



A Dickensian nook, reimagined

- ARCHWAY STUDIOS
- UNDERCURRENT ARCHITECTS
- LONDON, U. K.

Victorian rail viaducts slice through South London, with the arches and surroundings often used for light industry. The outer cladding of this live-work space reflects that context. Inside, however, everything is clean and serene. A slim four-story atrium has been grafted to the outside of the viaduct, with light pouring in through a skylight, the glass facade, and slits in the building's steel skin. Inside the arch itself, meanwhile, the living area opens up, with light conceived by the architects as an "excavating force," focused by the concave outer wall of the atrium and burrowing into the interior.

The building exists in the context of an effort to solve problems associated with London's complex infrastructure, with the local council relaxing planning rules in an attempt to open up spaces like rail arches and prevent them from dividing local communities. Such sites require thoughtful planning and construction; here, for example, stressed-skin construction from aircraft manufacturing was employed to create a thin, robust building shell and maximize the space available.

