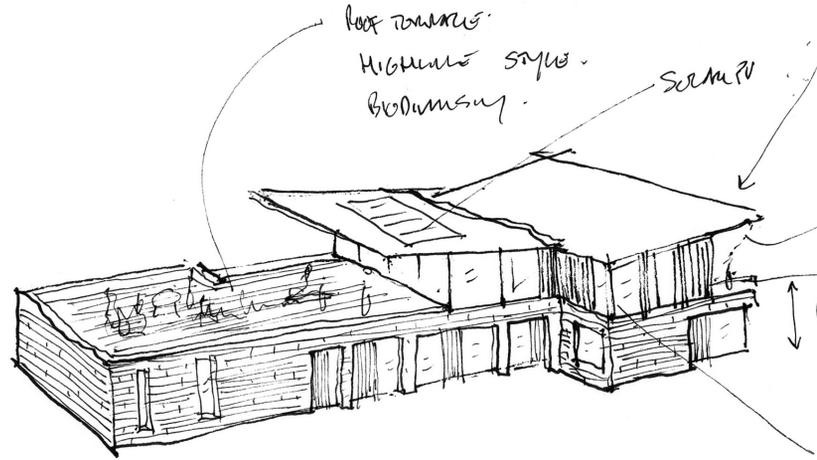


# Architects of the month eco warriors

There's a power in team work and the collaborative atmosphere at PAD studio is immediately apparent. Award-winning and gathering a reputation for their approach to sustainability, this laid-back studio is certainly one to watch

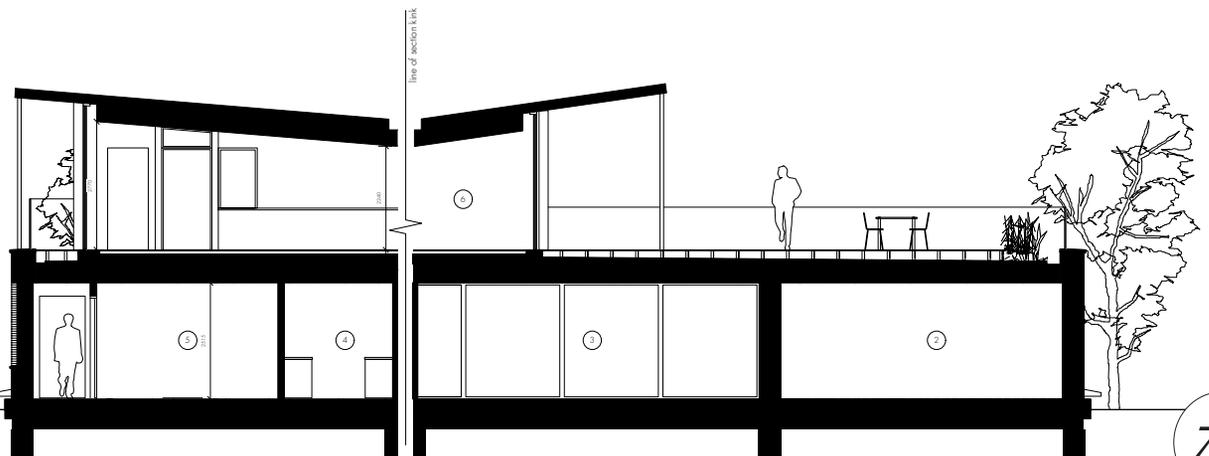
Photography Nigel Rigden





"SUSTAINABILITY SHOULD NOT BE ADDED ON AT THE END AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT"

Every project is worked out on a long roll of paper, with every thought recorded in order so they can refer back through the creative process





The New Forest House demonstrates how PAD work to truly enhance and work with the environment. The outward view is particularly striking, but look back at the house itself and a new dramatic vista has been created with the use of a swimming pond to reflect the façade.



"THERE IS A LOT OF CREATIVE ENERGY. IT IS INFORMAL, LAID BACK AND FUN"





"THEY DEMANDED TO KNOW WHY WE DID NOT LIVE IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE! I PROMISED THEM ONE DAY..."

The studio team at PAD oozes personality, right down to Otto, the office dog and "youngest member of the team." With PAD you get the feeling that however much experience some of the senior team have (there's robust experience here) that it truly is a dedication to team work and continued learning that drives the practice forward. An inherent understanding that anyone could contribute something invaluable appears as a thread. Managing director and founding partner Wendy Perring is confident in what they stand for which is rooted firmly in their passion for the environment. But, they are more than this, there is also a cultural subtext and appreciation of the work of great artists that have come before them, giving them a foundation and a starting point in any project. Architects always get excited with the possibilities of large budgets, but at PAD they appear undeterred by the budget restrictions, seeking solutions with such an energy and optimism that the result will be all the better for the journey, however complicated.

