

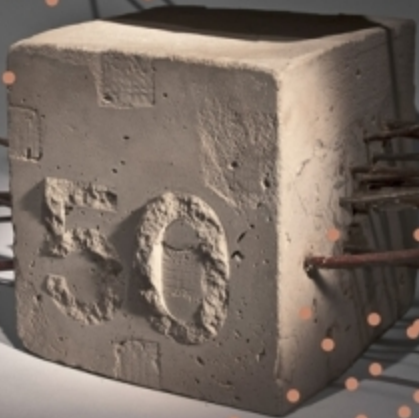


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'I'm interested in  
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## ChanChan reimagines vernacular forms



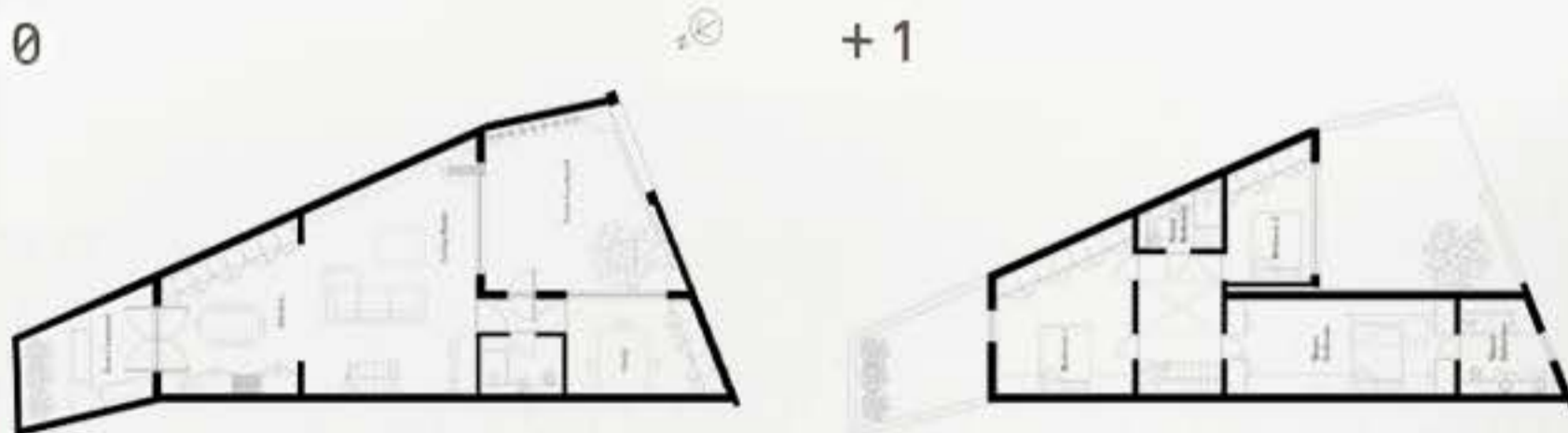
Text: François-Luc Giraldeau  
Photo: Mike Tsang

With its ornamental masonry façade and traditional gable roof, Herringbone House speaks – admittedly softly – to neighbouring Victorian terraces. London-based Atelier ChanChan appears to have developed a signature vocabulary with which to address time and place – and to enter into a prolific dialogue with the context of a project. ‘Besides its use as a means of personal expression,’ says studio head Zoe Chan, ‘masonry allowed for the type of integration that celebrates a heightened appreciation of the quality and craftsmanship of traditional architectural details.’

Neatly tucked into an irregularly shaped infill lot in East London (a 30-m-deep wedge that tapers towards the rear), the small dwelling attests to the relevance of the architects’ approach, inasmuch as the proposed design – guided by a sensitive assessment of the historical urban fabric – embraces the uniqueness of the site with restraint and composure. Chan recalls the challenge posed by the strange lot and the neighbourhood in general: ‘Rare are the architects who can claim to have had the opportunity to work from a blank canvas – especially in London. I must say, though, that my enthusiasm for the project was somewhat tempered by the gruelling process of getting planning permission.’

Chan as the principal architect, together with former team member João Neves, seems to have understood that not every work of architecture has to be eccentric or to compete for attention. Far from engaging in frivolous pursuits, the young duo selected a subdued palette of whites, beiges and greys, deftly coordinating colours with design components such as skylights and an inner courtyard. Harnessing natural light, they created a bright and soothing interior that sings the praises of neutrality and champions the need for timeless design.

atelierchanchan.com



044

Cross Section

→ Atelier ChanChan

House → London | UK

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