PROFILE

Arboreal is an innovative, RIBA Chartered Practice committed to creating beautiful and sustainable buildings and landscapes.

We listen to and work closely with our clients in order to appreciate their requirements and develop fresh observations as we move through the design process. Our inclusive approach and attention to detail allow us to find distinctive and effective solutions to our clients’ needs.

We carefully integrate all our work into the ecologies that surround us; from the global issues of material manufacturing to the micro-habitat of a window box.
HARRY PATICAS AAdipl RIBA

Harry spent his childhood in Greece and has dual Greek-British nationality. After completing his degree in Mathematics and Astronomy he received a first class degree in Architecture at Kingston University. He was awarded a bursary for the diploma at the Architectural Association where he won prizes for his design and research work.

He qualified as an architect with the established London practice van Heyningen and Haward Architects before setting up on his own in 2007. He was a director of Paticas Architecture for three years prior to founding Arboreal with Tom Raymont.

TOM RAYMONT AAdipl RIBA II

Tom grew up in the Findhorn Foundation in north-east Scotland; a spiritual community, ecovillage and international centre for holistic education. He studied at the Architectural Association in London and was awarded scholarships for his work from both the Architectural Association and the Royal Institute for British Architects.

Before founding Arboreal he worked for renowned international practices Eric Owen Moss Architects (Los Angeles) and Asymptote Architecture (New York). After seven years in the US he enjoys having an accent that no longer quite fits in anywhere.

APPROACH

We approach each building we design with two aims; to optimise performance and enrich experience. The best design decisions achieve both simultaneously.

We design high-performance buildings. We expect them to run on little energy, harvest sunlight, improve air quality, retain their heat, support flexible uses and increase biodiversity. We are one of only a handful of certified Passivhaus architects in the UK. We use the most up-to-date analysis and design of a building’s energy performance enabling us to reduce its carbon footprint and energy costs.

We design spaces that enliven our senses. Through sight and sound, smell and touch we move our bodies through space. We design for these myriad moments with carefully detailed natural materials, multiple sources of natural light and surprising views across crafted spaces.

We design buildings to connect us to the natural world rather than separate us from it. We integrate the spaces of our buildings with the landscapes around them and we find surprising ways to bring plants inside such as planted walls and pocket gardens.

2. Exchange Flat, London, UK.
3. Tom Raymont (left) with Harry Paticas (right).
This project for a new public space commemorates the worst civilian disaster of World War II, when 173 men, women and children died on the staircase leading down to the tube station. The hollowed out stair powerfully evokes the volume of space in which people died and the ceiling of the stair canopy has 173 holes in it to represent, in light, each of the victims.
4. Memorial and bench in construction - January 2013
5-6. Looking down into the underground stairs you will simultaneously see up into the volume of the memorial and its light cones.

7. Installation of the polished concrete plinths.

8. The plinths in final position awaiting the teak stair element.

9. The bench uses matching materials of cross-laminated teak and polished concrete.
In order to counteract the dense urban character of London’s Spitalfields, this flat interior abstractly recreates a piece of the New England forest familiar from the client’s home. An automatically irrigated living wall grows a range of ferns from the forest floor and brings a moist cooling presence to the kitchen area. Lighting behind laser-cut screens projects a pattern of the tree canopy across the ceiling throughout the living space. Bespoke furniture is made in raw steel and charred oak allowing the materials to express the processes of formation from which they originated.

1. The generous stone worktop looks out across to the living wall.
2. Both actual plants and abstract patterns of the forest canopy give the space a uniquely natural character.
3-4. The laser-cut screens provide lighting throughout the space.
5. Display cabinets are built in to the living wall made from raw steel.
6. A custom entrance bench in raw steel and charred oak provides a place to take off your shoes as you arrive in the flat.
Mazarin is a new model of sustainable housing comprising 6 duplex flats. The structure, cladding and insulation are all built from timber, locking in carbon and providing exceptional insulation. The flats “breathe” through a system of branches that bring air in underground, warming it in winter and cooling in summer. The branches go on to deliver all the services we need; air, water, heat and light.

