

THE MODERN HOUSE



Bewdley, Worcestershire
Sold

Sandbourne Lane

Designed in 2006 by the celebrated architect Robert Swan, this outstanding four-bedroom modern house is positioned in a quiet plot beside an impressive Victorian viaduct, in the popular town of Bewdley. The expansive living space of just over 2,300 sq ft, is arranged over three floors and the finish of the interior was completed to an exacting standard in 2014. Located at the end of a private track, the land was formerly part of landscaped gardens designed by Gertrude Jekyll, with many plantings from this period remaining.

Arguably the most impressive space in the house is the open-plan living room and adjoining dining area. This fantastically light space has entirely glazed walls on two sides, opening onto the decked terrace, garden and pond to one end; beautifully framing the green backdrop and blurring the distinction between indoor and outdoor space.

Also on the ground floor is the modern kitchen which has been completely updated in recent years. Floor-to-ceiling walls of glazing frame views to the viaduct at the front and, on the other side of the entrance hall, there is a bedroom and shower room.

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Steps constructed from iroko and glass lead up to the first floor where two further bedrooms (one with en-suite shower room and walk-in closet) and a family bathroom can be found. There is also a utility area on this floor. On the lower-ground floor there is a fourth bedroom which offers great versatility for a home office, studio or gym.

A deck, made from Brazilian walnut surrounds the ground floor and forms a wonderful terrace set amongst the gardens. The deep borders have been densely planted with flowering plants and shrubs and a tall screen of bamboo providing excellent privacy.

There is plenty of parking space at the front of the house, beyond which are further gardens located under three sandstone railway arches (these are leased at minimal cost). The viaduct no longer serves mainline railways but forms part of the Severn Valley Railway, a heritage train service running vintage steam trains.

In designing the property for himself, Swan spared few expenses when it came to finishes and fittings, which have been further updated and improved in recent years. The house, steel-framed like many of the Californian houses of the 1950's and 60's to which the design is indebted, features Keramag/Geberit sanitary fittings, Smeg cooking facilities and Saloni porcelain bathroom tiles, amongst other notable details.

The house has been designed with sustainability in mind, and has efficient underfloor heating, Sto render insulated exteriors and argon-filled glass.

The property can be found a short distance from the centre of the pretty town of Bewdley – a picturesque walk along the river takes you into the centre in approximately 15 minutes. Built largely in the Georgian era, the town is noted for its impressive architecture of this period. Regular regattas are held on the River Severn which runs through the centre of the town and the beautiful Wyre Forest is within easy reach. There are a wide range of shops, services, restaurants and pubs in the town, including the popular 15th century inn, the Little Pack Horse.

Birmingham is approximately 24 miles away and the cathedral city of Worcester is approximately 14 miles, both of which provide direct rail connections to London. The medieval town of Ludlow, renowned for its restaurants and food shops is also easily reached by car.

Closer by is the larger town of Kidderminster, which also has a rail service and wider range of facilities. Direct trains from Kidderminster run directly to London Marylebone in two hours and 20 minutes.

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About

The Modern House is an estate agency that helps people live in more thoughtful and beautiful ways. We believe in design as a powerful force for good. Inspired by the principles of modernism, we represent design-led homes across the UK which celebrate light, space and a truth to materials. Esquire credits The Modern House with “rewriting the rulebook on estate agency” and GQ voted us “one of the best things in the world”.