

# TIN HOUSE



Reminiscent of a Mediterranean village, the award-winning Tin House is snugly cocooned by traditional terraced houses in Shepherd's Bush, West London. Designed by Henning Stummel as a new home for his family, this impressive property is the winner of the RIBA London Award in 2016.

The house comprises six interconnected, but distinct pods located around a central courtyard, lending the house a sense of much desired privacy and seclusion. The low-profile design passed planning permission for the consideration of surrounding properties, and with the aid of the cleverly positioned top lighting, giving the residential property its spacious feel.

The property itself features a sequence of interconnected pavilions, each accommodating a uniquely sized and shaped room with pyramidal roofs topped with rooflights that allow in a generous amount of top lighting.

The standing seam roof extends down to the exterior walls, encasing each pod in an earthy red hue. The colour, carefully selected to complement the brick of surrounding houses adds to the fascinating architecture and sets the tone for the experience you can expect within.

The Rooflight Co was involved from the early planning stage, allowing us to co-create the rooflight solutions together with Henning, ensuring the rooflight parameters were feasible whilst achieving the vision. The result, a set of trapezoidal Neo Rooflights positioned directly over each pod fitting with millimeter precision to the contours of each roof.



The final effect is striking, with its minimalistic and clean design drawing well-deserved attention from Channel 4's Grand Designs.

With complicated geometry used throughout the buildings, no two rooflights would be the same. The Rooflight Co came into its own assisting with bespoke planning, templates and 3D models to ensure the windows would fit with the correct tolerances and help the architects to visualise the final design.

Adding to this unique creation, Henning also requested that the rooflights open. The position of the rooflights made them perfect for stack ventilation albeit coming with the added complication of being out of reach. The shape and size of each Neo Rooflight combined with the resulting weight of each casement had a direct impact on the capability of opening these rooflights in one piece. Embracing the challenge, The Rooflight Co devised a motor solution concealed within the frame, to lift or lower each window to the correct opening distance. Concealing the motors ensured the view up through the rooflights from below was unobstructed, maximising light delivery into the living spaces.

Within the bedrooms, blackout blinds were specially developed to the bespoke trapezoidal shape for privacy and light control. This allowed for the versatility of spaces without compromise to the overarching vision.

Externally, the rooflight frames, coloured matched to the RAL 8004, Brick Red standing seam metal cladding, look like purposefully designed 'slices of red steel' as they top each pyramidal structure.

Internally the frameless design of the bespoke Neo Rooflights maximises the viewable opening. The rooflights sit effortlessly into the design making it look like there is almost no window at all and the roof is open to the sky.



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The beauty of natural toplighting means the environment within changes throughout the day, helping the house feel in tune the elements. Gazing up through the rooflights, the Stummel family can feel at one with nature as dawn turns to dusk, creating new shapes with light and shade, as the natural light bounces down into the rooms below.

"It was terribly exciting when the rooflights finally came in and when they were lifted, and we had got onto the adjacent roof and looked down. It was a major milestone in the development of the project when that happened."

"The rooflights were a really important part to help bring the whole project to life".

**Henning Stummel, Henning Stummel Architects**

**Architect:**  
[Henning Stummel Architects](#)

**Awards:**  
2016 Winner RIBA London Award  
2016 Shortlisted World Building of the Year, WAF  
2016 Shortlisted RIBA National House of the Year  
2016 Shortlisted Stephen Lawrence Prize  
2017 House of the Year, AJ Architecture Awards  
2017 Winner Iconic Awards  
2017 Shortlisted BD's Architect of the Year Awards, UK – Individual House

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