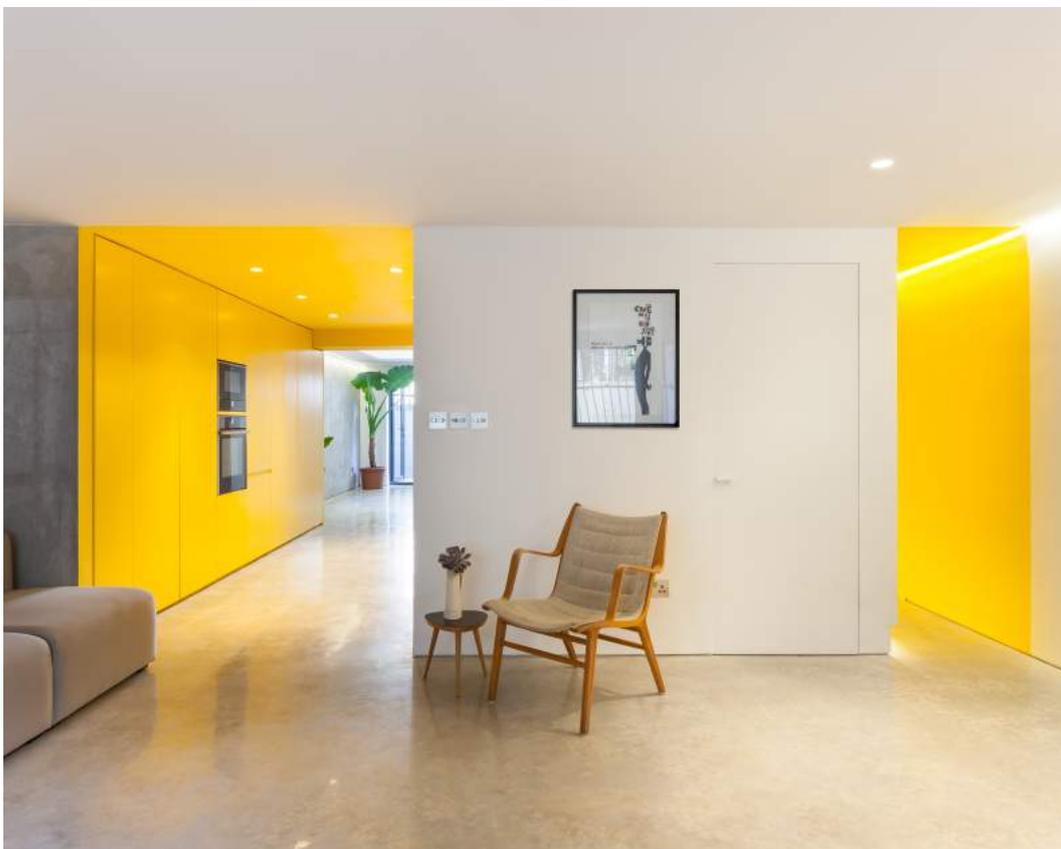


Letting the Light In

Russian For Fish bring a bold contemporary look to a Victorian terrace – using lashings of concrete and a whole lot of yellow...



Beresford Road by Russian for Fish. Photography by Peter Landers.

The flat in the Victorian end-of-terrace of **Beresford Road**, N5, was a space with a dual personality. The upper-ground floor was light and spacious, with appealing original features high ceilings, and a beautiful bay window. The lower-ground, however, was a shady den of narrow corridors, low ceilings and vacant spaces. The contrast couldn't have been more stark.

Having seen **Russian For Fish's** reinvention of an apartment in City View House, the owner turned to the architects and designers in the hope of revitalising the space, turning the dark and neglected half of their home into somewhere bold, contemporary and welcoming that reflected their taste for contemporary, gallery-style restraint.

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Inspired by the aesthetic of commercial/industrial spaces, concrete was high on the priority list. Polished, light-toned concrete was used for the floor throughout the lower-ground space and the party wall. This was complemented by off-white walls, and contrasted by the sunburst of vibrant yellow that dominates the kitchen, turning it into a distinct area within the open-plan space. That yellow continues up the stairwell, creating a threshold between the lower-ground floor and the more traditional interior beyond.



Beresford Road by Russian for Fish. Photography by Peter Landers.

These colour combinations serve to lift and brighten the space, helped by the addition of a large skylight in the existing side-return extension – turning what had been a lifeless passageway into a hall of light, dotted with plants to introduce warm and vibrant green tones into the palette.

Reconfiguring the layout of the lower-ground resulted in additional usable space, allowing for the addition of a utility room and a shower room – fitted with brushed stainless steel and marble tile – without any structural alterations to the property.

The final touches were provided by the client's own furniture and extensive record collection, which now have room to breathe as features of the new interior. The result is a lower-ground floor

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that preserves its existing contrast with the top half of the flat, but now the journey between the two is an eye-catching surprise, rather than a disappointment.



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'It's been a wonderful interior to work on and full respect to a very brave client, who really embraced the idea and let us run with it.'

– Pieren d'Avoine, Founder, Russian For Fish

*For more images or information about **Russian for Fish's** projects and practice, please contact Jodi Moss at jodi@zetteler.co.uk or on +44 (0)7910 705147.*

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About Beresford Road

Architect Russian For Fish

Contractor Peridot Design and Build

Engineer MDA Structures

Photographer Pete Landers

About Russian for Fish

Russian for Fish is an award-winning London-based architectural and design practice founded by RIBA-chartered architect Pereen d'Avoine in 2006. Now run by Pereen and co-director Nilesh Shah, the company works on extension and new-build projects for both residential and commercial clients, and is especially adept at transforming compact spaces. Their work is characterised by simplified material palettes, contemporary and minimalist detailing, and a cohesive, sympathetic approach to surroundings.

The Russian word for fish is pronounced 'RIBA'.

russianforfish.com



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