



E List Promotion

# The Science Lab

Somewhere between art, architecture and historical artefact, we find The Science Lab; a house which features cutting edge design by spacial architects **made with volume** and an intriguing back story to boot. *Sean Urquhart* talks to **Carlo Viscione** creative director of made with volume about a very personal project. Photography by *Paul Tucker*.



Located on tranquil and almost slumbering Trumpington Road in Forest Gate there stands a house which contains surprise after surprise, a veritable palimpsest of East London essence. From its beginnings as part of a state school in 1905 to its current incarnation as a living space, this property, dubbed ‘The Science Lab’ in homage to its former usage, has weathered many an inhabitant as well as personal storm.

Carlo Viscione who designed and now lives in the building gave me a potted history as we toured the premises. Carlo is a partner in Made with Volume, a spatial design consultancy and he and his wife Florence have painstakingly refurbished the property to a very high standard. It is a beautiful and elegant space. Its recreated Crittal windows, made in Sussex and weighing in at a hefty 100 kilos allow

the Spring sunshine to stream in. The fixtures and fittings are an elegant mix of ergonomic design (the doors are all made in Belgium and have magnets cleverly embedded in the door frame). Danish modular shelves line the bare walls and are lit at night by Austrian-made lighting.

Carlo outlined the building’s timeline from its inception as a place of learning through its genesis as a recording complex (the acoustics to this writer’s ears as still superb, resonant and full) where it is reputed our very own East 17 recorded demos for their “Walthamstow” album. There is a piano and guitar which speaks of Carlo’s own interest in music and his own participation. “There was also a rocky period in the early noughties where the building was squatted and many a rave was had” Carlo added as a further layer of intriguing history.

The roof terrace is a sight to behold and on a gorgeous and warm April day, we enjoyed it to its full extent. Carlo and Florence plan an herb garden and often enjoy a lounge in this inspiring space. The BT Tower can even be viewed on a clear day and I was impressed at the simple design of the terrace, which opens directly from an ice-white staircase.

Such a design, however, was hard-fought and took Carlo and Florence “21 or so plans” before they settled on the current design. It will be featured in Open House London in September as a triumph of simplicity and understated style. It has a distinctly homely feel and is full of light and welcome. Well worth a visit and another reason to keep our eyes on Forest Gate. A sleeping urban giant.

Photo © paultucker.co.uk



**made with volume** are spatial designers, working on the intersection between design and architecture. Carlo and his team undertake projects throughout East and North East London so if you have a residential, retail or public challenging space, either new or existing please get in touch for a chat.

www.madewithvolume.com  
0203 488 19 15  
carlo@madewithvolume.com

