# Basalt House blend: how a material-led Victorian extension enhances heritage and sustainability



Basalt House is a striking example of how materiality and minimalist design can transform a Victorian terrace in north west London into a thoughtfully extended family home. Designed by local architecture studio EBBA, the project involved both a rear and a loft extension that reconfigure circulation and usher more daylight into the property's traditionally deep and narrow layout. By employing raw blocks of grey basalt stone, the architects bring a tactile, grounded quality to the home’s contemporary interventions, successfully balancing respect for historical architecture with modern living needs.

EBBA’s approach to Basalt House reflects an ethos of "doing more with less," focusing on subtle yet meaningful architectural gestures to enhance flow, light, and texture. The loft extension adds two bedrooms and features a circular skylight that channels natural light down through the stairwell, brightening the central areas on the lower floors. At the rear, the new kitchen area is topped by a long, sloping skylight and opens fully to the garden via a sliding glass door. These extensions introduce two clear visual and physical axes through the home—from the front door and adjacent living room to the garden—creating a welcoming spatial sequence that strengthens connections between interior and exterior.

The choice of basalt as a predominant material is particularly noteworthy. EBBA highlights the stone’s lower embodied carbon compared to traditional building materials, aligning with modern sustainability goals. The basalt blocks are left exposed on the rear facade, complemented by a large white steel lintel above the sliding door, which visually reinforces the structure’s weight and solidity. Inside, the material palette includes white walls and custom-built storage, a dark-stained ash kitchen island, and grey valchromat countertops, all resting on polished concrete floors that contrast yet harmonise with the original timber floorboards. These elements underscore the studio’s careful attention to tactile richness and environmental performance while bridging old and new architectural narratives.

According to EBBA, Basalt House exemplifies their philosophy of material-led transformations that uplift everyday living while honoring the home’s historical context and construction methods. This design sensitivity is echoed in previous projects by the studio, such as another Victorian extension in Camden where white-painted steel frames blend old and new, and a project in East London combining brutalist inspirations with classic villa details. Across these works, including Basalt House, EBBA consistently integrates sustainable, natural materials and precise craftsmanship—qualities that contribute to a calm, cohesive atmosphere and enhance the holistic experience of the home.

Photographer Rikard Kahn’s imagery captures the expressive texture of the basalt stone and the warm, sophisticated interiors, visually narrating the success of EBBA’s interventions. By reviving a Victorian home with bold yet harmonious contemporary architecture, Basalt House illustrates how thoughtful design can enrich both the materiality and lived experience of a heritage property, setting a compelling example for future residential renovations.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/09/07/basalt-house-extension-ebba/), [[2]](https://www.architecturelab.net/basalt-house-ebba-architects/), [[3]](https://eb-ba.co/category/projects/dwelling/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/09/07/basalt-house-extension-ebba/), [[2]](https://www.architecturelab.net/basalt-house-ebba-architects/), [[3]](https://eb-ba.co/category/projects/dwelling/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/09/07/basalt-house-extension-ebba/), [[2]](https://www.architecturelab.net/basalt-house-ebba-architects/), [[3]](https://eb-ba.co/category/projects/dwelling/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/09/07/basalt-house-extension-ebba/), [[3]](https://eb-ba.co/category/projects/dwelling/), [[4]](https://www.urdesignmag.com/cast-house-extension-london-uk-ebba-architects/), [[6]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/ebba-renovates-victorian-terraced-house-with-lightweight-facade)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/09/07/basalt-house-extension-ebba/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dezeen.com/2025/09/07/basalt-house-extension-ebba/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.architecturelab.net/basalt-house-ebba-architects/> - This article discusses the Basalt House project by EBBA Architects, focusing on the renovation and extension of a Victorian terrace in North-West London. The design introduces a rear extension clad in basalt stone and a loft conversion with an organically shaped skylight, enhancing natural light throughout the home. The project emphasises sustainable materials and craftsmanship, featuring restored timber floors, aluminium-framed doors, and bespoke joinery made from dark-stained ash. The design aims to unify the home's different levels and provide a cohesive living space.
3. <https://eb-ba.co/category/projects/dwelling/> - The EBBA Architects' official website showcases their 'Dwelling' projects, including the Basalt House. The project is described as a thoughtful renovation and extension of a Victorian terrace in North-West London, blending historic character with contemporary interventions. A bold rear extension in richly textured basalt stone and a loft conversion crowned by an organically shaped skylight revitalise the home. The design brings natural light deep into the house, connecting all levels in a cohesive rhythm, and uses materials like basalt stone and steel to create a calm, grounded atmosphere.
4. <https://www.urdesignmag.com/cast-house-extension-london-uk-ebba-architects/> - This article highlights EBBA Architects' Cast House Extension in East London, a renovation of a Victorian terraced house. The project combines brutalist-style materials with details inspired by a classic Roman villa, featuring a rear extension with a vaulted ceiling and a continuous tiled floor that connects the garden to the living space. The design includes a lowered section in the living space and kitchen, creating varied atmospheres within the same area. The facade is cast in pigmented eco-cement with a subtle brown tone, reminiscent of Brutalist architecture.
5. <https://www.ribaj.com/buildings/house-extensions-ebba-cast-house-london> - The Royal Institute of British Architects Journal discusses EBBA Architects' Cast House Extension in East London. The project is designed for a young couple seeking a distinctive yet refined home suitable for their growing family. It features a sequence of spaces accommodating active lifestyles and moments of calm, with generous ancillary storage. The design balances flexible informal spaces with formal living areas, incorporating a balance between informal living and working spaces and formal areas for study and relaxation.
6. <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/ebba-renovates-victorian-terraced-house-with-lightweight-facade> - The Architects Journal reports on EBBA Architects' renovation of a Victorian terraced house in Camden, North London. The project uses white painted steel interventions to stitch in a series of sensitive additions, enhancing the home's character while introducing contemporary elements. The design focuses on maintaining the building's historical essence while integrating modern features, reflecting EBBA's approach to blending old and new architectural styles.
7. <https://bustler.net/news/tags/home-improvement/690760> - Bustler features EBBA Architects' Steel House project, an ambitious yet sensitive renovation of a traditional terraced house. The design combines contemporary interventions to stitch in a series of additions, including a full-width double-height extension that brings natural light deep into the plan. The project prioritises the use of natural materials and earthy tones, creating warm and inviting spaces that promote a sense of calm, with extensive structural changes made to seamlessly integrate the new elements into the old.