

Tunnel vision: 'Mole Man' home bags elite award



A house that once had local planners tearing out their hair because of the owner's penchant for digging illegal underground tunnels has won Best Dwelling at this year's New London Architecture Awards.

The late William Lyttle, nicknamed the Hackney Mole Man, spent 40 years hollowing out a network of tunnels that reached a depth of 26 feet and stretched out 65 feet in all directions.

Lyttle was evicted in 2006, and the property has now been turned into a three-storey home and art studio. Judges praised architects Adjaye Associates for paying homage to the home's history with underground living areas.

Hackney Citizen, 2021