



Brick: the inside story

Brick has been a reliable construction material for centuries, proving itself time and time again. Bricks are not only beautiful to look at, they also bring buildings to life with their wonderful tones and textures. While the material is often the first choice for domestic developments, as well as the wider home-buying public, architects and developers are discovering that its versatile characteristics are equally suited to interior use. King's Grove in Peckham, south London, by Duggan Morris Architects, and Tuppill Park, near Leyburn in North Yorkshire, by architect Malcolm Tempest, are two exemplar projects that demonstrate the aesthetic and structural potential of interior brickwork.

Shortlisted for best housing development (1-5 units) at the 2011 Brick Awards, Kings Grove is a contemporary 3-4 bedroom house situated between two rows of Victorian terraced properties. Forming part of a simple material palette, including polished concrete, oak and brass, dark facing bricks from Michelmersh Brick Holdings, Freshfield Lane, were used both internally and externally. The latter includes large plinths set within the landscape.

Tuppill Park is home to the Forbidden Corner, which was originally built as a private folly, but due to public demand was subsequently opened as a visitor attraction. Tuppill Cellar, was designed to emulate the original house,



with brick used instead of stone for its warmth and tactility. The wine cellar comprises a series of atmospheric spaces articulated by hexagonal pillars and meticulous brick detailing.

The York Handmade Brick Company supplied a wide range of handmade bricks and bespoke brick specials for the facing and structural elements. The project not only won the craftsmanship category at the 2012 Brick Awards, but it was also shortlisted for the specialist brickwork contractor of the year award.

Brick construction dates back thousands of years, so its technology is well understood. Bricks do not rot, rust or decay, and are highly durable, requiring minimal maintenance.

Furthermore, brick provides a sense of stability, as well as a healthy and comfortable environment to live in. It is also energy-efficient and has inherent sound insulating properties. In short, brick offers true longevity.

Above The York Handmade Brick Company supplied a wide range of handmade and bespoke-designed special bricks for Tugill Cellar, near Leyburn in North Yorkshire, designed by architect Malcolm Tempest.

Opposite above Dark facing bricks from Michelmersh Brick Holdings, Freshfield Lane, were specified by Duggan Morris Architects for King's Grove in south London (photo: James Brittain).

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