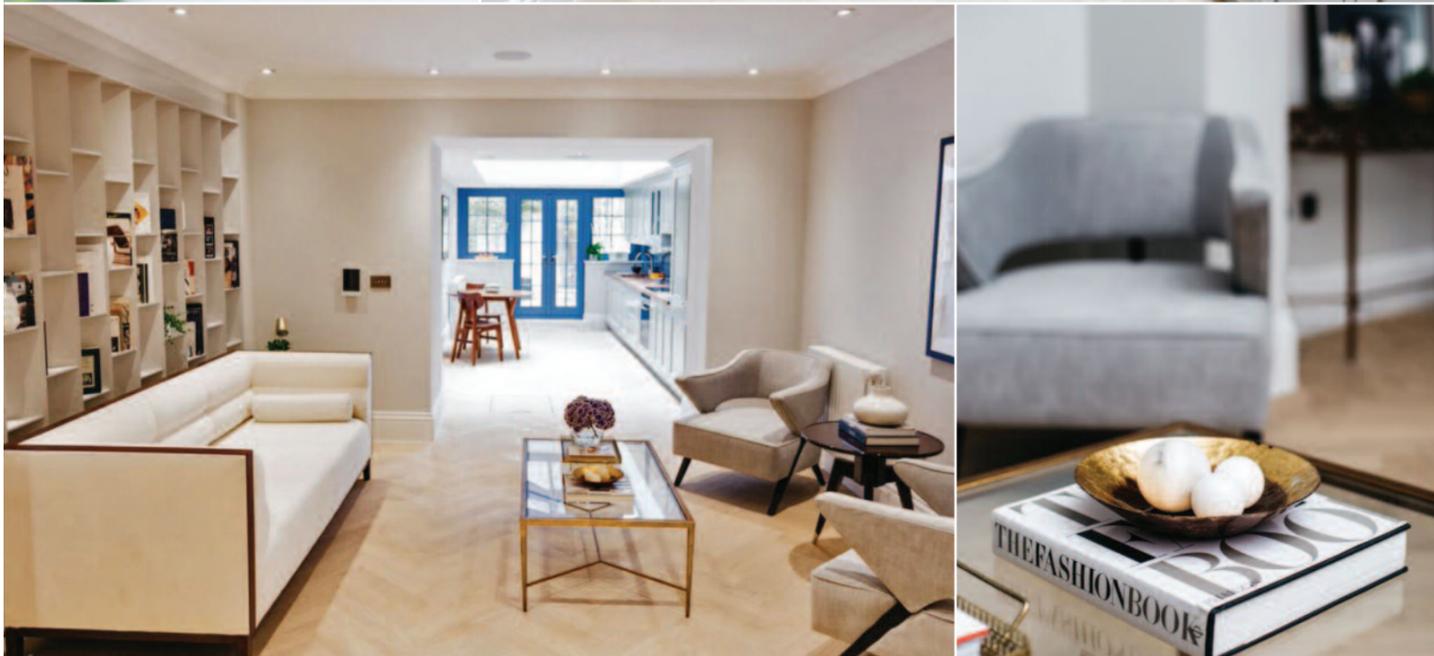




Grade II Pimlico apartment. Concept Weybridge creativity.

This edition Samantha Morgan at Concept Interiors chats through a recent scheme with one of her Interior Designers, Lorna McCarthy. Lorna explains how she did the show home dressing of a basement apartment in a stunning Grade II listed building in Pimlico



What was your brief and inspiration when designing this scheme?

The brief was to create a scheme that would complement the building whilst maintaining a sense of space and light. My objective was to create this within the budget but without compromising the overall look and feel. The client, The Malins Group, are a prestigious developer known for their attention to detail and high-end finish, and it was important that my design reflected their ethos. My main inspiration was the area and architectural style of the property, which was built by influential English architect Thomas Cubitt. Before designing the scheme I researched heavily into Pimlico; both its history and what sets it apart from other areas of London in the present day, as well as the style of interior design favoured in Pimlico and nearby Belgravia. Pimlico has a very distinctive sense of history, as well as being an up and coming area for young professionals, and a real feel of sophistication that I wanted to echo in the interior design. These factors I kept in mind, creating a look and feel that embodied that sophistication but with a fresher, modern take.

orangery, and chose a pair of 1950s armchairs to really make a feature of this area. How best to use the space was of constant consideration; to make the most of the room layouts and diminish associations people have with basement properties.

What prompted the colour palette for each room?

As the property is a basement apartment, the choice of colour palette was based upon trying to make the space feel as light and airy as possible, which was very important to myself and the client. So I worked with a lighter, more neutral colour palette, using a mix of blues and greys with lighter colours to bring the scheme up and keep it light. I looked to bring in depth through the materials, such as wood, brass and marble, as well as in the details.

Tell us more about the furniture and art used

For furniture, I sought inspiration from mid-century design that I felt best complemented the overall sense of sophistication I wanted to achieve and character of the building. The majority of the furniture was bespoke, and I worked closely with our furniture makers to design one off pieces, including the living area armchairs which were based on a 1950s design and floor to ceiling headboard in what was formally the vaults. The choice of artwork was dictated by what I felt best suited the space and feel of the project, using 2 large abstract prints by artist Andre Sprumont as a feature in the living area and master bedroom. Whilst budget was a consideration, it was important to me that the overall look and feel was not compromised.

How did you plan the layout?

The furniture layout was based around how best to use the space, in particular the open plan living area. My client works with an excellent joiner and so I was lucky to benefit from his craftsmanship, particularly with the floor to ceiling bookcase in the Living Area that created a subtle divide between the living space and study area. I knew I wanted to create an informal central seating area nearest to the kitchen to make the most of the light from the



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