at no to the original architecture

"... a generous, airy space" "...increased the value of the property" "...quality of life greatly improved"

The proposed design was to extend the house at ground and roof levels. The attic space would be opened up to create a bedroom and an en suite bathroom, with a bespoke staircase lit from a skylight above linking the first floor to the attic. Downstairs, the back of the house would be entirely opened up and extended to form an open-plan kitchen-cum dining-and-living area.



and what we knew we didn't need to keep the gain away to charity shops or sold at car boot sale!"

INCREASING PROPERTY VALUE

The job exceeded our initial budget but because of the extra cost, we have increased the value of the property, gained extra rooms and space. The quality of life has greatly improved. I like the fact that Bella can sit at the dining table as we can chat while I'm cooking, and we can now close off the rooms at the front of the house by drawing the wall-to-door to the hall across.

"Some people say that they don't like open-plan rooms, because they prefer to lock the children away, but I think it is a better way of living; it's so much more relaxing."

What had been dark and poky is now a generous, airy space and the alterations to the house have changed the way that the family lives. "We love informality. When friends come to dinner, I can chat and chat with a glass of wine close to hand," Sue says.

Time to reap 140 for every investment.

INTERIORS SHOPPING ADVICE FOOD TRENDS EXPERTS INSPIRATION

HOMES & GARDENS

DECIDING ON THE DESIGN

"As the Baldocks felt the look of their house wasn't particularly noteworthy, I took my inspiration from 1930s architecture," William Turner explains, "which allowed it to remain sympathetic in both proportion and style."

The proposed design was to extend the house at ground and roof levels. The attic space would be opened up to create a bedroom and an en suite bathroom, with a bespoke staircase lit from a skylight above linking the first floor to the attic. Downstairs, the back of the house would be entirely opened up and extended to form an open-plan kitchen-cum dining-and-living area.

STARTING WORK

The building work involved on the extension, and the inevitable disruption it would entail, meant the family would have to move out of the house for six weeks. "It would have been impossible to live there while steel girders and so on were being installed," says Sue. "We had a major clear-out

A LED Above ceiling sign by Luce Lighting, order in 021 020 7789 1868; approach, admits the new living area at the back of the section.



The grey velvet Charles sofa by R.A.P. Italia, 020 7091 8911; bespoke A, controls with the sink seat belt from Habitat, 0844 499 0111; habitat.net



www.habitat.net; interiorstyle.com; the victors



ABOVE LEFT In the family bathroom at the front of the house, the bath by Kaldewei, 020 8377 1441; Kaldewei.com; a specially designed bath surround space.

ABOVE RIGHT A cream and taupe palette gives this bedroom the original feel of the original extension. The bed, courtesy from Habitat, 0844 499 0111; Habitat.co.uk; and custom stone by Lush at Habitat, 020 8482 3900; new heights.co.uk; and chairs by Habitat, 0844 499 0111; habitat.net; work with the victors.

THIS PICTURE 10th floor glass doors in the which being and produce adds the open-plan atmosphere. The Baldocks, who had planned to move to a larger house, also made a strong visual statement in the attic, painted in bright by Farrow & Ball, 020 7091 8911; f&b.com; and a soft, airy look. The bed, courtesy from Habitat, 0844 499 0111; habitat.net.