

RIBA 

# Architecture Review East 2006

Royal Institute of British Architects





## The Light House, Belper, Derbyshire



The house opens up to the south east, making the most of the spectacular views over the Amber Valley. Built into the hillside, the building's materiality becomes progressively light, from solid red stone to timber and then glass, culminating in a two-storey glass sun lounge that protrudes for five-metres without support from the southern face of the building and shimmers, fish-skin like, with staggered, lapped stainless steel shingle cladding.

The unusual building form was brought about substantially from local development restrictions: being a maximum of one metre above the local road level and having a maximum total height, the roof became the main elevation and slopes in two directions at a low pitch. The roof's careful detailing was designed to pick up on the patchwork of roofs and fields that are visible across it and the valley.

Made up of 30mm thick solid slate panels, the roof was a unique detailing challenge that resulted in peel riveting directly into what is essentially a composite metal/insulation shed-type roof construction. The building enables single-level living with the master bedroom/bathroom at entrance level and guest rooms below. A crow's nest-like office sits in the top of the sun lounge with panoramic views of the valley.



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