

Press Release

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SPECIALIST EXPERTISE PROVIDES SOLUTION FOR LISTED BUILDING EXTENSION PROJECT



Picture courtesy of John McCall Architects.

A project to create a new extension to an existing listed domestic building has turned the spotlight on the specialist structural engineering skills provided by Rhodes & Partners. The result is a highly unusual structure that answers the design brief, whilst overcoming the restrictions imposed by the nature of the site itself.

“The brief was to build an impressive frameless-glass garden room on the site, and then add a connecting passageway to allow the owners to move freely between the lounge and the main

house,” explains Antony Levendi of Rhodes & Partners. “The difficulty lay in creating a reasonably-sized connecting passageway in a relatively confined area at the foot of a slope.”

Rhodes & Partners worked closely with both the property owner, and John McCall Architects, to develop an appropriate solution to the challenge. “To create the space for the connecting passageway we had to cut into the sloping area and establish a retaining wall which would laterally resist the ground behind it,” Antony continues. “The passageway was also designed with a precast concrete roof, which then provided the base for a green roof.”

The retaining wall was constructed using a concrete-infill cavity construction, partially lined on the earth bank side with expanded foam panels. “This was a practical and cost-effective solution to backfilling the wall,” adds Antony. “The foam has a high compressive strength. Being relatively lightweight it doesn’t add significantly to the weight of the wall itself, but it reduces the lateral pressure on the wall.”

Rhodes & Partners has considerable experience of retaining wall projects, and recently launched a new retaining wall service which gives clients easy access to the company’s wealth of experience and expertise.

For more details on Rhodes & Partners, please visit www.rhodesandpartners.co.uk, email office@rhodesandpartners.co.uk, or call 0161 427 8388.

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