

Special Mention

Farmhouse Project

Architect: Lawrence and Long Architects
Location: Tara, Co. Meath
Client: Private
Floor Area: 192m²
Photography: Richard Hatch



Architects' Description

The aim of the project was to create two courtyards to the rear of a Georgian Farmhouse in Co. Meath.

The courtyards responded to different elements of the brief; one being agricultural, while the other courtyard was more domestic, containing play areas and a kitchen herb garden. Additional rooms were created to the lower courtyard, forming a series of spaces to enjoy the site.

The arrangement of both the courtyards and the buildings are set out according to a geometry of pure squares, relating back to the front wall of the farmhouse. Care was also taken with the detail design of components. Large oak sliders, with wicket doors which move across the south-facing elevation, were designed to a strict ordering system where the proportion of the components are either squares or golden sections. Oak shutters provide ventilation and also animate the facade.





Comments

IN It's a lot of wood.

SW That's what I thought too – 'Oh, it's too much wood'.
Could you actually live in that?

IN It would be kind of oppressive.

SW World of wood.

EW But it's going to be greyed down a bit over time, isn't it?
It's going to be less sauna-like.

SW It could be like being in a Glen Campbell song, you know
that guy from 1971 or something.

IN That would be beautiful. Full of yearning and melancholy.

SW All that's missing are Navajo blankets on the floor.

MVH It's a lot of wood but it's used like it should be used; just
columns, beams, and panelling.

SW For me, the strength of this project is the two courtyards

and it's arrangement of the site. It's like a take on Palladio
in some way, and the external spaces that the layout makes
are really good.

MF It's a bit relentless.

IN Apart from two rooms for gathering or working in,
everything else has an outdoor function. Presumably those
are the studies which we're seeing in the interior photographs.
Then there's a room for vegetables, for a dog, tools, and
machinery.

SW Oh right, it's just storage.

EW It's odd not to show the encounter with the Georgian
house.

IN It's directly opposite, is it?

EW It connects through to the house. There's a house here.

MF That is peculiar.

SW But it looks like, from the plan, that the back of the house
is a total mess.



EW That would explain it.

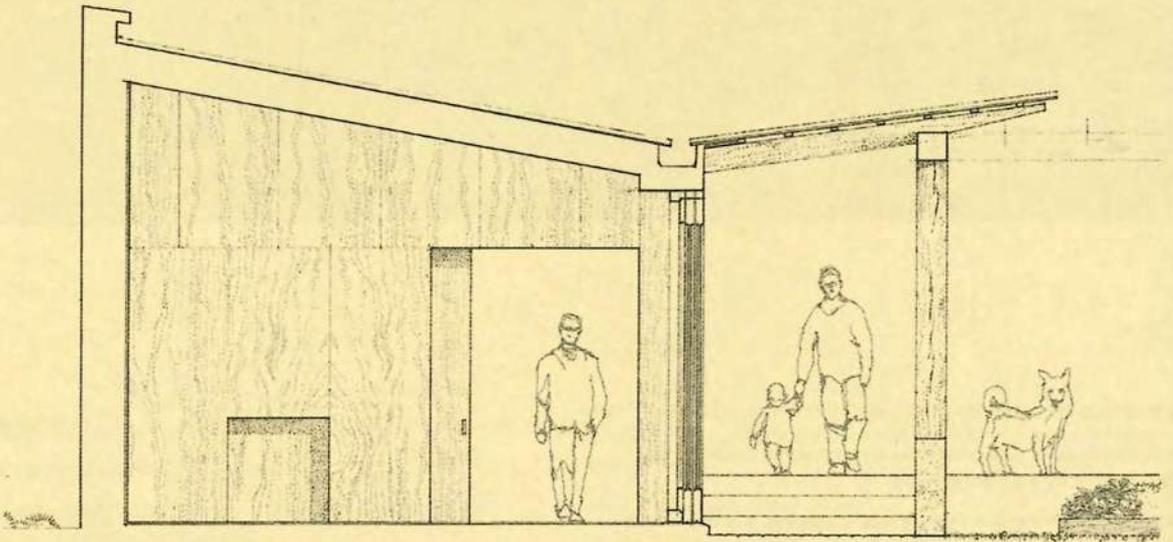
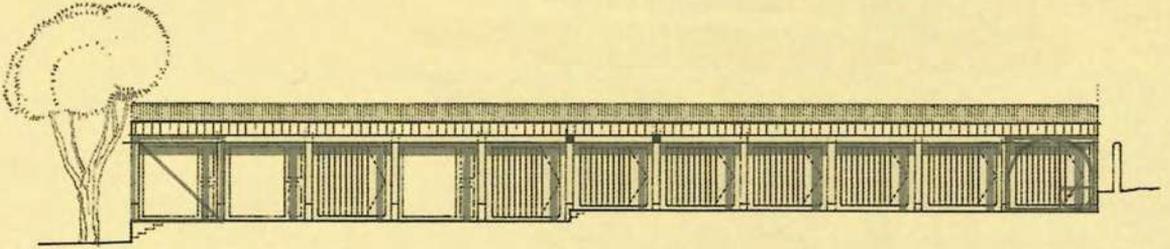
SW In which case, this new building puts some order on the site, which may be a good thing.

EW Well, I'm feeling like this project is staying. It's not worth weeding out.

IN I wouldn't expect to see something like this on a farm, which is nice.

SW And it will be painted eventually.

Elevation and Section



Ground Floor Plan

- 1 Study
- 2 Root Room
- 3 Play
- 4 Vegetables
- 5 Dog
- 6 Tools
- 7 Machinery
- 8 Pergola
- 9 Kitchen Garden
- 10 Forecourt
- 11 Raised Terrace
- 12 Existing Arch
- 13 Existing House

