this house is full of surprises sliding

or pivoting panels transform each space

they can be found throughout the entire

structure

this is the Murphy house designed and

owned by architect Richard Murphy in

2016 it was named House of the Year by

the Royal Institute of British

Architects there are lots of ideas

behind this house how it fits into a

piece of historic Edinburgh how it

changes between winter and summer how

you get a lot of rooms into a very small

space how you save energy and how an

architect really brings to bear his own

influences and interests of other

architects he's studied that's quite a

limited volume of space so the shape of

the house came from that building up

high on one side and low on the other

and then try to as I say get us lots of

many rooms in there as possible and

using various devices to make the house

feel bigger than it actually is the

Murphy house and it's unique

architecture certainly stands out in

Edinburgh is popular Newton district

most of the houses here were built in

the 19th century and represent the

world's largest example of uninterrupted

Lake Georgian architecture

[Music]

the Murphy house has eight levels spread

over five stories with a hundred and

forty square meters of living space

it took Richard Murphy a total of ten

years to build his house from seeing the

site drawing up the plans to getting the

building permits the master bedroom is

located on the top floor and also

contains large movable panels here too

there is an element of surprise

it's a small house and spaces of premium

but I wanted to have a bath somewhere in

the house so I thought why don't I put a

bath in the bedroom but I disguised it

as a seat this is a panel which opens up

between the bedroom and the living room

I mean one does things for different

reasons sometimes you do them for

functional reasons and sometimes you do

them for a piece of fun this is more of

a piece of fun so that when you're in

the bedroom you can talk to people down

in the living room if you want to the

reason it's designed like this which is

an eccentric pivot is because you don't

want to be able to see straight ahead

because if you saw straight ahead you'll

be able to see from the bed into the

neighbors windows which is not such a

clever idea there was a long period of

time

when it looked like the Murphy house

would never be built after a lot of

wrangling with the Planning Department

they actually recommended refusal but I

went and talked to a couple of local

councilors who are on the Planning

Committee and they understood what I was

trying to do and they talked to other

councilors and when we got to the

committee meeting the councilors

overturned the recommended refusal of

the plans bubble which is extremely rare

the house doesn't really blend in so

what did the neighbors think they all

complained of course all lots of them

did anyway and there was a bit of a

campaign but almost there was to quote

Shakespeare they campaigned a little bit

too much actually and I think that

rebounded a bit on the councillors

having finished the house I've had

exactly the opposite reaction from

neighbors they all loved it

Murphy's use of concrete levels and

geometric shapes were inspired by the

late Italian architect carlo scarpa even

here out in a garden there is great

attention to detail a walk from top to

bottom helps give the visitor a better

idea of all the details of the house

Richard Murphy has lived in his house

for two and a half years now and he

wouldn't change a thing if he had to

build it all over again

you