

# PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN KEW



The extension to this exquisite private residence in Kew is the great work of Simon Merrony Architects. Unique sawtooth lighting sections consisting of vertical glazing with bespoke Conservation Plateau Rooflights, introduce height and an abundance of light into this open living space.

The client's brief set out their vision for an extension with a sophisticated interpretation of the glazing and roof style of a 1930's factory. The extension would serve as a seamless link between the house and the garden.

A 'secret stair' off the kitchen area gives access to a split-level study above, that overlooks the rooflights on the flat roof. The loft was also converted to provide a whole new floor for a further two bedrooms and bathroom, maximising the footprint of the property.

This private residence is located in the Conservation Area around Kew Station, and therefore necessitated a sympathetic approach to the property, with respect to the surrounding environment. A unique adaptation of the Conservation Plateau Rooflight, with its Victorian style features, such as the angled silicone wedge and exposed hinges, dutifully honoured the land's heritage. The distinctive, fully glazed sawtooth rooflights rest above the open plan kitchen and dining area, creating a focal point in the room. The custom designed and handcrafted Conservation Plateau Rooflights integrate with vertical glazing to form the sawtooth structure.

Combined with the crittal vertical windows in the area below, the architect has achieved a stylish representation of the industrial theme whilst also creating a bright, welcoming space.

Sawtooth roof design was first conceived by British Architect and Engineer, William Fairbairn in 1827, and became a common feature of industrial buildings in the early 20th century. The purpose of this striking design feature was to create the optimum working environment that increased the amount of natural light in the factory whilst being vigilant to comfortable heating levels.

Simon Merrony's clever interpretation of this design sees glazing on both the pitched and vertical faces. To realise this vision, our design team collaborated with Simon from an early project stage to encapsulate the essence of the vision into reality. Structural engineer, Quorum were also on hand to support with ensuring the final design was both beautiful and robust.

The result - two bespoke Conservation Plateau Rooflights that feature a customized base frame structure, designed to align with the kerb and vertical glazing. The base frames include additional upstand and abutment detailing to ensure complete weather-tightness for this tailor-made installation.

Balancing the elements, the kitchen and dining space benefits from plenty of natural light and the optimum level of comfort in heating levels, through the use of carefully selected glazing specifications. An 8mm Cool-Lite outer glazing panel is teamed with an 8.8mm laminated inner pane for both solar control and thermal performance qualities. The chosen glazing specification achieves a G-value 0.36 and a light transmission of 68%, meeting the solar control needs.

The final overall effect of this private residence is striking. The composition of the extension has been carefully considered with proportions and placement enhancing the interior finish. The natural light from above creates movement in the room as light changes throughout the day, resulting in a dynamic space, and an impactful focal point in the room.



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"Having worked with The Rooflight Co before on a project to create a bespoke rooflight that sat seamlessly amongst solar panels, we knew that their team would be able to provide the expertise and product that we needed."

**Simon Merrony, Simon Merrony Architects**

**Architectural Designers:**  
[Simon Merrony Architects](#)

**Contractor:**  
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