

BuildingFutures  
**AWARDS**  
**2011**

- Award Category:** Design Excellence
- Project:** Dovecote Barn, Great Amwell
- Client:** James Pearce
- Project Team:** Nicolas Tye Architects



Dovecote Barn is a contemporary rear extension building to a recently converted barn in Great Amwell, built to create more practical living space for the resident family, by adding depth to the long and narrow footprint of the existing barn.

The objective of the project was to turn the existing barn into a more family friendly space, whilst retaining its character and linear nature. The completed extension takes the form of a simple rectangular box – designed not to attract attention away from the main barn building. This is complemented by high quality materials and fittings – such as hand-batched polished concrete flooring and a bespoke lighting scheme - suitable for a modern living environment.

The scale of the extension is subservient to the form of the main barn, with the extension designed to be ‘tucked under’ the eaves level, so that the existing roof structure is not disturbed. Materials used have evolved and are from the existing material palette found on the site, to ensure that new materials are in keeping with what is already there.

The dark-painted solid timber wall and some well-considered glazing positions allow privacy for both the residents and their neighbours, whilst providing generous amounts of natural light.

The rear extension also provides a direct link between the barn and the garden space, with level access and large sliding glazing panels, which open up the extension to the external patio area. The connection to the rear garden is further enhanced by the integration of a landscaping scheme.

Internally, the additional space provides a new dining area and allows the existing dining space to be used as a children's play area, visible and accessible from the current main living spaces.

**Judges comments:**

“The incorporation of existing site materials and innovative design into this extension project ensure that the building as a whole is more functional for its residents, whilst also remaining sympathetic to the features of the original barn.”