

OAK FRAME,
MOONSHINE, BATH, BY
MITCHELL TAYLOR
WORKSHOP

Moonshine's self-build addition (see page 30) was designed on the back of an envelope. We'd been living in the tiny old bit of the building and, with a third child on the way, we needed more. I hadn't intended to build it myself, but my contractor moved too slowly, so I sacked him.

Friends helped with the on-site handiwork, and I didn't tell the subcontractors about the woodland location. Instead, when they turned up, I coaxed them along the

400-yard footpath. The glaziers were astonished – each pane of glass weighs 250kg – but to their credit they just went and got seven more burly blokes.

The shifting clay on which we built could have resulted in water building up behind the new build, so, with Jerry King of Structures1, we created a raised, suspended ground floor on deep pad footings.

Externally, a 200 x 200mm perimeter beam is pinned to each

column with a single stainless steel stud. Internally these beams are split in two and bolted together with a compriband strip in the middle to allow for shrinkage, so the longer members could be carried to site in two lighter parts. The perimeter zone allows for glazing, cladding or louvres to be fitted.

The day after we put the frame up, our child was born.

Piers Taylor, director, Mitchell Taylor Workshop

