ARCHITECTURE

Small practice.
Big practice thinking.

Practice Profile

2026

Kent, London and the South East

01

About ARK

Introduction

Welcome to ARK.

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about ARK.

We are an independent architecture practice based in Kent, working with homeowners, property developers and businesses across Kent, London and the South East. Our projects range in scale from individual homes to larger residential and commercial developments.

This profile explains how we work and shares a selection of our projects, along with the experience behind the practice. If you have a project in mind, we would be glad to talk it through.

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ARK Architectural Design Services Limited

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About ARK

Creative thinking. Practical delivery.

ARK is an independent architecture practice based in Kent, working across residential, commercial and education projects throughout the South East and London.

Led by Sam Amer, ARK draws on two decades of industry experience, including leading the London office of an award winning practice. That experience spans feasibility and planning through technical design, construction and handover.

We bring this experience to a personal service, shaped around your ambitions, the opportunities of the site and the practical demands of building. We are interested in both the bigger picture and the smallest details: how a development fits its surroundings, how a building is constructed and how its spaces work for the people using them.

Small and agile

A responsive practice with the experience, mindset and consultant network of a larger team. We bring together the right expertise for your project and adapt as its needs evolve.

Direct and personal

Senior involvement and a clear point of contact, with continuity through the stages you appoint us to deliver. You work directly with the architect shaping your project, keeping advice clear and decisions informed.

Creative and practical

Thoughtful architecture informed by budget, buildability and long-term use. Design grounded in reality. We test ideas against practical requirements so the ambition carries through into the finished building.

Why people choose ARK

Starting with what matters to you.

A successful project begins with understanding what matters to you. That might be a practical family home, a viable use for a difficult site or an existing building that needs to work harder.

We take time to establish these priorities at the start, and let them guide every design decision that follows.

The result is architecture that fits the way you live and work, the site and the budget.

Seeing the opportunity

We explore layouts, development options and planning constraints with you, so you understand what may be achievable before committing to a direction.

Design grounded in reality

Budget, buildability and long-term use inform our decisions from the outset. We balance ambition with practical requirements and the details that affect comfort and lasting value.

Clear advice at each stage

We explain the options, flag uncertainties and help you make informed decisions, so you always know what comes next and how each choice affects the wider project.

Specialist Collaboration

One Team. One Point of Contact.

ARK can help assemble and coordinate the wider design team. We identify the expertise your project needs and coordinate specialist information with the architecture.

Planning

Strategy, application advice and planning support. Identifying constraints and opportunities early to establish a clear route through the planning process.

Structural Engineering

Structural design and calculations. Developing efficient structural solutions that support the architectural vision and practical construction.

Civil Engineering

Drainage, levels and site infrastructure. Coordinating these elements with the building design to address site constraints and access requirements.

Ecology

Surveys, assessments and mitigation advice. Helping protect existing habitats and identify opportunities to support biodiversity within the proposals.

Landscape

External spaces, planting and landscape details. Creating a considered relationship between the building, its surroundings and the people using them.

Building Services

Mechanical, electrical and public health design. Integrating systems that support comfort, energy efficiency and straightforward operation and maintenance.

Fire Engineering

Fire safety strategy and specialist design advice. Coordinating fire safety measures with the architecture, building services and intended use.

Heritage Consultancy

Advice on historic buildings, conservation areas and sensitive settings. Helping proposals respond to heritage significance and supporting applications with appropriate assessments.

Principal Designers

CDM and Building Regulations Principal Designer services. Coordinating design risk management and Building Regulations compliance through two distinct roles, with clear responsibilities across the design team.

How we work

Every stage, one architect.

A clear route from the right questions to a considered building. Each appointment is tailored to the stages you need.

01

Brief

Listening closely to how you want to live or work, so the design starts from the right questions.

02

Feasibility

Testing what your site and budget can realistically support before any design is fixed.

03

Spatial design and planning

Developing the layout, light, materials and character, and guiding you through the planning application.

04

Technical design

Coordinating the details and drawings a builder needs to price and build with confidence.

05

On site

Supporting construction, resolving design queries and keeping attention on the details that matter.

06

Handover

Supporting completion and the move into use, often the start of a relationship that continues long after.

02

Our projects

Our projects | Residential development, Addlestone, Surrey

Addlestone Apartments



Four apartments on a constrained backland site.

The brief

A repeat developer client needed a consented scheme for four apartments on New Haw Road turned into a coordinated, buildable design, ready for construction. The backland site sits over an existing public sewer and close to neighbouring homes.

Our response

ARK leads the technical design and supports delivery through RIBA Stages 4 and 5. As the client's single point of contact, we coordinate the structural, civil, ecology, landscape and MEP consultants, and resolve how their work fits together and with the Building Regulations.

We developed the scheme into a full set of construction drawings, details and specifications. Foundations bridge the existing sewer, party walls and floors follow recognised sound-insulation details, and fire safety, energy performance and accessibility were designed in from the start. We also act as Principal Designer under both the Building Regulations and CDM, managing design risk and keeping a clear record of compliance.

The difference it makes

One coordinated set of information and one point of contact give a clear route from consent to construction. Questions are resolved on paper rather than on site, protecting the programme and budget. Construction started in October 2026, with ARK involved throughout the build.

Our projects | Gallery

Addlestone Apartments







Our projects | Private house, rural setting

Beechwood



A family home in its rural setting.

The brief

A repeat private client wanted a home that could change with them over time. It needed generous family spaces, quieter private rooms and a close connection with the gardens. As family life moved on and their business grew, it also needed new space to live and work, all within the calm of a secluded countryside setting.

