

55A Kyverdale Road



© Ioana Marinescu

This detached house is arranged over four storeys, with a double-height living space, four double bedrooms and three bathrooms. Occupying a wedge-shaped site, it replaces a single-storey vehicle repair workshop in a street of Victorian terraced houses and 1960s flats.

The house has been partly sunk into the ground in order to maximise the size. It is entered on the half level, with a hallway containing built-in cupboards and storage beneath the floor, and a guest cloakroom. Steps lead down to a double-volume reception room, which has exposed beams, blockwork walls and a wood-burning stove.

This leads in turn to a dining area and an open kitchen, arranged around a courtyard garden. There is parquet wood flooring with under-floor heating, and exposed timber joists.

The first floor contains a spare bedroom at the front. The raised area above the entrance hall is used as a sleeping platform, and a mezzanine study overlooks the reception room below. The second floor has two double bedrooms and a family bathroom, and the top floor is dedicated to a master suite, with an en-suite shower room, a dressing room, and access to a sun terrace.

The house is constructed from Spanish white brick, with bronze anodised aluminium

composite windows and a zinc-clad top floor.

The current owners bought the land in 2011 with an expired planning consent for a four-bedroom detached house, designed by Prewitt Bizley Architects. They then engaged Timothy Smith and Jonathan Taylor, working in conjunction with Archea, to adapt the scheme to suit their needs. The project was completed in 2013.

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Swifts



L&Q Kingsland Wharves, N1

Gideon Corby, of Hackney Swifts,* considers the importance of Hackney Planning's role in halting the decline in migratory swift populations that fill our skies through the summer, and rely on the borough's buildings as breeding sites.

Swifts are the urban equivalent of swallows as the heralds of our summer. Where they go to in winter has only been established in the last four years. Tiny geolocators strapped to the backs of these little flying crescents indicate that our UK swifts settle in a particular region of central Africa. Each population of swifts that spends summers in particular European regions returns to particular, discrete regions, year on year, around central Africa. Our swifts overwinter in a region bordering swifts which spend their summers in Lombardy, Northern Italy. Loss of habitat in central Africa, through deforestation, is one of the reasons for the decline in swifts.

In spring the birds migrate, in a complex, intercontinental zig-zagging route, to particular spots that provide food and water for the journey north. Flying through west and north Africa takes the birds into areas of the world with some of the highest human population growth and the habitat that swifts rely on is steadily being built over.

In the UK, almost everywhere has already been developed for our benefit – to the detriment of other species. Swifts originally nested in tree hollows but as woods were cut the cavities and voids of buildings were found as alternative sites. Recently, the acceptance that our world has feedback loops and finite resources has led to building regulations for energy efficiency. Better insulated architecture has unfortunately caused a further decrease in habitat for other species. Swifts return to last year's nest but if this has been removed during decoration, renovation, or regeneration then the pair will either nest



Montague Road, E8

elsewhere or, unfortunately, not nest and raise a brood at all. For the past 25 years, the number of breeding swifts has declined by over 2% per year. That's a further 40% loss from an already reduced population.

Swifts, bats and other insectivores eat astonishing quantities of prey. The diet of swifts changes through the summer and depends on the weather and locality. Early in the season the gardeners of Hackney can be grateful for the swooping birds eating aphids on the wing. As our summers heat up, exotic insects such as the Tiger mosquito, carrying exotic diseases, will become resident. Swifts provide what is termed an 'ecosystem service' which costs less than spraying insecticides, and those providing it, these acrobatic contractors, do not produce unwanted side-effects – swifts do not leave droppings but eat them in order to hide their presence from predators.

The migratory life of the swift takes it far beyond the borders of Hackney where we have little if any influence. Thankfully, within Hackney, policy already exists to help stop the swift's decline. The Hackney Biodiversity Action Plan (2012 – 2017) states 'Hackney Council will expect development to



Star by Hackney Downs, E5

incorporate a range of artificial nesting and roosting sites... Purpose built features such as bricks are preferable...' – Hackney BAP 2012-2017 page 87. What is needed is for Hackney Planning to condition explicitly, every suitable application, with nests for our ecosystem service providers. Screaming swifts, arcing above, deserve our admiration and a nest brick, to call home.

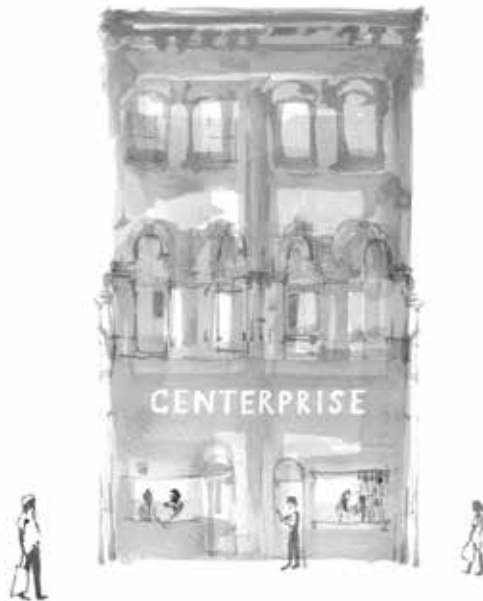
* Hackney Swifts are volunteers who are working to raise awareness of swifts, conserve swift sites and create new swift colonies in Hackney.

