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SPRINKLE SOME STARDUST

A glittering portrait of the late, great David Bowie inspired the bold, rule-breaking interior of this London party pad

Words **DOMINIC BRADBURY**
Photography **RACHAEL SMITH**

Living room There's a modern Memphis quality to the bespoke curved sofa, designed by Owl Design and made by Reoire, which has been upholstered in 'Mohair' velvet by Amy Somerville. It is paired with a red 'Ekstrem' chair, created by Terje Ekström in 1984 for Varier and available at Jane Richards Interiors, plus a 'Puddle' coffee table by Chris Martin for Massproductions. The rug is a bespoke version of the 'Reese' from Maman Rugs and the 'Tall Mag' side table is by Daniel Schofield for The Conran Shop. The built-in shelving is a one-off Owl Design creation, produced by London-based joinery firm HUX ▶





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hen Simone Gordon and Sophie Van Winden, founders of east-London-based studio Owl Design, were asked by their famous singer-songwriter client to redesign his new central-London apartment, there was only one rule: there are no rules.

'He wanted something that was completely different from his country home, which is a converted barn,' says Simone. 'The brief was to make the design, rather than the views, stand out. Beyond that, we had almost free rein.'

While the 25-storey building designed by Foster + Partners that houses this three-bedroom home has a distinctive architectural style, the original show apartment's interior was beige on beige. 'We went to see it with our client and he said, "This is exactly what I don't want!",' recalls Simone. It was just too boring. He wanted something with wow factor. 'He had this great David Bowie artwork, which is quite geometric with reds and blues. That helped to set the tone.'

One of the first decisions was to replace the existing wooden floors with shiny Marmoleum (a modern, more eco-friendly alternative to linoleum) featuring a bespoke geometric design. To complement the flooring, a rich cornflower blue has been used in the hallway, which hosts the David Bowie portrait. This gives way to lime-plastered walls in a gentle celadon shade in the main open-plan living area, which provides a backdrop for the brighter bursts of colour and pattern.

'We were thinking about something with a slight Memphis feel to it,' says Simone, 'but it was more about creating a playful look than copying that exact style.' From the graphic shelving to the curvaceous sofa and rug, many of the details are bespoke, displaying subtle echoes of the more out-there elements of 1970s and 80s Italian design.

Everyone agreed on the need to carry this dynamism through to the rest of the apartment, including the bedrooms, media room and even the glistening, mosaic-festooned guest bathroom, where a Bowie song strikes up as soon as you step inside. The kitchen, only recently installed as part of the show apartment, was given a fresh touch of paint and new tiles, in a bold grid pattern, to help it match this home's high-octane energy.

'Because our client doesn't use the apartment all the time, we wanted a bit of a boutique-hotel feel, and he especially loves the bar,' says Sophie, referring to the dedicated drinks cabinet between the living area and dining space. Open it up and a fantastic pop of bright red is revealed. It's yet another moment of surprise and excitement in an apartment where, adds Sophie, 'every room feels like a space for entertaining'. owldesign.co.uk

This page, top left In a quiet corner of the dining area is a 'GMG' chaise longue by Greta M Grosseman for Gubi and a 'Hello' floor lamp by Utu Soulful Lighting - available at Do Shop. Used throughout the open-plan living areas is Marmoleum flooring by Forbo in a bespoke geometric pattern by Owl Design. **Left and opposite** This drinks cabinet is a bespoke piece designed by Owl Design and created by HUX. Its bright red interior is an instant signifier of good times ahead, while its blue handles are picked out in the Sputnik-style pendant light from Doozie Light Studio ➤





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Dining area The dining table is a piece by Owl Design, realised by HUX, and the chairs are the 'Gropius CSI' by Kateryna Sokolova for Noom. The 'Carousel' pendant light above the table is by Utu Soulful Lighting - available at Do Shop. Added to frame the view over London, the window seat is upholstered in 'Alvar' fabric and the bolster cushions in 'St James Stripe', both by Clarke & Clarke. The artwork is a custom piece by artist LRNCE





**IN THE GLISTENING,
MOSAIC-FESTOONED
BATHROOM,
A DAVID BOWIE
SONG STRIKES
UP AS SOON AS
YOU STEP INSIDE**

Opposite The two bar stools are the 'Ladies Pond' by Sella Concept **Hallway** The portrait of David Bowie is the client's own, and the ceiling light is from the 'Echo' collection by Souda **Guest bathroom** A David Bowie song starts playing as you enter this space, which offers a full-on sensory experience. Its walls are covered in a bespoke sequined mosaic created by Owl Design and realised by Shimmer Walls, while a glitter ball - Mirror Balls has a good selection - completes the party feel ►



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Main bedroom The bed is a custom piece by Owl Design, made by The Cotswold Bed Company, with a headboard upholstered in 'Rif' fabric by Nobilis. 'Frame' wall lights by Utu Soulful Lighting – available at Do Shop – are surrounded by segments of 'Lucky O's' wallpaper, which is from the 'Tokyo Blue' collection by Moooi for Arte. The bedside cabinets are Owl Design creations, built by Essex-based Carpenter & Carpenter [See Stockists](#) [page for details](#)

