Wimbledon extension

Principle contractor:
Westminster Building Company

Project:
Kitchen extension

Location:
Wimbledon, London

Type of contract:
Private sector

Project timescale:
Spring 2021

Executive summary:
Terraced Edwardian home completes rear extension to create more space and improve insulation.

Project description:
Charlotte and her family have always enjoyed living in their Edwardian terraced home in Wimbledon, although after spending lockdown with their two young daughters, they realised they needed more indoor space. The couple decided to complete a rear extension to create more space. Built using H+H Celcon Blocks the extension has made the house noticeably warmer and improved the sound insulation.

Charlotte and her partner already had the planning approved, so they got in contact with Westminster Building Company to check their availability. The Company was able to start on the job quickly, and the whole process from point of contact to completion of the extension took just four months.

Charlotte comments, "We were amazed at how quickly the Celcon Blocks were installed after delivery – it was barely a week before the walls were up.

"As soon as the extension was completed there was an immediate feeling of greater warmth around the house. As it's an Edwardian property, we took the opportunity to insulate as much as possible."

The finished extension houses the kitchen and dining area, as well as a large corner sofa. Charlotte notes, "I'm actually pursuing a career in interior design, so I worked closely with Westminster Building Company to ensure the space is both warm and inviting. My partner and I love cooking and dining in there now, and our kids certainly enjoy the extra space."

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Reason for choosing H+H aircrete:
H+H Celcon Blocks have been used to increase build speed as they are lighter and easier to handle on site than standard concrete blocks, while offering all the benefits of masonry construction.

Masonry has excellent load bearing capabilities, meaning that applying fixings to the wall is a simple job. This is an essential benefit in kitchen extensions to facilitate cupboards and shelves being installed.

The use of Celcon Blocks has also facilitated the potential for building up one storey on the extension if desired.

"H+H is a big name, so I didn't give it a second thought when using their Celcon Blocks. I knew I was buying good quality building materials that are light to handle and easy to use."

"Technically speaking this was a job that required some forethought, as the homeowner wanted the extension to be future proofed for building up a storey. Also, one of the next door neighbours was planning for a rear extension to their home.

"This meant that we built a 300mm wall with two layers of 100mm Celcon Standard Blocks (3 newtons) with a 100mm cavity wall insulation and used Celcon Block High Strength Grade (7 newtons) on the inner skin. This was both to facilitate future upward building and to ensure that the neighbours plans weren't mitigated."

The floor to the extension was created using an Insulated Beam & Block construction, using Celcon Block Standard Grade 100mm blocks.

Will Clark,
Director, Westminster Building Company

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Product benefits:

- **Easily meets or exceeds Part L and Part E of the Building Regulations**
- **Simplifies the construction process**
- **H+H aircrete products use up to 80% recycled material**
- **Achieves A+ rating in the BRE Green Guide to Specification**

Other benefits include:

- **Aircrete achieves an air permeability of 0.12m³/hr/m²**
- **Has excellent fire resistance with a Class 0 rating for surface spread of flame**

H+H aircrete applications:

- **Internal and external leaf in cavity walls**
- **Solid walls**
- **Separating / party walls**
- **Flanking walls**
- **Partitions**
- **Multi-storey**
- **Foundations**

Aircrete is an excellent all round commercial and industrial building material. Used in partition and external walls (both solid and cavity), fire walls and as infill to steel and concrete framed buildings.

H+H aircrete has exceptional sustainability credentials both in use and in its manufacturing. It provides excellent thermal and acoustic insulation while also making a significant contribution to air tightness performance. As a material, up to 80% of its volume is made up of recycled materials and H+H holds BES 6001:2008 accreditation for responsible resourcing of materials.

In addition, aircrete walls have an A+ rating in the BRE Green Guide to Specification for both cavity and solid external walls. Couple this with H+H UK's rigorous approach to pursuing the highest environmental standards throughout the whole of its business and it's easy to see why this innovative and award-winning product is now firmly established within the UK.

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For further information about the subjects covered or the H+H products used in this case study, please visit our website **www.hhcelcon.co.uk**