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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

SEPTEMBER
2023

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barn

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terrace

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retreat

Period
apartment

Converted
stables

FUTURE



Team effort

A sensitive redecoration of this Regency townhouse – in the hands of designers Tom Carey and Laurence Katz – has resulted in a period property that combines old-world flair with modern sensibilities

FEATURE JULIET BENNING | PHOTOGRAPHY MATT CLAYTON

LIVING ROOM

Sleek decor reigns in here with even the neatly stacking wave curtain hidden in a shadow gap. Erich chandelier, Maytoni at The Cool Republic. Duo Multilaque coffee table by Pierre Augustin Rose from The Invisible Collection. Doodle rug, Art + Loom. Sofa, Natuzzi. Chairs, The Conran Shop



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A Regency townhouse

ROOMS Sitting room, family room, living room, kitchen-diner, study, cinema room, five bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION Central London

ROOM
with
wave
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The
laque
Rose
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Sofa,
Shop



'THE VEINS OF COLOUR IN THE CUSTOM-MADE STAIR
RUNNER ARE A CONTEMPORARY TWIST ON CLASSICISM
AND MIMIC THE MARBLE USED ELSEWHERE'



HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

'I met the client when she attended a course I was teaching on how to use antiques in contemporary interiors,' says designer Tom Carey. 'She and her partner are a young American couple with two children and they were moving into this 1820s townhouse. Laurence [Katz of Elemental Studio] and I had worked together on a couple of projects previously and, this one being quite large, it made sense to collaborate.'

WHAT CONDITION WAS THE HOUSE IN WHEN YOU STARTED THE PROJECT?

'It had been gutted by a developer and featured a lot of "greige" walls and glitzy chandeliers that weren't to

anyone's taste,' says Tom. 'It had lost many of its original architectural features and so we reinstated appropriate doors, cornices and detailing. There was a contemporary extension on the rear that called for a more modern treatment,' says Tom. 'The walls were covered in textured wallpaper throughout,' adds Laurence, 'which we discovered hid lots of structural problems we had to tackle later.'

WHAT WERE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMEOWNER? 'She wanted help designing a home that achieved a balance between the period of the house and her tastes and contemporary way of living,' says Laurence. 'The practical side of the project was also important. She wanted as much storage as possible and for it to be cleverly



SITTING ROOM

The custom-designed mural evokes cities from the family's history, including Boston and Genoa. Mural by Alasdair Peebles. Sofa by Vladimir Kagan, Holly Hunt. Wave rug by Michaela Schleypen, Ghara. Multipla chair by Dillon & Wheeler, Béton Brut

GARDEN

Custom-designed oak seating conceals storage for the cushions. Planting scheme by Nina Simoes at Meristem Design. Bespoke seating, Recoire. Cushions in outdoor fabric by Knoll Textiles

KITCHEN

A pink wall softens this ultra-contemporary new extension. Wall in Nancy's Blushes, Farrow & Ball. Bow Tie wall light, Pooky



hidden. Our brief was also very technical as we were asked to incorporate air-conditioning units, Lutron lighting control and automated blinds and curtains.'

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE CLIENT'S TASTE? 'As she is a fine artist, she wanted something beautiful and personal,' says Tom. 'Throughout the project, we sought to combine classic decoration and antiques with a clean freshness that expresses her personality. Colours were key for this project and helped bring a unique atmosphere for each room.'

WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES? 'It turned out the house needed almost a complete structural renovation so we ended up overseeing a huge team,' says

Tom. 'The project started in 2019 and quickly ran into the pandemic with the clients stuck on the other side of the Atlantic, which meant we weren't able to have site meetings and our clients had to sign off on lots of design decisions remotely.'

WERE THERE ANY INNOVATIVE DESIGN DETAILS? 'We spent a long time inventing clever ways to hide the air-conditioning units which could have been quite a constraint,' says Tom. 'We were keen not to lower ceilings so instead we designed cupboards the units could be hidden in. In the study, for example, one of the bookcases conceals the AC unit behind a frontage of faux book spines.'

tomcareydesign.com; elementalstudio.co.uk



MAIN BEDROOM

The artwork was commissioned on a series of panels making them portable should the clients move.

Painted wall panels by Diane Hill and Nicky Pasterfield

MAIN BATHROOM

The verre églomisé mirror evokes the effect of steam. Copper bath, Drummonds. Verre églomisé panel by Emma Peascod

NURSERY

Dusky pinks and a soft rug strike a restful mood. Mural, Diane Hill. Rug, Stark Carpet

BEDROOM

The antique Japanese screen was the starting point of this scheme. Japanese paper screen, Guinevere