

ARCHITECTURE /



MOUNTAIN VIEW

A Disneyland roller coaster inspired this imaginative rework of a south London semi, designed by architecture studio CAN. After seeing images of the fake mountain scenery at the Matterhorn Bobsleds ride in California, studio founder Mat Barnes decided to recreate the effect at his family home. 'I loved the idea of elevating this heavy mountain on an unfeasibly thin structure,' he explains. The result is a glazed extension topped by a rugged peak of foamed aluminium. This playful character continues inside, with half-demolished brick walls, a mosaic-tiled staircase and a kitchen made from recycled chopping boards (can-site.co.uk).

THE BIG PICTURE

How do you design the perfect city? This is the question posed by Danish design laboratory Space10 in its new book, *The Ideal City*. By exploring more than 50 destinations all over the world, from New Orleans to Nairobi, the studio has drawn up a list of key 'ingredients' that make city life great – things like cycle-friendly streetscapes, multigenerational housing and plant-covered buildings. These are used to create a recipe for a city that is desirable, resourceful, shared, accessible and safe. It's a real eye-opener for the future of urban living (Gestalten, £35).



COMMUNITY SERVICE

One of the biggest learnings from the pandemic has been the importance of community spirit. There's plenty of this in London's Fulham, with the opening of the Sands End Arts & Community Centre; a meeting place and a venue for creative expression. Designed by architecture studio Mae, it boasts an interior with an open-air feel, high-level windows, exposed beams and green-toned walls. What's more, over 35 per cent of the structure is made from recycled materials, including bricks created from construction waste (mae.co.uk).

SLIM MARGINS

London studio Selencky Parsons has installed a new four-bedroom house in the middle of an existing Victorian terrace in New Cross. Even though most of the site is just 3.5 metres wide, the Coach House is a cosy family home with a light-filled living room at the rear. Studio co-founder Sam Selencky reveals the opportunities offered by a narrow infill project like this.

Creating moments of interest and delight: Infill houses have the ability to really enhance a street scene. You can create unique and special pieces of architecture that are not constrained by the typical room sizes, proportions and layout of the majority of stock housing.

Finding sustainability: As you are not held back by an existing superstructure, you can employ the latest construction technologies to make the house very efficient and sustainable. And because you are in-between existing buildings, there are fewer walls exposed to the elements, so it is easier and cheaper to keep the building thermally insulated.

Bringing light in: Natural light is a key consideration with infill houses as there is limited façade space to work with. At the Coach House we created a central feature stair with a large rooflight above. This acts as a light well, drawing light deep into the plan and creating an unexpected moment of space and volume. selenckyparsons.com



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