

Smerin Architects have been appointed by the owners of Flat A Copper Beech to act as Architects for the internal refurbishment of the property and replacement of the existing windows and glazed door to the flat. The block, which was purpose-built in the early 1960's as an apartment block, is arranged over a number of floors from ground to third floor level as seen from the street with an additional floor of accommodation beneath when seen from the rear. Flat A is located at ground floor level.

The block is located on the western side of North Grove at its northern end, and forms part of the Highgate Conservation Area. Copper Beech is typical of the mid-twentieth century blocks of flats and houses in and around Highgate with panels of marble and horizontal picture windows to the front and rear elevations and panels of facing brickwork with horizontal high-level windows to the side elevations all set between the render covered concrete structural frame of the building. Flat A is located at ground floor level to the front facing half of the block and is arranged around an external terrace space set behind a shrub-planted border that is over-sailed by the balconies to the flats on the floors above. The original windows and glazed door to the terrace appear to have been replaced in the early 1980's along with those to the other flats in the block but the remainder of the building externally remains original. Other flats within the block have however been re-arranged and refurbished and in some cases windows and doors have evidently been replaced.

The proposed works include the replacement of the windows to the flat together with the glazed door leading to the terrace but also include the introduction of a new door opening with matching glazed door on the opposite side of the terrace. The new glazing will help improve the environmental shortcomings of the existing glazing and create better quality living accommodation within whilst having minimal visual impact when seen from the street adjacent. The new glazed door to the terrace will provide an additional means of escape from the bedrooms, which are located on that side of the flat, along with improved natural ventilation whilst having very limited visual impact externally. The new doorway sits at the back of the terrace opposite the existing doorway onto the terrace and is in the same position as the doors onto the balconies of the flats above. The arrangement of the new windows and glazed doors will follow that of the existing glazing.

The proposed replacement windows and glazed doors integrate well with the existing elevations and are consistent with the design guidance in Haringey Council's various Supplementary Planning Guidance documents that all new development should be of the highest standard of design and respect its local context and character and historic significance, to contribute to the creation and enhancement of Haringey's sense of place and identity.