

ARCHITECTURE SPECIAL

THE UK'S BEST PRACTICES FOR ANY PROJECT

Finding the right architect is the foundation of any successful building work. Here, we've picked the top 25 firms that can help you achieve the best results, whatever the size, style or budget

Words AMY FREARSON

LONDON



Designed by Jørn Utzon, the Ahm house (named after builder Povl Ahm) was sensitively modernised by Coppin Dockray

COPPIN DOCKRAY NORTH LONDON

Modernist home renovations are the speciality of Sandra Coppin and Bev Dockray's studio. They have already breathed new life into structures by the likes of Jørn Utzon and Alison and Peter Smithson, and upgraded apartments in the Berthold Lubetkin-designed Highpoint. **They say** 'Twentieth-century buildings are too often torn down as their environmental performance is poor and they are tricky to refurbish. We believe these properties can be brought back into use and enjoyed.' coppindockray.co.uk ►

TSURUTA ARCHITECTS SOUTHEAST LONDON

The Japanese upbringing of architect Taro Tsuruta has heavily influenced his style of building. Projects include a conservatory with a complex diagrid roof (below) and a staircase made from 2,000 interlocking components. **They say** 'We have a hands-on approach, inspired by architects like [Filippo] Brunelleschi, who even designed the scaffoldings for his projects.' tsurutaarchitects.com



OFFICE SIAN EAST LONDON

Gurmeet Sian collaborates closely with his clients to bring a spirit of individuality to his residential projects. On this Middleton Road Victorian terrace (below), he has explored combinations of form, pattern and material. **They say** 'Our approach is based on understanding the concerns of the client, why they wish for change, as opposed to what they want to change. We also feel we can make the journey of designing one's home fun!' officesian.com



CENTRAL ENGLAND



Douglas fir ribs combine with a concrete frame for The Houseboat in Poole by Mole Architects

MOLE ARCHITECTS CAMBRIDGE

With architects Meredith Bowles and Ian Bramwell at the helm, this practice is adept at creating properties with striking silhouettes and intelligent use of materials. It has even collaborated with superstar architects Atelier Peter Zumthor and MVRDV for the Living Architecture holiday homes.

They say 'We design houses that are contemporary, with an interest in materials and vernacular architecture, often finding dramatic solutions.' molearchitects.co.uk

BEECH ARCHITECTS THORNDON, SUFFOLK

A converted 125-year-old windmill (below) and a remodelled cowshed are among the creative renovation projects produced by Craig Beech and Ruth Paternoster's studio. These architects like to experiment with innovative construction techniques to make their buildings both contextual and sustainable.

They say 'We create solutions that meet our clients' needs and aspirations, but also incorporate sustainability, green materials and architectural surprises.'

beecharchitects.com



HUDSON ARCHITECTS NORWICH

This studio has amassed an impressive portfolio in the 18 years since Anthony Hudson founded it. From a fort-like villa with a helical staircase (above) on the Jersey coastline to a zinc-clad home on the Suffolk saltmarsh, its projects share a sense of drama.

They say 'We respond to context with a flexible, thoughtful and imaginative approach, to create wonderful places and spaces for people to inhabit.' hudsonarchitects.co.uk



INTERVENTION ARCHITECTURE BIRMINGHAM

Architect Anna Parker knows how to bring imagination to projects, no matter how small. She has a particular interest in CNC fabrication (computer-programmed cutting machinery), which she demonstrated on a reconfigurable apartment for a dancer, while other projects include a clever conversion of a Victorian coach house (left).

They say 'We have evolved with the challenge of getting the most from typically low-budget projects. This is achieved by carefully detailing and considering an economy of materials to maximise their effects in spaces.'

interventionarchitecture.com ➤