



# RENOVATION RUSH: A WINTER'S TALE

*Ruth and Bob Anderson hired L&E (Lofts and Extensions) to create an impressive family home. One season was all it took.*

**Y**ou never know where life will take you, but as the Anderson family prove, you really do get out what you put in. Hard work and a little determination are the key.

When the Andersons began searching for their ideal family home, refurbishing it was never part of the plan. Fast-forward three fruitless years, however, and they began to realise that the time for compromise had come.

*"We had no intention of working on a house, but the perfect home was either too expensive or in the wrong road,"* admits Ruth. *"When we found this place, we were in two minds. We really liked the area, but all the work required made it seem really daunting."*

That was 2012, when the house was a very different place.

*"Nothing had been done for a long time, so it needed a lot of work both inside and out. Even so, it had a happy, cosy feel and we could see its potential."*

By the time they picked up the keys, the couple were keen to move in. At the



very least, however, the house needed refurbishing before they could go ahead.

*"Originally, I approached lots of different builders to do different jobs and was getting into a real pickle,"* recalls Ruth. *"What I needed was for someone to come in and just take control for me."*

Luckily for the Andersons, it was at this point that they decided to call L&E.

*"The surveyor came round and I really liked him. He had an answer to all my questions and gave me real confidence in the company. Rather than doing bits and pieces, he suggested, why not save money*

*in the long run by doing it all in one go? That really opened my eyes and we just decided to go for it."*

Ruth was also impressed with the team's 'can do' attitude and personable approach.

*"The surveyor was very informative. He even took me to see a project completed by my future building team. It gave me an instant sense of what they'd done and the quality of work they could produce. The whole team were really interactive and responsive to what we wanted."*

The couple had a clear vision of what they hoped to achieve, but how to go about it was another matter.

*"We had a budget to work to, so we really needed L&E to guide us as to what we could afford. We were in a tearing rush, but the architect worked round the clock to produce the right style, and came up with lots of things that we hadn't even thought of."*

The final plan included all that the couple craved: a full refurbishment, two extensions and a loft conversion.



Work started on a cold October morning and, with a stated deadline of five months, the team set to work to complete the task.

*“At the height of things there were probably 18 men working here,”* recalls Ruth. *“The foreman had a good army of people who all worked well together.”*

Since the Andersons were renting at the end of the road, they didn't have far to go to check on progress.

*“It was project managed beautifully,”* says Ruth. *“Instead of feeling needy, I had*

## “Suddenly it all came together. They quoted five months and were as good as their word”

*complete confidence that the team were just cracking on with it.”*

Nevertheless, the couple stayed in close contact with L&E.

*“They provided us with a schedule of work, so we knew the date by which we had to get things like the kitchen or bathroom ordered. They were very flexible too, which meant that we could choose the quality of doors, lighting effects, security and so on. We played around with layouts a great deal and they were really patient, even moving the loo around for us to sit on and decide where to locate it,”* laughs Ruth.

*“The team worked long hours, starting at 8am and often not finishing until 6pm. My husband and I walked in with a bottle of champagne to celebrate New Year's Day, only to find a decorator working here!”*

The long hours and hard work paid off. Finally, by late winter, the kitchen and first floor bathroom extensions and the loft conversion were all complete.

*“Suddenly, it all came together. They quoted five months and were as good as their word. I couldn't speak more highly of L&E. Just look around: the quality of workmanship speaks for itself. There was real interest from the team in getting things just right, and that will really make a difference over time.”*

The finished house is a home for all seasons. In the summer, the doors can be flung open to make the garden an extension of the large, contemporary kitchen room. In winter, the log burner and cosy furnishings create a warm, snug feel. The two Anderson children have the run of the first floor, while at the top of

the house the couple have used the loft extension to create their own personal sanctuary.

*“It doesn't feel like a loft extension, as they've managed to tie it in so beautifully that it just flows,”* says Ruth. *“All my friends comment on how lovely it is. I have recommended L&E to several of them – in fact, the company is working on someone else's place already.”*

*“People have been struck by my enthusiasm, but L&E were just wonderful. It's a lot of money to spend on something like this, so it's really important to know that you are spending it wisely.”*



**L&E (Lofts and Extensions)**  
 The Old Office Block  
 16 Elmtree Road  
 Teddington TW11 8ST  
 0800 326 5585  
[info@dontmove-extend.com](mailto:info@dontmove-extend.com)  
[dontmove-extend.com](http://dontmove-extend.com)



Mr and Mrs Anderson are so confident in recommending L&E (Lofts and Extensions) that they are even happy to show you round their new home. Contact them via L&E to arrange a viewing.