

# LIGHT, CONNECTION AND HERITAGE

Westwind:  
a sympathetic  
renovation in  
South-West London

**VELUX®**





# AN EVOLVING SPACE WITH FIXED IDEALS

You could say that Madeleine Kivell's home, Westwind, is a proving ground for Sennen Studio, the London-based architectural practice she founded in 2023.

Through Sennen Studio, Madeleine delivers thoughtful designs that create timeless transformations, specialising in residential extensions, renovations and interior designs. Her own home is no exception.

This semi-detached Edwardian house became the ideal canvas to bring her vision of an integrated, light-filled family home to life: making use of flow and connection to create a space that provides as much opportunity for spending time together as it does for peace and solitude.

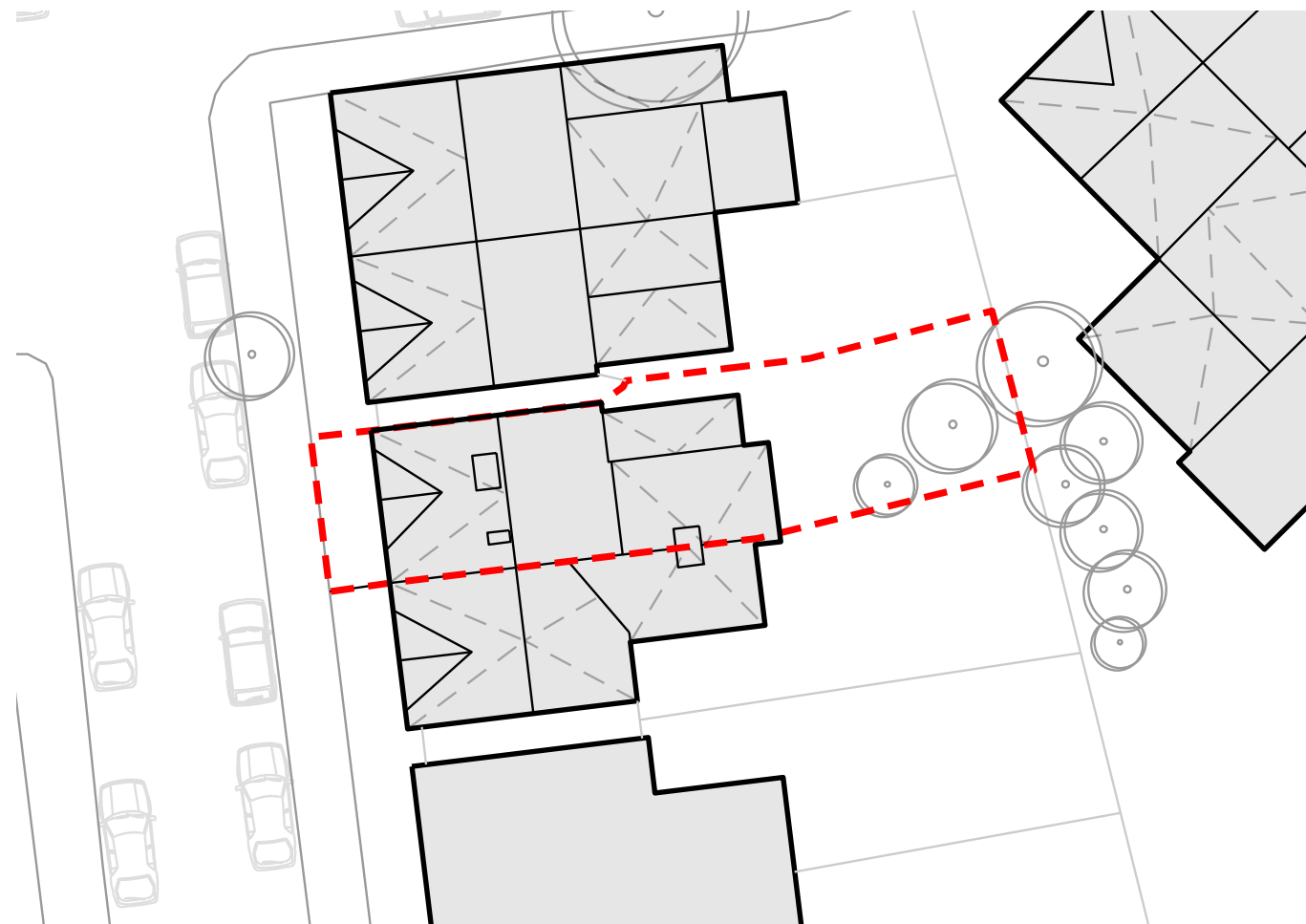




Richmond Upon Thames is one of London's most prestigious and attractive boroughs, with stunning green spaces and riverside views. The area is also rich in beautiful Edwardian homes and buildings, full of character and airy, light-filled rooms.

