

The London Magazine

LUXURY LIFESTYLE, PRIME PROPERTY



LOVE LONDON

A PASSION FOR CITY LIVING



Interiors projects for 2022 • Thrilling adventure travel
• Valentine's Day gift guide • Chinese New Year recipes

FEBRUARY 2022 £4.95



MASTER PLANS

A vaulted ceiling, bespoke doors and windows, a stylish home office...
Make 2022 the year to revitalise your home with expertly crafted design
and a bold approach to colour, writes **Tallulah Rushaya**





A new year means a new start. And a refresh of your interiors can be just be what your home needs. Whether you seek to create a dramatic extension to open up a room, accentuate your ceiling with lavish suspended details, redesign your office space, inject more colour with paints and patterns, or commission a bespoke design, there are multiple ways to get creative.

HOW TO START A PROJECT?

Knowing where to start with a project of any scale can appear initially daunting, considering scope, time, and the array of possible style outcomes. Thankfully, plans can be tailored to fit a client's vision. "We begin the process with a very detailed questionnaire, followed by a complex concept design stage which involves an exciting exchange of ideas and imagery. This forms the basis for a series of hand

sketches to explore the best layout of the space," says Katie Glaister, co-founder of K&H Design (kandhdesign.co.uk). "In tandem with this, we undertake exhaustive space planning exercises to ensure that the layout we arrive at really does fit the client's lifestyle. This allows us to assess the client's appetite for symmetry and other configurations."

THE BIG PICTURE

Carrying out an extension requires careful planning, while respecting your home's architectural structure, from room dividers to taking down walls. Another matter to consider is who is in the household. Whether a family home or a couple's first home, no matter the stage of life, there can be structural considerations to suit different lifestyles. "Often the clients we work with have children and are looking to maximise their



CHARACTER From top left: Fulham living room by K&H Design; Botanize whale blue velvet, Divine Savages; 'Louis Blue' paint, Annie Sloan. **Previous page:** Belgravia penthouse by Helen Green Design

SHAPE UP Clockwise from right: If ceiling height allows then a mezzanine level can offer a valuable extra level to your interiors, such as this church conversion interior in Knightsbridge by Rigby & Rigby; in the same project, a partition screen is used to create a unique space within the bathroom; authentic and traditional bespoke windows by Timber Windows



space as there is never enough room with a growing family! One trick we use is to vault the ceilings to add drama and increase the size of modestly proportioned rooms,” says Glaister.

“We recently worked on a semi-detached Victorian house in southwest London where we were able to increase the square footage of the property from 3,700 sq ft to 4,250 sq ft. The owners wanted the basement to feel like a primary floor, not a basement space,” recounts Glaister. “We used our knowledge of building structures and identified the ability to raise the basement ceiling, so the floor-to-ceiling height became 2.6 metres, whilst working with existing structural pillars – which represented a significant cost saving to the client.”





DIVIDE AND CONQUER

“As much as we all adore and enjoy large open plan spaces of modern, lateral living, we find that to create an ultimate homely feel, dividing the room into smaller designated spaces is essential,” says Alexandra Jurkiewicz, creative lead at Helen Green Design (helengreendesign.com). “To accommodate hybrid working, section out a separate reading corner or to divide a large open plan living-dining space, there are a few design tricks which help split the room without building walls.” Flow as well as light is paramount. “We use glazed screens, Crittal style partitions or metalwork screens which work well without blocking off the light and making the spec feel too crowded.”

Another great solution are open shelves with access on both sides. “These can be styled with beautiful accessories and glassware which brings additional interest to the space and provides required privacy and separation,” says Jurkiewicz. And an interesting solution, if space allows, is to create a mezzanine. “These are perfect for a small library corner, study or a snug filled with cosy cushions and beanbags.”

BESPOKE DOORS/WINDOWS

Architecturally sympathetic doors and windows can greatly enhance your home’s façade. With a wealth of materials and a number of window style finishes, the right combination can restore your home’s personality. As Paul Martin,

managing director at Timber Windows (timberwindows.com) explains, “We see an enduring trend for authenticity in replacement windows and doors – tradition and classic style is a trend that never ages or passes.” Bespoke windows and doors can match versions found in period properties. “Sash windows are a particularly strong demand across many period properties, and when installed to replace ill-fitting and poorly-suited modern uPVC products, the effect is often staggering,” says Martin.

RIGHT FIT

Innovative design, with bespoke shelving, cupboards and libraries can be the perfect solution for those tricky places. “Bespoke joinery works seamlessly





ON DISPLAY Clockwise from top left:
Clever storage by HUX London; bespoke book
cases by Christopher Peters; hand-painted Erdem
Chinoiserie on golden yellow dyed silk, from
£1,813 per panel, by De Gournay; Kasbah Pink
wallpaper, £50 per m, by Andrew Martin;
Kokoshnik headboard, £800 and Chinese yellow
plain linen, £46, by Volga Linen

SPACE TO THINK Clockwise from below left: Cantaloupe fabric, £79 per metre, by Sanderson; wall paint in Carnaby Yellow, £49.95 for 2.5L, Annie Sloan; Hatton 3 wall light, £365 and Hector wall light, £155, by Original BTC; Twisted table lamp, £95, by Birdie Fortescue



with your design scheme while maximising all potential storage space,” says Rebecca Northmore, design manager at HUX London (hux-london.co.uk). “Particularly in a home office, clever storage solutions such as desktop charging points and pull-out printer shelves can be incorporated into beautiful joinery. It is the ultimate in style and substance.”

A carefully planned office can make the most of every nook and cranny. Will Lyne, lead designer and co-owner of brand Christopher Peters Kitchens and Interiors (christopherpeters.com) advises, “Tall slimmer shelving can be used in smaller spaces, in lighter shades of wood like maple and oak so as not to overpower the space, with larger rooms lending themselves to much wider units in walnut and mahogany.” Books arranged according to colours or height can complement a shelf especially in the living room. “Built-in units can become a focal point, with floor-to-ceiling media units painted in colours that complement



the colour scheme of the space. Open shelving can house decorative items, priceless books and family heirlooms,” says Lyne.

BESPOKE FURNITURE

Commissioning pieces for the home, enriches the space. If spending more time working from a home office, it is worth investing in enduring craft pieces personal to you. There is a gratification of being a part of the creative process with designers who can guide you through manufacturing

techniques used by expert craftsman. “Some people refer to ‘bespoke’ when talking about customizing existing designs; we create from scratch and provide exactly what our clients want,” says Rupert Bevan, founder of Rupert Bevan (rupertbevan.com), makers of fine furniture. “In the context of the home office, commissioning a piece allows the personality to configure the space we can give the client what they really want.” ■