A Hackney Autobiography By Rosa Schling

A Hackney Autobiography was a project by On the Record, a small, not-for-profit cooperative that works to uncover untold stories. It recorded the history of Centerprise (1971-2012), and created learning resources inspired by the place and its people. Running from December 2014 until May 2017, the project examined how Centerprise functioned as a cooperative, what it did and how it touched and was touched by the places around it.

Although it was the only bookshop in Hackney when it opened in 1971, Centerprise offered more than the chance to buy books. Inside, local people could join a writers' workshop, mount a campaign, learn to read and write, get welfare advice, record local history, publish their poetry, or simply nurse a cup of tea all day in the café that doubled as a community space.

A Hackney Autobiography puts Hackney's creative and radical past onto the map.



It is the result of a two-year collaboration between oral historians, artists, photographers, web designers, local writers and community groups. The resources

created include a book *The Lime Green Mystery* (see Publications section), a website (<https://www.ahackneyautobiography.org.uk/>) and a mobile phone app.

The app is a mix of GPS technology and old fashioned storytelling. It allows one: to explore the food cultures and frontlines of Dalston, birth and madness in Homerton, or a lost Island near Rectory Road; to take a sonic bus journey with the singing strikers of Well Street; and to dip into poems, memories and campaigns from a ground-breaking community project that changed lives and defied expectations. The app features four immersive Audiotours and 61 Sketches published or inspired by the Centerprise Cooperative.



Heart of Hackney By Jane Egginton*

Hackney Central is in many ways the heart of Hackney, geographically, socially and historically. Locals and visitors, including from overseas, have a lot of love for the area. Exciting developments are happening here, particularly around St Augustine's Tower, the oldest building in Hackney. A unified open square on the pedestrianised Narrow Way has just been completed and there are plans for a new food market. The Narrow Way Traders & Residents Association, or NEWTRA, had its first meeting on 21 June to talk about the changes. The newly formed association represents the rich cultural diversity and heritage of the high street and its vibrant market place.

NEWTRA was set up to create active community engagement and accessibility as well as to promote affordability of goods and services. It supports opportunities for local businesses and employment of local residents. Its supporters want to preserve and improve the environment, street and community of the Narrow Way. They also want to support an accessible space for events and social gatherings for everyone – both locals and visitors – to enjoy this incredible space in the heart of Hackney.'

The first meeting of NEWTRA was apparently a great success and very

positive. Supporters hope that as many members of the local community as possible will get involved. Residents, traders past and present and stallholders of the Narrow Way and local area can be members. Please contact me at hackneyjane@gmail.com for more information. There is lots going on – some of it concerning; much of it exciting.

There are new plans for a market at St Augustine's Square, now the building work has been completed. Some rents are being tripled and there are concerns about the ongoing building works. NEWTRA has plans to work along the same lines as the very successful Well Street Traders & Residents Association (WESTRA). Kay Richardson from WESTRA had been instrumental in setting up a teenage market and was working hard at creating local job opportunities. We both emphasise the importance of the social aspect of markets, particularly with regards to engaging with the community.

Hackney Walk, the new luxury retail development in Morning Lane, has a key role in the changing face of the area, particularly in terms of attracting an increasing number of visitors, and NEWTRA is keen to work with them. It also wants to engage with local schools and education, and is looking forward to being involved with events in the square. Paper Dress Vintage, a shop, live



music and yoga studio was keen to be part of the council's new plans to animate the space.

A beautiful space has been created at what is being called St Augustine's Square, the historic square in the beautiful grounds of St John at Hackney churchyard. Local resident and trader Rose Lewis, who has been selling books on the square for a number of years, said: 'It is very exciting what can be achieved there now, both for local people and the increasing number of visitors from outside of London and overseas. We love this community. We love you Hackney.'

Noticeboard

Architectural Awards

Barretts Grove in Stoke Newington by Amin Taha Architects received both the RIBA London Regional Award 2017 and the RIBA National Award 2017. In addition, it has been shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize 2017 (winner to be announced on 31 October). See *Spaces 54* for more on this property. Hackney New School in Kingsland Road by Henley Halebrown, the Cork Study by Surman Weston and Lower Clapton House by Hugh Strange were all shortlisted for the RIBA London Regional Award 2017. The Makers House (*Spaces 56*) by David Liddicoat and Sophie Goldhill was shortlisted for the Sunday Times British Homes Small House of the Year 2017. The Hackney-based practice Lisa Shell Architects has been shortlisted for the RIBA House of the Year Award for Redshank in Essex; the awards are to be televised on Channel 4 in the autumn.

