

Wallpaper*

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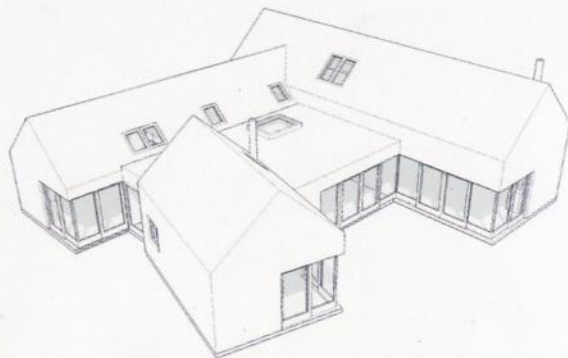




04 Q SPACE ▲

Soho has long been full of brilliant basements (albeit some more above board than others), but a particularly charming new underground venture has just opened on Lower John Street. Housed in a former textile warehouse, Q Space is devoted to the art and culture of the book. For the last three decades it was the home of renowned rare book dealer Bernard Quaritch, and the felt-lined shelving and bookish fittings form the background to what co-founder Bigna Pfenninger hopes will be 'a little island of beauty in the centre of London'. Pfenninger, editor of independent arts publication *The Drawbridge*, has joined forces with Silke Rittson-Thomas, ex-director of West Coast gallery Blum & Poe, and Francesca Migliorati (all pictured above), co-owner of A Palazzo Gallery in Brescia, to create a place for discussion of the history and future of the printed book, as well as the opportunity for quiet appreciation of the book in all its forms. While our noses will be in the books, theirs will be to the grindstone: Q Space includes an exhibition area, a gallery to house a changing collection of artist-produced books, a reading room and a bookshop 'curated' by Michael Mack. The team also plans to start a publishing division under the Q Space imprint. 5-8 Lower John Street, London W1

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05 KONISHI GAFFNEY ▲

The Japanese House, a modest yet meticulously crafted family home on a small brownfield site in the Edinburgh suburb of Portobello, is the first self-built design by husband-and-wife team Makiko Konishi and Kieran Gaffney. The couple, who met at Heatherwick Studio in London, wanted to build a house and studio 'simply and cheaply' and adopted a number of Japanese devices in the process. Key among them was *Nuri-en* – the concept of integrating inside and outside space – which they achieved by creating a glazed covered area that seamlessly spills into the garden. As a result, the Japanese House transcends its more prosaic role as an affordable – and impressively energy efficient – home for a Scottish-Japanese family, to provide a living experience subtly imbued with a spiritual dimension. www.konishigaffney.com



For a tour of Stable Acre (01), visit Wallpaper.com

06 RAINWEAR ◀

If there's one thing the British know a thing or two about, it's wet weather. Inspired by the old-fashioned rain hats that ladies used to wear in the 1970s, Bernstock Speirs' bubblewrap hat was created to provide a modern answer to an age-old problem. This London-based millinery label strives to create a new generation of hat-wearers, which is not dissimilar to what London Undercover is trying to do in the umbrella world. A rebellion against the signature black canvas, its umbrellas are influenced by quintessentially British things – the greasy spoon café tablecloth version opens up to reveal an image of a full English breakfast. And all umbrellas are made using recycled canvas, metal shaft and frames, and biodegradable handles. Ending our trio of rainwear, bag specialist Chapman has brought out a mini messenger bag. Handcrafted in Cumbria, the bags feature a 100 per cent waterproof material – worsted suiting cloth bonded with a cotton Burgundy lining and a natural latex core – making it a most stylish and durable way to keep personal items safe and dry. www.bernstockspeirs.com; www.londonundercover.co.uk; www.chapmanbags.com



LET IT RAIN
Mini messenger bag, £129, by Chapman. Umbrella, £55, by London Undercover. Hat, £20, by Bernstock Speirs