

FREE WITH TODAY'S Evening Standard

Homes & Property

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ARCHITECT IN THE HOUSE



Good advice: the back of this house in Westcombe Park Road, Bletchworth, has been given an exciting extension, thanks to architects and advisers at RDA Architects

RACING more than £100,000 for the charity Shelter, one of the perennially popular events of Architecture Week is the Architect in the House scheme.

For a donation of as little as £20, householders can talk with an architect about plans for their dream home, from adding an extension, converting an attic or subtly transforming their living space. Decorative painter's expert Linda Beane is one client who found architect Richard Dudrick through the scheme.

"I wanted to extend the kitchen and make a welcoming dining space to prompt me to invite more friends to supper," she says.

Dudrick, of the young, south London practice RDA Architects, will be offering his advice for the fourth time.

"It's a bit like being a house doctor. I take a whole week off, jump on my motorbike and drive around from house to house talking to people about their plans," he says.

"In most cases, people are looking for ideas, but we do usually get a few jobs as a result. Above all, I like the idea of putting something back into the community, and raising money for Shelter is always a very good cause."

Householders are invited to register on the Architect in the House website, www.architectinthehouse.com, and are then matched with an architect in their area.



Making house calls: Duarte Peino (left), Anna Gentzel and Richard Dudrick all work for RDA Architects (020 8294 2222)



Light and airy: RDA Architects, which takes part in Architect In the House, created this space in a Wandsworth house