



# A home of two halves

One of the biggest lessons that Darrell Minards learned from his first self build almost 20 years before was to plan ahead – a lesson which helped him and his wife Carmen to complete their self-managed project ahead of schedule, if not quite on budget.

They commissioned Allister Godfrey after inviting five architects to tender. “Allister prepared beforehand by checking details at the planning office in order to better understand the plot,” Darrell recalls.

The Minards’ brief was for an eco-friendly contemporary home which wouldn’t feel like a goldfish bowl. “A stark glass box just wasn’t for us, and we clipped pictures from magazines to illustrate our ideas,” Darrell recalls. “The great thing about Allister was that he really wanted to design our dream house and not just a statement of his own capability. He kept saying ‘you’re the ones who are going to live in it.’”

Maximising the value of the plot was a prime concern, and Allister designed a three-storey rectangular structure clad in untreated horizontal cedar boards, reminiscent of a barn conversion. A pop-out single-storey element, clad in contrasting vertical cedar, opens onto a terrace through a wall of folding/sliding doors and a similar effect has been achieved on the entrance façade with another flat-roofed section at ground-floor level.

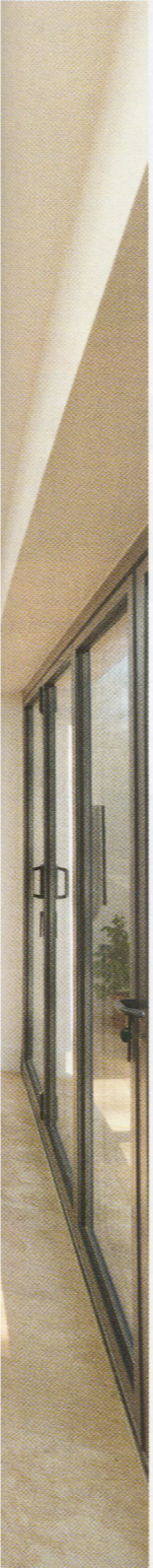
Internally, the layout has been cleverly conceived with the specific needs of the family in mind. There are individual bedrooms, with a guest room for visitors and enough bathrooms to avoid early morning arguments. The main bedroom suite is positioned alone at one end of the first floor, a top-floor bedroom suite is also totally private and there’s a ground-floor study in addition to the open-plan living/dining/kitchen and separate sitting room.

Darrell and Carmen produced a 10-page document describing how they live during the week and at weekends, and Allister interpreted this by designing the house in two halves, with an atrium and stairs dividing their bedroom from their daughters’ rooms and acting as a sound barrier. “It was a really clever solution and works perfectly,” says Darrell.

This project was featured in our April 2012 issue



**Why we chose it**  
 The architect has cleverly interpreted the way the owners live to provide a unique home tailored to their lifestyle.



**Suited to lifestyle**  
 The open-plan internal layout has been cleverly divided into two sections and was conceived by architect Allister Godfrey for the specific needs of the family based on how they live.