Our response

The house takes its cues from its wooded surroundings. Red brickwork, tiled roofs and green-framed glazing give it a familiar rural character. Full-height windows and wide-opening doors draw the gardens, terraces and pond into the main living spaces. Inside, natural timber, exposed brickwork and a restrained palette bring warmth and continuity.

As the family's needs have changed, ARK has adapted the home with them. Rooms have been reconsidered for new stages of life, and the wider site now supports the client's business. Proposals for a large storage building and a separate dwelling follow the same materials and relationship with the landscape, so each addition feels part of the whole.

The difference it makes

A welcoming home where the landscape is part of everyday life, with space to gather, retreat and work. Because each stage builds on the last, the site develops as one considered whole rather than a series of additions. The relationship continues to grow, and ARK is now working with the same client to develop further parcels of land.

Our projects | Gallery

Beechwood







Our projects | Family home, extension and refurbishment

Milton Avenue



A home shaped around everyday life.

The brief

They say the toughest client is another architect. Sam set out to refurbish and extend a dated 1960s bungalow on Milton Avenue for his own family: two adults and two children who needed space to live, gather and work.

Our response

We doubled the original footprint, opened up and reworked the existing structure, and added new volumes that feel natural and balanced. A new open kitchen and dining space forms the heart of the home, where the family comes together to cook, eat and spend time. Around it, the plan follows how the family lives day to day, from where the children play to where each person finds a quiet moment.

The difference it makes

A bright, welcoming home built around a shared kitchen and dining space, with strong connections between rooms and pockets of privacy. Milton Avenue is both a family home and a personal case study, showing how thoughtful design can give a modest mid-century house character, purpose and longevity.

Our projects | Gallery

Milton Avenue









Our projects | Outbuildings in a listed setting, Throwley, Kent

The Old Workhouse



Three outbuildings in a historic setting.

The brief

At The Old Workhouse, a Grade II listed site in the Kent countryside, the client wanted a workshop, garage and summer house, each with storage, set carefully within the historic grounds. They had a very particular vision for how each building should work and feel.

Our response

Traditional forms, timber weatherboarding, brick plinths and corrugated roofs reflect the character of rural outbuildings. We explored every junction, finish and proportion with the client, from bespoke joinery to sheltered verandas and vaulted ceilings with exposed beams. Detailed drawings and specifications brought it all together as a coordinated, buildable package ready for tender.

The difference it makes

A coherent group of buildings that balances conservation with modern performance and meets everyday practical needs, with a quiet respect for the historic setting. The contractor received the clarity and confidence to deliver it.

Our projects | Gallery

The Old Workhouse







Our projects | Family home, extension and refurbishment

Graystone Road



A second home for returning clients.

The brief

Clients we had helped at Graystone Road came back when their growing family outgrew that home. Moving to the house directly opposite, they wanted a refined extension and full refurbishment to open up the layout, bring in more light and suit the way they live today.

Our response

A side extension adds two bedrooms and a play area for the children, with room for independence while staying close to the heart of the home. At the rear, a new open-plan kitchen, dining and living space opens onto the garden, with a discreet utility room. Our existing relationship meant design conversations could start straight away.

The difference it makes

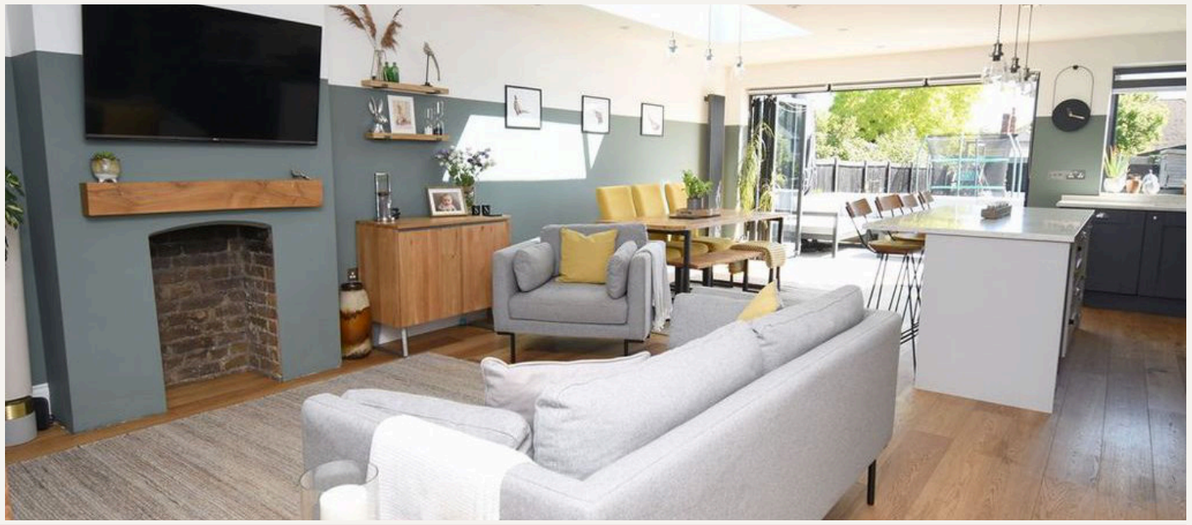
A bright, flexible home built around a shared social core, with stronger links between rooms and to the garden. It feels familiar yet distinctly better, and is ready for the family's next chapter.

Our projects | Gallery

Graystone Road







03

Contact

Contact

Let’s talk about your project.

Whether you are planning a home extension, a new development or new business premises, we would be glad to hear from you. Call or email Sam for an informal conversation about your project.

YOUR ARCHITECT

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Small practice.
Big practice thinking.

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