



Modern Extension Among Beautiful Ruins



THE PARCHMENT WORKS
Northamptonshire, U.K.
by Will Gamble Architects

The jagged edges of what remains of this seventeenth-century former parchment factory define the character of this sprawling home in Northamptonshire. Initially, the owners asked architect Will Gamble to tear them down. But Gamble saw beauty in the ruins and inserted a modern extension in salvaged brick, Cor-Ten steel, oak, and glass in between them and connected the “building within a building” to the sprawling home’s listed Victorian cottage and cattle shed. While a contemporary kitchen and living room are housed inside the single-story extension, the main bedroom with

en suite was fashioned below the exposed beams in the former cattle shed. Contemporary and minimal, the interior leaves breathing room for the architecture and the home’s “palette of honest materials” to shine through. Found oak beams were used as lintels above the doors, while the ruins were repaired with stones from the same period found in the garden. From inside, where accents of rich blues and greens pop against the white walls, large picture windows, and sliding doors look out to the lime-washed ruins and the graveled courtyard among them.