1. Each flat has a large south-facing window or balcony from the main living space.
2. Each flat has a double-height kitchen, living and dining area.
3. 3D model of the prefabricated CLT superstructure.
4. The building is clad in a charred oak rainscreen.
5. The services routes run through the trapezoidal space of the ground floor.
6. The form of the building is faceted in response to key views and daylight.
7. The services distribution ducts form a tree-like structure through the building.
Intensive ground is a hybrid urban-ecological landscaping strategy that attempts to integrate community within the landscape. Within a rapidly expanding suburban fringe the new hub intensifies the existing ground, providing wildlife corridors, kitchen gardens, green roofs and a park, weaving these into new housing and commercial spaces.

1. Proposed natural ecologies integrate the existing buildings and embrace the existing park.
2. The overall urban-ecological landscape plan.
3. The allotments intensify the kitchen garden programme.
1. Open plan living space with new kitchen.
2. New extension connects the living space to the garden.

Wilkinson House

Use: 4-bedroom house
Size: 175m²
Place: London, UK

This project extends, renovates and re-organises an Edwardian semi-detached house, opening up the small rooms into a contemporary open plan living space. It creates dramatic spaces that contrast qualities of heavy and light as you move through the building. The thick plane of the green roof is designed to float as an 18m long ribbon of glazing winds around roof and walls, bringing in light.
3-4. Photomontage & sketch with initial model concept.
5-6. The glass ribbon wraps around the interiors separating old and new.
7. The frameless window brings in the garden view.
This project is a crafted renovation to a two-bedroom flat. The old constricting room plan has been opened up to create generous free-flowing spaces and surprising views between kitchen, living and bedrooms. The spaces have a new wood panelling in various thicknesses to create window seats and sills, house radiators and storage.

1. Custom cupboard reveal pockets of storage and hides others.
2. The entrance mat and shoe bench choreograph your arrival.
3-4. Custom cupboards reveal pockets of storage and hide others.

5. The plan was conceived as a wrapper, lining the interiors with storage, bench seating and additional insulation.

6. Windows in the kitchen backsplash look though the flat.
TESTIMONIALS

Bethnal Green Memorial
We have found Arboreal a joy to deal with. Their design for the Stairway to Heaven Memorial is very sensitive and brilliantly interpreted for those who are still grieving and those who remember the Bethnal Green tube disaster of 1943. The Memorial model and visualisations have received widespread acclaim from our supporters, as well as the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, two Prime Ministers and the Inter-Faiths Forum.
Sandra Scotting, Secretary for the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust

Mazarin House
We are very satisfied with the attention to detail and quality of design delivered by Arboreal. They are very personable and engaged with our client requirements.
Krishnan Nagendran, KTN Group, London

Wilmington House
Arboreal have transformed a semi-detached Edwardian house into a very special grand design. They showed imagination, dedication and ability to push the envelope to achieve a stunning outcome. I’d highly recommend their architectural design and ability to deliver.
Charles Carr-Jones, Chiswick, London

Swarovski Crystalised
Arboreal has the experience, expertise and gravitas necessary to take on a complex situation, provide a clearly structured path and effectively communicate the site requirements to achieve the common goal. I would have no qualms recommending Arboreal for other high profile projects.
Alex Keene, Retail Operations Director Europe, Swarovski

Casa Miedi Larch Hut
Clever storage ideas, along with innovative structural methods have led to a beautifully proportioned, spacious and highly original building that will not only serve the original purpose but be a valuable and charming addition to the main accommodation. The whole process from concept, through design and into manufacture has been one of great attention to detail. The architects at Arboreal listen deeply and thoughtfully, reflects on client requirements and come back with original and engaging ideas.
Heather Tolfree, Umbria, Italy

Pachamama Toilet
It’s a rare architectural practice that not only comes up with a proposal for a Peruvian earth toilet but also carries it through and brings it to central London as a demonstration project of how innovative architecture can offer solutions to real development issues. Arboreal did so for the 2008 London Festival of Architecture in a way that brought this issue to the attention of 30,000 people in one day!
Tim Hollins, RIBA Trust, Head of Programmes & Operations