



# IF\_DO

**PRESS ENQUIRIES**

Claire Curtice Publicists  
claire@clairecurtice.co.uk  
+ 44 (0) 20 7613 1442  
[Download press kit here](#)

**PRESS RELEASE**

## MONTAGUE COURT

**01/2019**

IF\_DO has completed Montague Court, a small apartment extension on a constrained urban plot in Dalston, northeast London.

The apartment sits within a former synagogue, which is characterised by its octagonal form. The project extends the ground floor with the insertion of a naturally lit, naturally ventilated, insulated timber structure into an existing north-facing courtyard. Although small in scale, IF\_DO aimed to echo the highly unusual geometry of the original building with a triangulated roof, creating a lofty, dynamic and unexpected space. Large triangular roof lights bring north light into the home, transforming the formerly dark and unused courtyard, while retaining the south-facing garden. The extension increases the gross internal area by over 30%, and creates a second bedroom.

The building, constructed as a synagogue in 1902 and converted to housing in the 1990s, is distinguished by its octagonal form and large Crittall windows, the Hebrew on the façade – announcing it as Montague Road Beth Hamedrash, and the irregular courtyard gardens which hug the perimeter of the building.

The new, single-storey extension is slotted directly between the existing brick walls of the synagogue and site boundary. The timber structure is constructed of seven softwood posts with a triangulated roof formed from bespoke metal fitch plates and deep softwood joists. Montague Court responds to the unusual building and site constraints with careful detailing and high-quality materials. The architects have limited the palette to birch timber panels and joinery on all walls, bringing warmth to the space, with terrazzo flooring and plinth – set at the height of the original floor level of the synagogue – responding to the original terrazzo threshold of the building.

**FACTS AND CREDITS**

<b>Location</b>	Flat 2 Montague Court, 62a Montague Road, London E8 2HW
<b>Gross internal area</b>	73m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Clients</b>	Steve Ackroyd and Laura Goulden
<b>Architect</b>	IF_DO
<b>Schedule</b>	Appointed October 2015, construction January–June 2018
<b>Building Contractor</b>	Fernrose Ltd (NOTE: now in administration)
<b>Structural Engineer</b>	Corbett & Tasker
<b>Photographers</b>	© Mariell Lind Hansen

**IF\_DO**

Established in 2014 by Al Scott, Sarah Castle and Thomas Bryans, IF\_DO is a young design practice dedicated to creating projects with a positive impact on users, the environment and the surrounding community. IF\_DO works on projects of all scales, from interiors and one-off houses, to strategic planning and master plans. Current projects range from a ten-year strategic master plan for the Irish campus of internationally acclaimed furniture designer Joseph Walsh, to the Dulwich Pavilion, a temporary summer pavilion for the London Festival of Architecture 2017 at Dulwich Picture Gallery. The practice is also engaged in a number of private residential builds, including Well Street in Bury St Edmunds.

Informed by research, the practice was founded on the principles that we should ask questions and take action, always seeking to deliver broader social and environmental benefits through design and working closely with clients to make their projects do more.

The three founders met whilst studying architecture at the University of Edinburgh.  
[www.ifdo.co](http://www.ifdo.co)



Photo © Mariell Lind Hansen