

Project Title: Private House Extension, Fetternear, Aberdeenshire
Client: Mr + Mrs Lyon
Project Value: £350,000
Project Status: Construction works completed Summer 2000

The clients desired a light, spacious, modern, low-energy house but were concerned that the setting, a traditional cottage in a walled garden on the Fetternear estate near Kemnay, would preclude this.

Our response was to insulate the building to unusually high levels, to set the extension lower than the existing cottage to offer protection against prevailing winds and to reduce the north wall exposure. As is the case with most walled gardens, the greenhouses and gardener's cottage had been built on the south-facing wall, and this combination inspired the new development.

The relationship achieved by utilising a play of levels between new and existing creates a generous double height space to the south, which is glazed to maximise solar gain and also allows the space to flow into the walled garden. The layout recognises that the heart of a modern home is the kitchen/ dining/ living space, and this space should be able to spill outwards into the garden.

The clients enjoy the way the house has raised their consciousness of changing light and weather conditions, whilst allowing them to retreat to the heart of the existing cottage as a "refuge" from the more active spaces.

