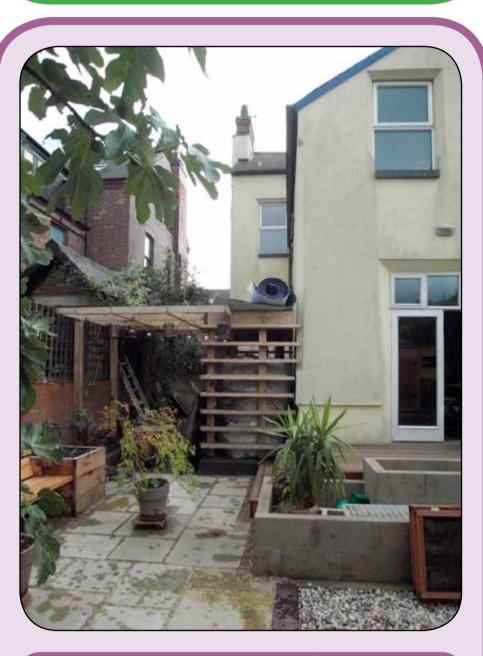


garden before



9 integrated house & garden



8 vertical layering • living roofs

Taking the retrofit to the next level

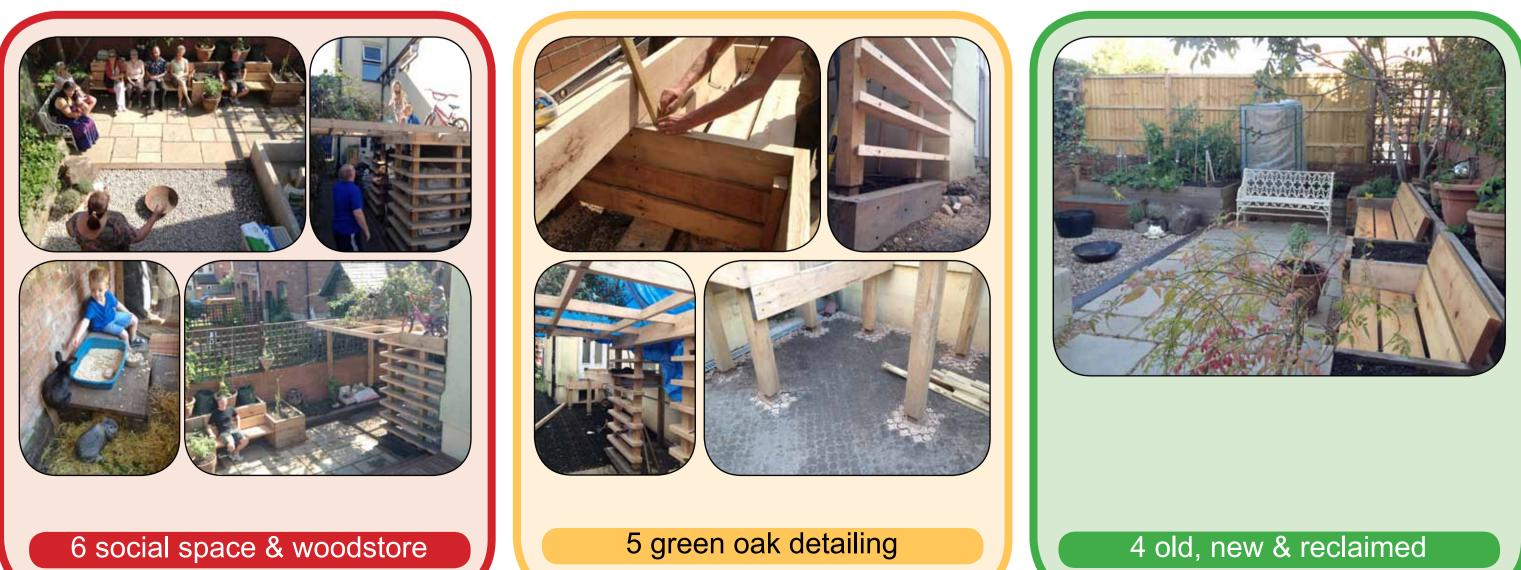
After 14 years of living in and renovating the house we wanted to tackle the garden with the same ambitious pragmatism, rigour and attention to detail. This phase provided an opportunity to explore ecological issues in a small urban garden. We wanted to look at ways we could combine issues of food growing, biodiversity, appropriate materials, water management and premaculture with a strong architectural approach that solves many problems at once.

The site is small and constrained, with the rear garden north facing and lacking in sun for 6 months of the year. The solution was to create raised beds and living roofs to allow more light from all directions and increase productivity. This raising up of the landscape has not only maximised growing potential but also by exploiting the vertical metre has allowed new social relationships and a multilayered richness to infect the garden. At the same time much of the space has become disabled friendly. Much needed extenal storage for wood fuel, garden tools and bicycles has been provided in a way that is both practical and beautiful. The design evolved out of our vision, those of the landscapers and their skills with and access to a good source of green oak. This collaboration involved fewer drawings and more sketching and frequent discussions on site, rather than in the traditional way behind a desk.

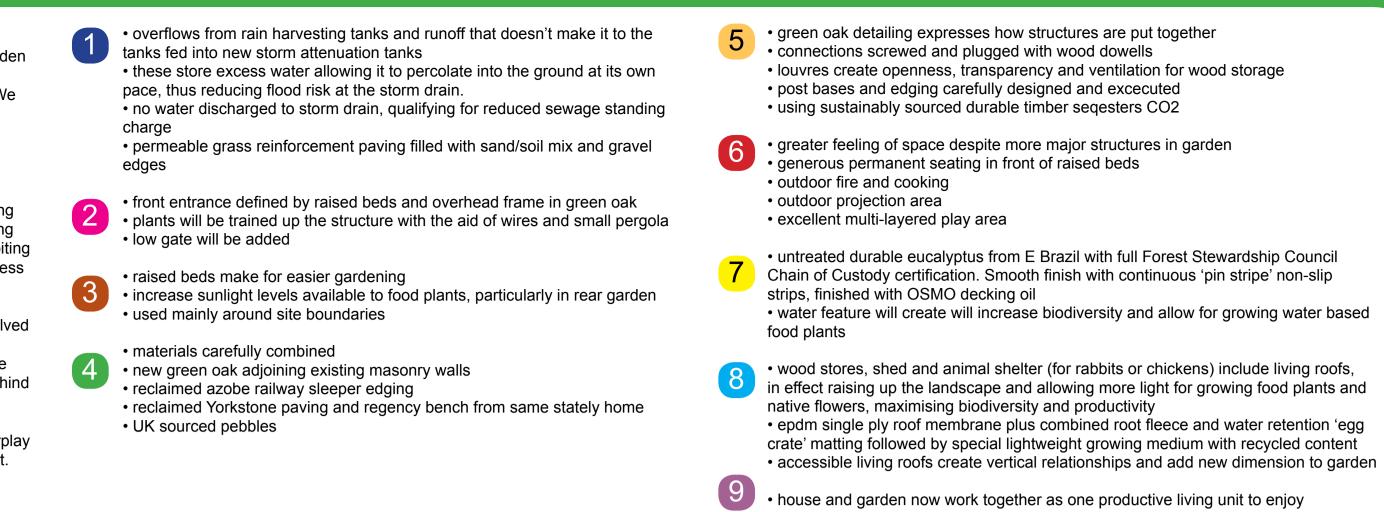
The garden feels more spacious despite being more densely packed. The interplay and layering of volumes, planes and spaces create constant interest and delight.







7 decking & water feature



small urban permaculture garden



1 suds water management



2 making an entrance



3 raised beds