

An architect is not simply the domain of the self-builder, they can also bring innovative solutions to conversion and renovation projects. A fact not lost on Kathy and Shamis O'Farrell who turned to Architectyourhome when looking to create more living space in their cramped Edwardian semi.

"We wanted to hire an architect to get that 'wow' factor, and also advise on how to maximise the light potential in what was essentially a dark and dingy home." Explains Kathy. Not sure of the best way to approach the problem, the couple are now adamant that they could never have visualised such a bold and inspiring basement conversion, either on their own or with a builder.

Keen to play an active part in the building works and project management to keep the costs down, the O'Farrells chose Architectyourhome because its menu of services allowed them the use of an architect only when needed. In this case for the initial design, planning submission and Building Regulation drawings. The rest they did themselves, only returning to Architectyourhome for advice along the way. The result is an airy, spacious two-story glass extension, flooded with light and one that, while only adding 1.5m to the footprint of the property, enabled a radical change to the interior layout of the house. And according to Kathy: "Having the courage to go for something really spectacular has paid off, with the renovation increasing the property's value by £100,000 to £150,000."

