

Architects-column

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DOMESTIC LIFTS

Future proof your home

When we first started working for domestic clients most home owners had a 5 year plan. Their intention was to spend sufficient money on extending and developing their property, increase the value and then sell after approximately 5 years. The profit enabled home owners to move onto the next property.

Since the recession the trend has been towards long term investments in properties and clients now advise us that they intend to stay in their property long term or even permanently.

With this in mind it is important to consider the long term benefits of any work being out carried on your property. Work should be considered in the short, medium and long term ensuring that your property remains as relevant to you in decades to come as it is today. Increasing life expectancy means that many people will be living in their property well into old age. A future proofed home will benefit you now and for many years in the future.

The domestic lift

The stair lift has become a common addition to properties enabling continued access to the first floor in old age. These offer a practical solution to accessing the first floor but can be unsightly and also cumbersome.

An alternative to the stair lift is a domestic lift. In recent years these have become more compact and efficient. When proposing extensions and alterations to a property it may be worthwhile considering a lift early in the design process. This way they can be neatly incorporated into a property and will future proof the home for years to come. There are lifts available that are compact enough to fit into a cupboard space, possibly utilising redundant airing cupboards.



Alternatively a lift could be installed as a design feature within the home in a similar way to a feature staircase.

As the popularity increases more designs options are likely to become available.

Costs for an installed domestic lift currently start at around £12,000 + VAT and many domestic lifts can be installed within two days:

Although the cost of a lift could be a substantial investment, if it is incorporated well into a project it is likely to add value to a property and also increase the potential market for buyers should you come to sell the house.

The cost can also be considered against the cost of moving home if a property becomes impractical, due to stairs, in the future.

Bay Windows

If you are considering changing your windows it may be worth giving thought to replacing some of them with bay windows.

Bay windows can help to make a room feel larger by setting the glazing away from the external wall of the existing property.

A bay could be a simple modern glass box or a traditional bay possibly with the incorporation of a window seat.



for more advice contact us on 0151 342 7748 or call in and see us at our new office 47 Telegraph Road, Heswall