



# Talking RENOVATIONS

With the plans to build a rear and side-return extension as well as a loft conversion ready to go, it's finally time for the works to begin on Janis and Dave's 1930s bungalow

**W**ith the council giving us the green light on our architectural drawings and the list of potential builders whittled down to Karl Hart at Ahearn Construction, all Dave and I had left to do was wait for the works to begin. Thankfully, when we signed on the dotted line, we already had a verbally agreed start date – a wait of around three weeks – so we didn't have to worry about not knowing when things would get going.

We found the wait actually rather exciting, as we now, after all this time, had something to look forward to. We did have a lovely family holiday booked in this period, though, which made time go faster. On the first day of the build, we couldn't wait to see how they would tackle the house. Karl and his team started by demolishing an old conservatory and ripping up the patio stones. While a couple of them were doing this, others were knocking down internal

walls and taking out the old kitchen. The scaffolding went up not long after, the roof tiles came off, and then the footings were dug and laid for the back-and-side extension.

In those first couple of weeks, the builders went at an incredible rate – and with around five or more tradespeople on site at any one time, they seemed to accomplish a lot from one day to the next. It was difficult to stay away to be honest – especially for Dave, who helped out a lot with our son's own home renovation last year. But to ensure they could get on with it as quickly as possible, we limited ourselves and only visited the site about two or three times a week. Thankfully the builders also set up an official weekly meeting with us at the property to go through the progress, which has been useful.

Everything has so far – touch wood – gone to plan, although after exposing the construction of two of the internal walls, the builders had to insert steel uprights to help support

our new upper floor as these walls weren't load bearing in the original bungalow (but now they have to be).

The only thing I have found is that, while we didn't want it to look the same as when my parents lived there, sometimes it has been sad seeing my dad's handiwork being taken away – for example the kitchen he built and the flooring he laid. However, I made sure to take lots of photos of how it was and have saved a few little things, such as an original piece of parquet floor from the hallway. But mainly, now it's all underway, I can't wait to see the transformation progress.

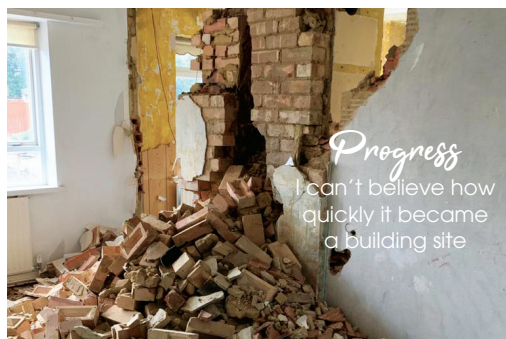
Karl has given us a timescale of when he will need plans and designs of the electrics, bathrooms, kitchen, windows, staircase, and other key things – which means this is the fun bit, where we can visit the kitchen and bathroom showrooms and get some designs down on paper. **KBB**

*Next issue I talk about*  
SHOPPING FOR A BATHROOM...



## The kitchen

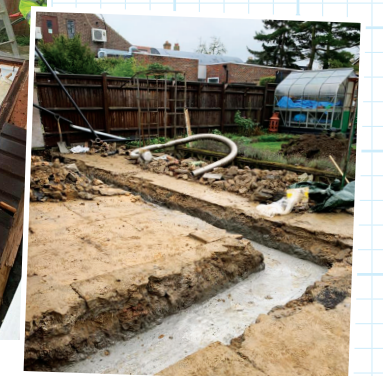
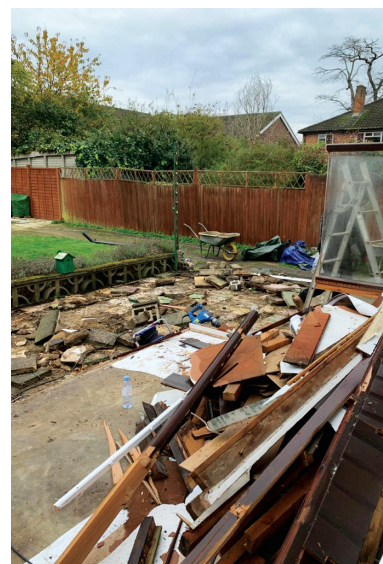
Our builders started by ripping out the existing scheme



## Progress

I can't believe how quickly it became a building site

The builders started by demolishing the existing conservatory, which we are replacing with an extension, and ripping up the patio stones. Soon after, the foundations were dug and laid, ready for the project's next phase.



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