



The collaboration between architects and their clients can be rich and fruitful. In this issue we look at a few particularly well-resolved projects. Whilst some clients are happy to hand over the entire process to the architect, others have ideas they would like to explore. It's my belief that architecture that looks at issues of sustainability is particularly suited to collaboration.

The owners of the small terrace featured on our cover had strong ideas regarding the use of existing materials to create an inspiring and individual space. Together with the architect they blended these materials into their renovation in a creative and harmonious way. They also worked together to keep the budget down, taking care to choose materials (other than those that were recycled) that were not just affordable but long lasting. Such client/architect relationships are great to hear about.

Encouraging the use of low toxic finishes is also an important role for architects. Spending a bit more (or not) on products that won't harm your health is an important message to consumers. Why breathe in nasty toxins, when you can use others with no dangerous substances. Our feature on such finishes is on page 24.

Fewer toxins also mean happier bees, particularly if their hives are coated in natural oils and wax. Backyard bees, as Amadis Lacheta explains on page 80, are becoming more popular. I was surprised to learn that bees bred in urban areas often produce better honey than those in some rural areas, where pollution from herbicides and pesticides, and less diverse flora due to mono crop production, can affect the quality. A new style of hive designed specifically for the domestic environment makes it easy to breed bees and harvest honey. Yum.

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