**What are your greatest influences?**  
*Every site and every client are unique, and each has something different to say. Our clients are at the heart of everything we do. We listen carefully to all that they hope to achieve, we ask questions (we like to probe beneath the surface), we collaborate with clients and with those involved in the construction process.*

*something special and they were committed to the process.*

**What is your proudest achievement?**  
*Taking my children to see the New Forest House. They wanted to move in and demanded to know why we did not live in such a beautiful house! I promised them one day...*

**In what way do they manifest in your work today?** *We do not have a house style or a set approach to design. Our work is rooted in place and we take time to explore the landscape and to research its history. This tends to lead us to our design solution, which are very site and client specific.*

**How do you approach a new project?**  
*We always start by talking. We talk, we listen, we visit the site, we talk some more and only then do we put pen to paper. We also work on a long roll of paper, drawing by hand. We record our design sketches as a story which indicates our train of thought. No rubbing out is allowed as every thought is valuable. This working approach helps us to articulate our thinking to our client.*

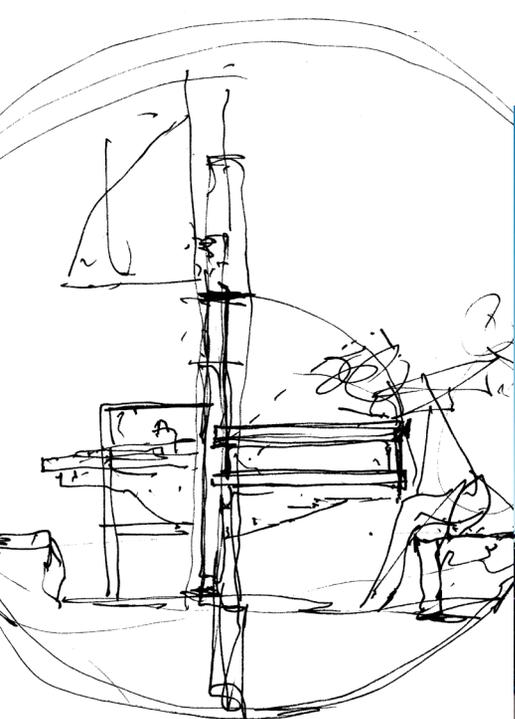
**What inspired you to become an architect?** *In the studio, we are all convinced that architecture holds the potential to enhance the human condition in all that we do. And it does - thoughtful and bespoke design really can be healing and restorative.*

**What is unique about PAD studio?**  
*We like to describe ourselves as storytellers. Every project that we do has a strong narrative thread and we work in a forensic way to uncover this.*

**What is your favourite project?**  
*Our first new-build house, The New Forest House was a leap of faith for our clients as we were at the time 'unproven' as a practice. The site was stunning, located down a track in the New Forest National Park, with wonderful open views. The clients were warm, honest and gave us freedom, but they also knew that they wanted*

**Can you describe the atmosphere of the PAD studio office?** *There is a lot of creative energy, and it is informal, laid back and fun. Clients pick up on this and very quickly feel at home, I think. Our office is a converted shop building just off the High Street in the Georgian seaside town of Lymington, and we are*





*often in shorts and flip-flops making the most of where we live and work.*

**How do you embed sustainable design in your work?**

*Sustainability should not be added on at the end as an afterthought. It is an approach which starts with the initial discussion and site visit. We believe in spending money on the shell of the building, not on bolt-on technologies.*

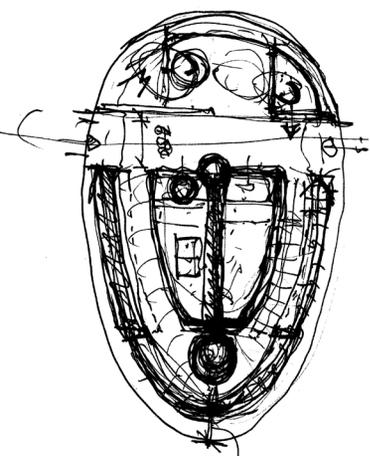
**What is your favourite building?**

*So far, (in my view you can only judge a building that you have experienced) it would be Can Lis by Jørn Utzon. Occasionally, buildings that you have admired in photographs and studied in drawings and theory can disappoint when you visit, but this place was somehow more magical.*

**What are the most exciting technological inventions coming up?**

*I am excited by anything that enables us to build beautiful buildings and yet reduce our impact upon the earth and safeguard it for future generations.*

*padstudio.co.uk*



**FAVOURITE BOOK?**

*Invisible Cities by Italo Calvino and Perfume: The story of a Murderer by Patrick Suskind*

**FAVOURITE FILM?**

*Cinema Paradiso & Pulp Fiction*

**FAVOURITE FOOD?**

*Hummus and avocado*

**FAVOURITE CITY?**

*Dubrovnik, London, Venice and Amsterdam*

**FAVOURITE MUSIC?**

*Dusky, and Sibelius*

**YOUR FAVOURITE ARCHITECTS?**

*They're mostly all dead, but: Jørn Utzon, Sverre Fehn, Alvar Aalto. Peter Zumthor has to be one of the world's greatest living architects*

**FAVOURITE ARTISTS?**

*Grayson Perry, Giacometti, Francis Bacon, Alfred Wallis*

**COFFEE HOUSE?**

*We are self-confessed coffee snobs (as are many architects) and love popping down to our local bean roasting company called Coffee Monger's for our beans*