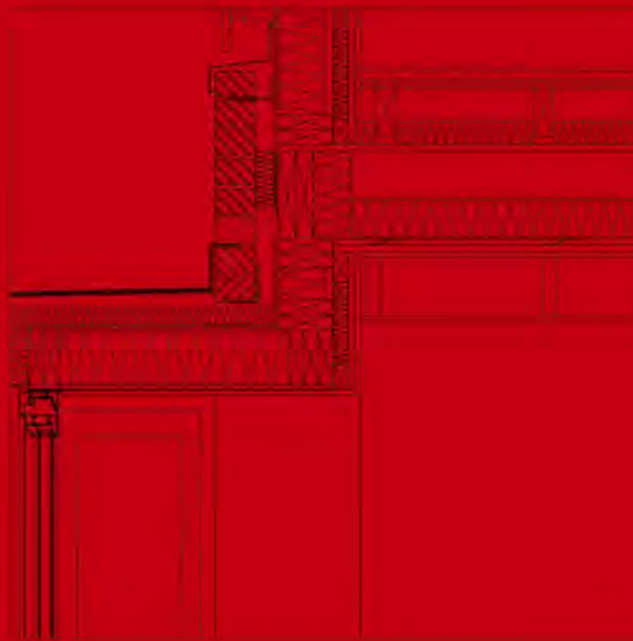




AJ SPECIFICATION

Working details: Brick

AJ Working Details is back. This time it covers 20 projects selected from the past 10 years of AJ Specification across three sections: brick, stone and timber

6 JANUARY 2026

The AJ is delighted to introduce the **second edition of Working Details** [published in print 18 December], following the success of last year's volume, and marking the continuing revival of a series first published by the AJ in 1953. While maintaining the same aesthetic spirit that defined 2024's volume, the new book adopts a clearer structure and more focused lens.

Organised into three material sections – brick, stone and timber – the second edition brings together 20 projects selected from *AJ Specification* published over the past decade. The projects represent a broad range of typologies, scales and contexts from across the UK, chosen not for stylistic effect but for the clarity, ingenuity and relevance of their technical resolution.

The print version (**single issues can be bought here**) contains 104 carefully annotated drawings. Each set of details is accompanied by project data and concise descriptive texts, offering insight into how contemporary architects are working with material, structure and craft. Taken together, the projects

form a comparative study of approaches to construction, demonstrating both innovative techniques and the refinement of well-established methods.

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EARLY BIRD SAVINGS END ON 10 JANUARY

As with previous editions of Working Details, the intention is not simply to document how buildings are made, but to contribute to a wider conversation about architectural detailing: its methods, its meanings and its capacity to shape the experience of built form.



Hans Place by Squire & Partners

Digitally developed brickwork



Photo: James Jones

Squire & Partners designed this development of 10 apartments to span the façades of four 19th-century terraced townhouses, on the corner of Hans Place and Herbert Crescent in Knightsbridge, central London. The practice sought to sensitively repair or replace the existing façades to create a crafted response to its conservation-area setting.

Open-plan apartments are arranged over seven storeys including two lower-ground levels, behind the traditional façades.

The houses responded to the historic grain of the garden square and took inspiration from the Dutch revival buildings that defined the area – built in richly detailed rose red brick and featuring carvings inspired by nature.

Two of the townhouse façades were retained while three were new insertions. The practice proposed incorporating a bespoke brick with elements of the façades – above and below window lintels and spandrels, and on the flank wall of a prominent chimney to the corner of Hans Place. This bespoke brickwork, digitally developed via a 3D pattern and then CNC cut, was based on a geometric pattern inspired by the form of a cocoa bean, first introduced to the UK by Hans Sloane, after whom Hans Place is named.

High levels of precision were required to inspect and repair the bricks – soaking them in water before applying a putty – which meant a maximum of 1m of brickwork could be laid each day. Once a section was completed, bricks required cleaning and face-rubbing by hand to remove smudges and achieve precise 1mm-thick joints. The project won a 2018 AJ Specification Award.

Location: London SW1X | **Completion:** March 2017 | **Gross internal floor area:** 6,059m² | **Structural engineer:** Michael Barclay Partnership | **Main contractor:** Knight Build | **AJ Specification issue:** December 2018 (Brick and Stone)

Drawings



Ground floor plan

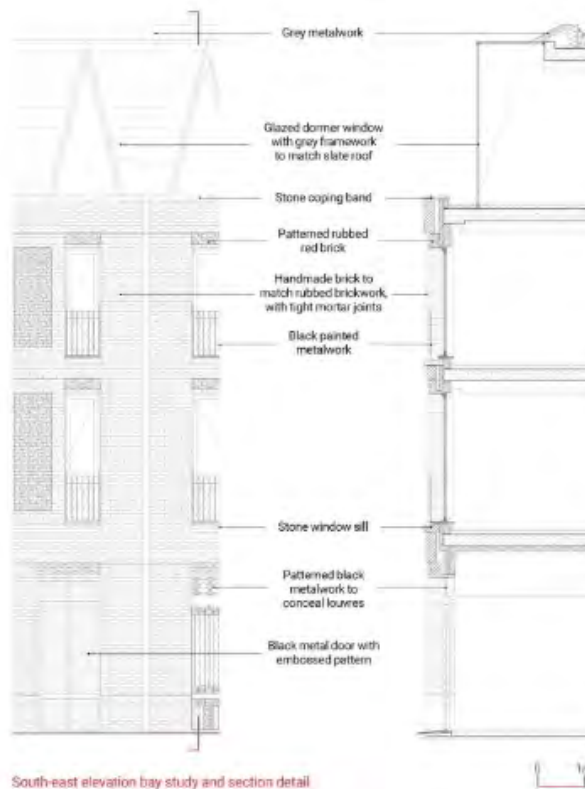


First floor plan

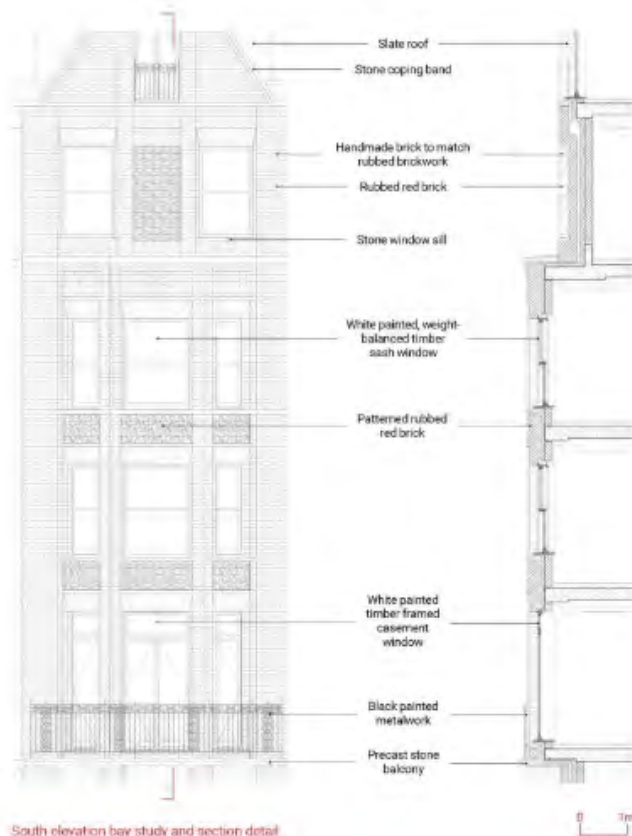


Second floor plan





South-east elevation bay study and section detail



South elevation bay study and section detail