

Meet the Royal & Olympic Vet

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Riba's Henley Design Day & property makeover

HENLEY DESIGN DAY



Henley Design Day

There will be plenty of reasons to drop in on Henley Design Day in the Town Hall, on Saturday March 7 to chat with architects and designers.

Feeling cramped in your house? Need to bounce around your ideas for your space? Or perhaps you have a problem – a really tricky, no-way-round-it problem – with achieving what you need your home to provide?

Roger and Canny Appleyard owe their dream house to Henley Design Day. The couple had been refused planning permission to convert the garage of their Victorian semidetached home on Reading Road, Henley into a new room for their family.

They had appealed the decision, but the planning inspector was adamant that their idea of replacing the garage doors with a bay window would make the single storey look like 'a truncated remnant'.

Frustrated, the Appleyards found three separate architects exhibiting at Henley Design Day to discuss fresh ideas. One, Allister Godfrey, simply clicked with them. "He listened really carefully," explains Canny. "He completely understood what we wanted – nothing fancy, just an extension that looked as though it was always there."

Allister redesigned the garage conversion with two storeys, rebuilding its front façade using matching brickwork and sash windows to match the existing house. He contoured the new roof so that the second-floor windows and views were unaffected. The eaves line closely matches the extension on the next door house, so that the pair look neatly balanced.

Inside, the garage was turned into a playroom and the floor above became the master bedroom with an en-suite



Above: the Appleyards' home before the changes. Below: after the redesign. Left: Canny with architect Allister Godfrey



and dressing area, plus a feature vaulted ceiling.

Canny says they were thrilled to have found Allister through the Design Day. "Choosing the right architect for your project isn't always easy – but we knew Allister was 'the one' and we were happy with everything he did."

For more information call 0118 987 4900 or email Sarah.Miller@riba.org

