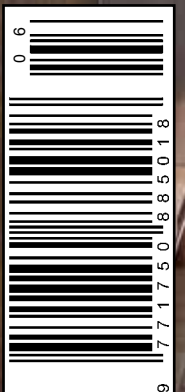


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A GLOBAL DESIGN PLATFORM

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INTERNATIONAL
DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2017



A MASTER
SUITE
STEEPED
IN HISTORY

RUN FOR THE HILLS
– CANONBURY SQUARE











Located in Islington, London, the light-filled first floor of this Georgian townhouse has been converted into a beautiful master suite. Run For The Hills were commissioned to design a sizeable master bedroom and bathroom across the entire first floor of this listed townhouse. The dual aspect space is steeped in history and bathed in light from dawn to dusk, overlooking a classic London garden square.

Respecting and preserving the beautiful original features of the Grade II listed townhouse was essential and a specific requirement of the listed consents secured the changes the designers wanted to make during the project. Working within the boundaries of the historical restrictions meant coming up with highly creative solutions for adding contemporary functionality to a space steeped in so much history.

The clients chose to work with Run For The Hills because of their style and talent for sourcing unique and beautiful one-off vintage and antique pieces, which are then carefully curated within a wider mix of modern design pieces.

The brief was to create a hugely practical but also very glamorous space, full of character and personality which would be a private, luxurious haven for the couple, but also a great space for them to enjoy time with the children. The clients have a growing family and wanted a huge amount of storage for clothes, shoes and paperwork, which Run For The Hills fused discreetly into the fabric of the design.

The bespoke wall panelling design cleverly disguises acres of hidden cupboards and wardrobes. The panelling is handle-free, with push/catch opening and in-built lighting. The panelling structure also serves as the backdrop to the feature master bed, with dedicated cubby holes either side of the headboard for extra nightstand storage, to ensure the main bedside tables could be kept tidy and uncluttered. Carefully positioned power

sockets and media outlets are installed discreetly for the clients to easily charge devices at night without filling their side table. The custom designed cabinetry is carefully detailed to look like fixed Shaker panelling, but in fact it is not fitted at all in certain areas, to stay within the bounds of the listed consents. Another special quirk to the project, was that all furniture sourced had to be fully customised to sit correctly on a very old and wonky wooden floor which undulates wildly across the rooms. The clients love the story it tells, so it was retained in the scheme and furniture had to be taught to sit nicely upon it!

“**We loved creating the bespoke shower enclosure and think it’s one of the hero pieces of the design.”**

The designers opted for a rich colour palette of teals, blue greys and rosewood reds. Painting cabinetry and original shutters in tone on tone shades of Farrow & Ball, then adding organic touches via the live edge bedside tables, mid-century wood and leather bench at the end of the bed. Using layers of textural interest, clashing patterns and highly tactile fabrics to dress the super king-size bed. Brass bedside pendant lights from Bert Frank hang low to enhance the impressive ceiling height and to save crucial space for storage on the bedside tables.

A beautiful antique cigar cabinet was sourced to sit in the alcove between the bedroom windows, and for a touch of fun, a Ju Ju feather hat from Love Warriors of Sweden sits above. The end of bed low bench is a lovely rosewood and leather piece from the 1950s, which sits opposite another statement rosewood chest of drawers nestling in an alcove. The pendant lighting to both rooms was sourced from European

vintage sellers, one an impressively large capiz shell pendant from Pamono, the other an antique brass lotus flower ceiling lamp from 1st Dibs. Incorporating beautiful vintage pieces in to both rooms adds an extra layer of historical interest to the suite and grounds the scheme within the context of the listed building.

The scheme included the design of a fully bespoke, steel-framed shower enclosure which is housed within a beautiful light-filled part of the overall suite. The structure is wonderful in itself, but the addition of beautiful handmade ceramic tiling and lovely brass accents, make it justifiably the focal part of the en-suite master bathroom. For the vanity, the designers decided that the metal shower needed to be juxtaposed with something natural, so a vintage mid-century rosewood sideboard was repurposed to create a freestanding washstand with floating mirrors. Run For The Hills also designed a mild steel frame to house two floating mirrors above his and hers Carrara marble vessel sinks by Living Roc designs, imported from Canada. The designers worked with the joinery team to ensure the vintage unit could hold two lovely marble sinks which weighed an enormous amount. Anna Burles, Founder and Creative Director of Run For The Hills explained: “It was quite a task making sure the vanity unit could take the weight whilst retaining a delicate look and feel”.

“We loved creating the bespoke shower enclosure and think it’s one of the hero pieces of the design” says Anna. The highly contemporary shower enclosure was designed by Run For The Hills in collaboration with steel window specialists, Fabco and features both clear and urban style reeded glass, offering some privacy for the couple within the WC area of the bathroom.

Run For The Hills have been shortlisted for the Interior Design Scheme UK Award with this project at the International Design & Architecture Awards 2017 to be held at The Dorchester, London, in September.



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