Sennen Studio is rooted in the Scandinavian design principles of simplicity, warmth and functionality. Madeleine believes a home should reflect the lives of the people inside and be able to evolve as their functional and aesthetic requirements change. She has captured that philosophy beautifully in her own residence.

The project of renovating and extending the property in South-West London was inspired by the needs of her young family: creating a space that could be adapted to the changing demands of the household.





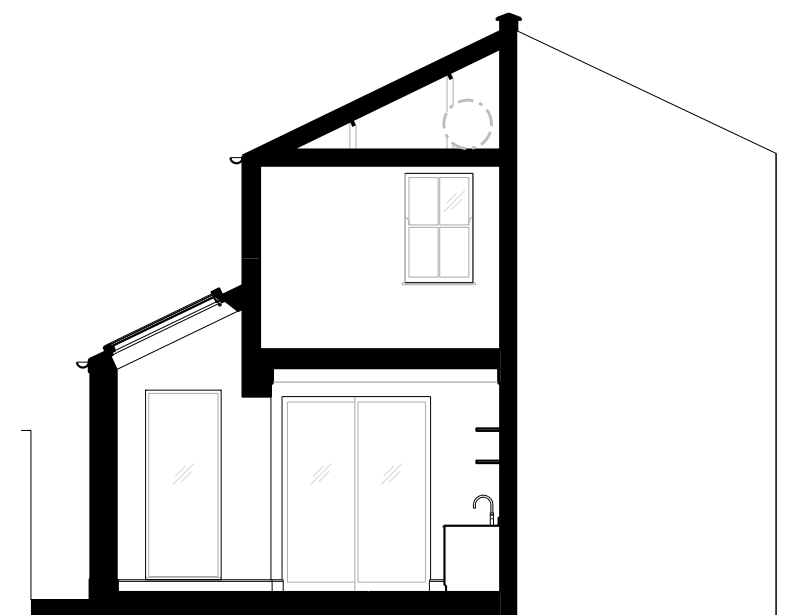


## LIGHT, SPACE AND THE ROLE OF ROOF WINDOWS

One aim of the redesign was to create calmness, openness and light, which made VELUX roof windows the obvious choice.

**“VELUX roof windows are a product that I know very well from being in many houses in Denmark. But they work really well in the UK, especially in the context of side return extensions. And being indoors a lot and still enjoying that boost of daylight, I think that’s really important.”**

Madeleine Kivell, Architect and Homeowner



Multiple VELUX roof windows sit over the kitchen in the new extension, creating a lightbox effect without sacrificing the valuable privacy that is crucial on projects with directly adjoining neighbours.

**“For me, natural light is like water or air. My designs aim to encourage people to celebrate daylight as much as they can.”**

Madeleine Kivell, Architect and Homeowner



**"I'm always happy to walk into the kitchen, it's full of light and I always see the outside, even if it's a grey day."**

Madeleine Kivell,  
Architect and Homeowner



## A LIVING SPACE, IN EVERY SENSE

**“Ultimately, the value of  
a good architect is if you  
really use your intuition  
and your knowledge.”**

Madeleine Kivell, Architect  
and Homeowner

For Madeleine, the real test of her home, and her architectural ethos, comes in the ordinary moments of daily life. As both client and architect, she designed every corner of her home to support the changing patterns of family life, and now she gets to experience the results first-hand.

One of her favourite spaces is the open-plan kitchen, which sits beneath the bank of three VELUX roof windows that flood the room with light.

The layout of the kitchen was deliberately planned around the family's everyday habits, from the placement of the dishwasher to the intuitive flow between fridge, pantry and prep space.

It's in these efficiencies that the essence of Sennen is most visible: a considered, process-driven approach that makes space for joy, creativity and connection.

The kitchen is a place that brings clarity and calm to the day. “As a Swede, I see a lot of joy in seasons changing,” she says. “In the summer, the kitchen and the terrace become very much one space. It gets the morning sunlight, so we quite often have breakfast inside and coffee on the terrace after.”