Stoke Newington History Website

Local history enthusiast Amir Dotan has launched a new website (<https://stokenewingtonhistory.com/>) to make his work available to a wider audience. The site includes projects such as Church St Property Survey 1847-2017 and Saving Clissold Park – The Joseph Beck Collection. There is also a tribute to local historian Derek Baker who died last year (see Amir's article in the *Spaces 53*).

Fundraising for Rio's Second Screen

The Rio has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise £150,000. The cinema plans to create a second screen with around 30 seats in its basement with state-of-the-art technology and comfortable seats. It wants to give its audiences more choice, enable more film festivals and community events and generate revenue from private hires. The outside of the building currently looks shabby and tired. The Rio aims to repair and restore the Grade II listed exterior.

Hoxton Market

Hoxton Market celebrated 330 years of trading with a relaunch on 24 June. The event was held to highlight the market's past and to showcase the produce of the market traders. The market is open Monday to Saturday, 9am until 4pm.

Hackney Arts Centre

The Hackney Society Planning Group look forward to assessing a planning application that is expected to follow the granting of a licence to convert a derelict Art Deco cinema in Stoke Newington Road to an arts centre. The Savoy Cinema opened in 1936 and closed in 1984. Since then it has been split into individual premises. The new venue will be modelled on Camden's Roundhouse and will host 350 film, theatre and music acts a year.

The Albion

The Albion in Goldsmiths Row closed on 4 June. This followed its acquisition by Remarkable Pubs, which runs The Reliance in Shoreditch and The Shakespeare in Stoke Newington. Remarkable are collaborating with The Fish House on the pub's replacement, The Virgin Queen, which will serve craft beers and 'posh' fish and chips.

Hackney Society Events

The Far Corner

Sunday 10 September 2017, 11am

Walk with Ray Rogers

Ray Rogers will lead an exploration of the furthest reaches of South West Hackney, taking in hidden terraces, social housing, and the remains of industry. Beyond the City, not quite Shoreditch, not exactly Hoxton, we'll see what this atmospheric, little-known corner of our borough has to offer. See website for further details.

Hackney Society at 50

Thursday 5 October 2017

Panel discussion with Laurie Elks, John Finn, Richard Gee, Patrick Hammill and Nick Perry

To accompany the launch of our book *Hackney: Portrait of a Community*, this event will consider the achievements of Hackney Society and the changing challenges facing the Society – and Hackney – over the past 50 years. See website for further details.

Hackney Society AGM preceded by a tour of Holborn Studios

Tuesday 14 November 2017

Meet at 49/50 Eagle Wharf Road, N1 7ED. You will be able to book online via hackneysociety.org

Festive Social

Tuesday 5 December 2017, 7pm

Meet at 7pm at St Augustine's Tower. See website for further details.

Publications

The Lime Green Mystery: An Oral History Centerprise Co-operative, by Rosa Schling

charts how the Centerprise cooperative (1971-93) attempted to put radical ideas about education, culture and community work into practice. It explores issues of representation, power and collective management and will appeal to those interested in radical community organisations, grassroots bookselling and publishing, the adult literacy movement, London's social history, and to people involved in community-based cultural and cooperative initiatives today. On the Record, £7.95.



East London

by Charles Saumarez Smith is a personal account of journeys through the east of the city – from Wapping in the south, through Spitalfields and Bethnal Green, to Hoxton, Haggerston and Hackney in the north. Thames & Hudson, £19.95.



Hackney Studios: East London Creatives

and their Spaces by photographer Jenny Lewis documents artists and the spaces they work in.

The artists include painters, illustrators, filmmakers, jewellers, ceramists and fashion designers. Hoxton Mini Press, £20.



The Last Tenant by Dalston-based Sarah Kieselowski is a literary thriller set in the Kreuzberg district of post-war West Berlin. Fragment Press, £10.80.



From Wasteland to Playground: Lee Valley Regional Park at 50

by Tony Travers uncovers 50 years of history – which ultimately saw the Lee Valley transformed from a former industrial wasteland into a 'green wedge' for London and the South East, with places for leisure and recreation, sports, heritage and a regenerated piece of city. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, £4.95, from <http://www.jonathan.hoskins.com/own-debeauvoir>, £15.

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Kopykat Printing Limited

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Tel: 020 7739 2451 Fax: 020 7729 5925

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Edited by: Monica Blake

Layout by: design@gloryhall.com

Contributors: Monica Blake, Gideon Corby, Jane Eggington and Rosa Schling

Illustrations: Gideon Corby, Joanna Layla and Ioana Marinescu

The Hackney Society, The Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, London E5 0LY

T: 020 7175 1967 E: info@hackneysociety.org

W: www.hackneysociety.org

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