

Jessica McDonnell-Buwalda
Conservation Officer
Regeneration and Planning
London Borough of Camden
5 Pancras Square Level 2
London N1C 4AG

13th March 2024

Dear Ms McDonnell-Buwalda

34 Belsize Lane

I am architecture critic of The Observer, the author of several books on architecture and a former director of the Architecture Foundation and editor of Blueprint.

I write in support of the proposed renovation and extension of the above house, by the architects EBBA for its owners Charlie Green and Christine Disler. Last autumn I wrote an extended feature for The Observer (published 8th October) on Georgie Wolton, the original architect of the house, which gave me the opportunity to get to know 34 Belsize Lane well.

I feel that the proposed works are sensitive, thoughtful and respectful of Wolton's design intentions. They preserve the essential aspects of this important house, which are the relationships of its interior to its courtyards and gardens, its overall organisation and simple architectural detail.

The proposed linking structure on the east side would be an unobtrusive and effective way of making the plan work well for its purpose as a family home. The living area designed by Wolton would benefit, as it would no longer be the main through route from one part of the house to another. The rooftop extension would also be discreet and would leave the predominantly horizontal character of the house in tact. The proposed details of the repairs and additions are sympathetic to the existing, while allowing the viewer to read the difference between original and new work.

34 Belsize Lane is not the sort of perfectly unified design that makes all additions unacceptable, but one that allows some degree of change. Wolton herself was happy to extend it horizontally and downwards, and I don't believe that she would have objected to the idea of a small rooftop extension or the linking structure.

The proposed work will give new life to a building which is currently in poor condition and in danger of further deterioration. I very much welcome the intention of renovating it.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rowan Moore DCL, FRIBA