

BEST USE OF TIMBER 2015 SHORTLIST

AS PART OF THE ANNUAL RIAS AWARDS SCHEME, FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND AND WOOD FOR GOOD HAVE COMBINED TO SPONSOR A NEW AWARD AIMED AT ENCOURAGING INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE USE OF TIMBER IN NEW BUILDINGS IN SCOTLAND



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Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Architecture & Design Scotland
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

ROSEFIELD

Location: Portobello, Edinburgh
Date Completed: April 2014
Building Type: Private House
Architect: A449 LTD
Client: Format Scotland LTD
Main Contractor: Truebuild Trade Services LTD
Timber Supplier: International Timber

THE PROJECT

The project at Rosefield Avenue Lane is a refurbishment and extension in the conservation area of Portobello. The existing building was converted from a small stable/coach house in the mid 1980's to form a one bedroom dwelling. This project sought to save this deteriorating property and sympathetically extend it to secure its future as a desirable family home for generations to come.

Respecting the character of the building was a priority and the architects aimed to minimise alterations to the principal elevation by retaining as much of the existing massing and working with existing openings as much as was reasonably practicable. Ground floor levels and the limitations that would be placed on the internal layout prohibited the use of the existing garage door as a new entrance so this intervention reinstated the original opening on the south-west elevation to create a new front door. This move substantiated the existing building as the dominant element and rationalised the internal hierarchy. Principal rooms are accessed from a central hallway, and allow the building to work efficiently in plan and section, making the most of the narrow and low existing building.

USE OF TIMBER

Materiality was a key consideration and while the architects wanted to retain and include the existing boundary wall brickwork in the new design, they were conscious that another material added to the palette should give a clear identity to the extension.

When carrying out alterations to any building the architects believe that it is important to allow its story to continue. The larch cladding was chosen not only to distinguish new elements, but also to reference timber stable doors that formed a significant portion of the buildings principal elevation.

Historically this building was also used as a coal merchant's yard, and the blackening of the timber loosely reflects the former life of this unique building.

The decision to scorch the timber was also functional, and will serve to increase the longevity of the larch. A side effect of this is that it also highlights the patterns and texture of the wood grain and each larch batten has a completely different texture to its neighbour.

The use of subtle insertions of matching timber within the existing elevation further harmonises the new and the old and contributes to the building being read as a considered whole.