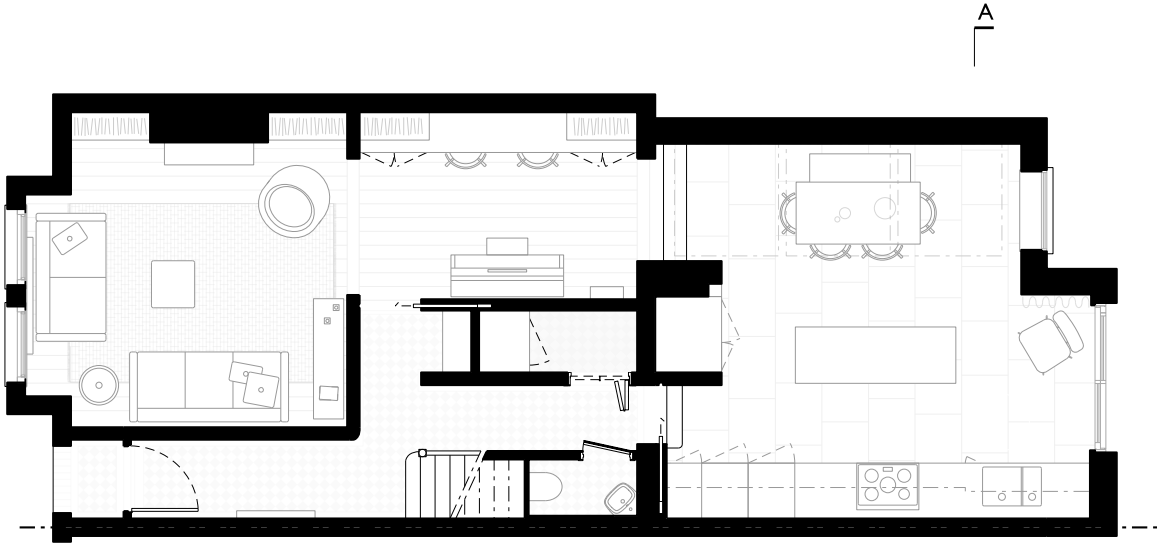






# STYLE AND UTILITY IN HARMONY

Every room has a clear function, focusing on daily routines and practical needs. From the hobby room, connecting the kitchen and living room, through the utility room and the cloak room, to the kitchen, every space is created to serve a practical purpose in the family's lives.




Ground Floor



First Floor





**“I grew up in Sweden and completed my architectural studies at the Royal Academy in Copenhagen. And that's really influenced me a lot, the philosophy was very process driven.”**

Madeleine Kivell, Architect and Homeowner

The project is the perfect match for Madeleine's experience with heritage properties: modernising certain elements and adding Scandinavian design sensibilities, while retaining, and in some cases reinstating, original features, to create homes of character and quality.









The quarry tiles in the hall were preserved, creating an instant connection to the building's history, making use of a high-quality resource and setting the tone for the home's warm and welcoming aesthetic.

**“There's something lovely about the wear and marks of old floors, so we didn't want to lose that character in the renovation.”**

Madeleine Kivell, Architect and Homeowner

The old timber floors were sanded and waxed, giving them a beautiful, light, low-maintenance finish that again nods to Madeleine's roots.

Elsewhere, the renovation makes use of the brick archway that was originally on the ground floor, repurposing it in one of the upstairs bedrooms.

The two-storey extension over the old side return blends seamlessly into the architecture, incorporating the same ridge tiles and brickwork as the rest of the house.



## THE ENDURING QUALITY OF GOOD DESIGN

**“I often think of the saying: ‘It’s not that buildings were better in the past, it’s that the buildings from the past that were better are still here’.**

**The same will happen with what is being built today, most of it will perish and fall out of care, but buildings with true qualities and aesthetics last longer. They are perceived as easier to love and care for, and that is the value I try to add to my designs, my ‘motto’ for Sennen Studio.”**

Madeleine Kivell, Architect and Homeowner









# PROJECT DATA

Client: Private  
Location: Sennen Studio, London, UK  
Architect: Madeleine Kivell  
Year of Original Build: 1910 (approximately)  
Year of Renovation: 2023  
Location: London, UK  
Photography: Andy Tye, FRENCH+TYE





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Transforming Spaces