

All round the houses

We all love the chance to look around someone else's home. Open House London (September 15 and 16) provides the chance to snoop behind doors that are otherwise closed – and all for free. Here, we invite Londoners to get nosy and highlight our top 12 private residences, which range from hi-tech eco pads to pretty period terraces, including some taking part for the first time

North

QUEUES LIKELY, NEW 3 Colony Mews, N1

A contemporary courtyard house in a 'notched terrace', designed in response to severe site constraints. Minimal design utilising concrete block work, finished in an insulated white acrylic render that gives flexibility and durability.

Sun 1-5pm. First-come basis, queuing outside if necessary. Highbury & Islington tube/rail.

QUEUES LIKELY

13 Park Square Mews, NW1

Contemporary mews set among listed buildings. Clad externally in brick with slatted timber shutters, the accommodation interconnects on three levels through galleries and glass walls.

Sat 10am-5pm. First-come basis, queuing outside if necessary. Last entry 4.30pm. Max ten at one time. Regent's Park tube.

NEW 25 Lauradale Road, N2

Mid-terrace 1925 house remodelled into a light-filled contemporary space, with two 'boxes' that slide into the rear façade at an angle, to create flexible live-work accommodation.

Sun 9.30am-5.30pm. Closed 1-2pm. First-come basis, queuing if necessary. Last entry 5.15pm. Max ten at one time. East Finchley tube.

South

2 Carmarthen Place, SE1

One of two wooden eco houses and artists' studios. Prefabricated in Europe, the complete panels were craned into the site.

Sat 10am-4pm. First-come basis, queuing outside if necessary. Max 15 at one time. London Bridge tube/rail.

BOOKING ONLY 7½ Trouville Road, SW4

This curved-glass house wraps around a horse chestnut tree to protect its roots and featured on Channel 4's 'Grand Designs'. Entrance is through the restored coach house. Sustainable features include sheep's wool insulation, passive heat storage, sustainable wood and sedum roofs.

Sat 2-5pm. Pre-book only through Open House. Tours at 2pm and 4pm. Max 20 per tour. Clapham South tube.

QUEUES LIKELY

15½ Consort Road, SE15

Again as seen on 'Grand Designs', the opening roof and sliding bath typify this house's response



Home sweet homes

This page:
17 Abbot'sbury Road, W14 (top); 23-35 Waterson Street, E2 (left). Opposite page, clockwise from top: 7½ Trouville Road, SW4; 3 Colony Mews; 25 Lauradale Road, N2

to the physical constraints and tight budget of an 'unusable' brownfield site. Eco features include the clever use of recycled materials throughout. *Sat, Sun 10am-5pm. First-come basis, queuing if necessary. Architects available for discussion. Last entry 4.45pm. Max four groups of five at one time. Peckham Rye rail.*

East

NEW 23-35 Waterson Street, E2

The largest solid-timber constructed mixed-use building in the UK – housing 11 flats and seven work units. There are green features and bespoke public artworks throughout. *Sat 12noon-5pm. First-come basis, queuing outside if necessary. Last entry 4.30pm. Max 40-50 at one time. Old St tube/rail.*

QUEUES LIKELY 17 Rowe Lane, E9

A family home with sustainable attributes including natural building materials, harvested rainwater, a frame that uses European larch, a timber pellet boiler and cedar-clad roof. *Sun 10am-5pm. Regular tours. Max 15 per tour. Hackney Central rail.*

QUEUES LIKELY 9 Wilton Way, E8

A Victorian terrace in which the interior has been opened up to maximise light, with modernist open spaces and jungle garden. *Sun 10am-5pm. First-come basis, queuing outside if necessary. Duration 20 minutes. Last entry 4.40pm. Max 15 at one time. Dalston Kingsland or Hackney Central rail.*

West

BOOKING ONLY

7 Hammersmith Terrace, W6

The home of Emery Walker, printer and mentor to William Morris. Walker moved in in 1903, having lived for 25 years at number 3. Features a unique Arts & Crafts interior. *Sat, Sun tours at 12noon and 2pm. Pre-book in writing: Emery Walker Trust, 7 Hammersmith Terrace, W6 9TS, giving full postal address and telephone number. Max two tickets per applicant. Max eight per tour. Stamford Brook tube.*

NEW 17 Abbotsbury Road, W14

Reinterpretation of a 1960s end-terrace town-house to reflect how we build and live today. This completely overhauled house includes a glass stair and glazed extension. *Sat 10am-1pm. First-come basis, queuing outside if necessary. Last entry 1pm. Max ten at one time. Holland Park tube.*

24 Flanchford Road, W12

Sustainable features here include a sedum roof, rainwater-harvesting, efficient heating, high-specification glazing, super-insulated intelligent lighting controls and dual-flush WCs. *Sun 10am-5pm. First-come basis, queuing outside if necessary. Last entry 4.45pm. Max 15 at one time. Stamford Brook tube.*

For more information on the buildings in Open House London, and to obtain a programme (£4), visit www.openhouse.org.uk.



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