

SIR TERENCE CONRAN: REMEMBERING A DESIGN VISIONARY

ELLE

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STYLE
MAGAZINE
FOR YOUR
HOME

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DECORATION

THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE

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most structurally
splendid homes*

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COFFEE & CLAY

Create a sleep sanctuary with a palette of earthy browns against warm terracotta and golden ochre



- 1 'Artist Canvas' linen fabric in 'Red Earth', £160 per metre, de Le Cuona (delecuona.com) 2 'Perspectives Imaginaires' panoramic wallcovering by Luc Deflandre, £941 for a 2m x 3m panel, Pierre Frey (pierrefrey.com) 3 'Deej' glass ceiling light, £100, Habitat (habitat.co.uk) 4 'Plum Brandy' emulsion, £50 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library (paintandpaperlibrary.com) 5 'Fluff' bed in 'Canapa' boucle, from £1,259, Calligaris (calligaris.com) 6 'Cala' handmade yellow glazed mug, £16, Att Pynta (attpynta.com) 7 'Moss' candleholder, £7.95, Graham & Green (grahamandgreen.co.uk) 8 'Ekero' side table, £1,452, Tollgard & Castellani for Porada (porada.it) 9 'Dovetail' cushion by Eleanor Pritchard, £105, Heal's (heals.com) 10 'Sarono' accent chair, £698, Anthropologie (anthropologie.com) 11 Vintage 'Azilal' rug, £1,260, Larusi (larusi.com)

In Notting Hill there is a special atmosphere, thanks largely to its architectural history. In this culturally diverse slice of west London, brightly coloured homes rub shoulders with blocks of elegant Edwardian villas in glistening white stucco. And now there's a new addition to the special mix: a transformed townhouse by Milanese architecture practice Quincoces-Dragò & Partners.

The property's classic brick and stone façade offers no clues as to what lies inside. This project is 50 per cent London and 50 per cent pure Italian luxury. 'It was a challenge, but also a great opportunity,' says the firm's co-founder Fanny Bauer Grung. 'The project was born from one determined, courageous goal: to bring light back into this dark, tall and narrow house, which had deteriorated and become a little sad.' By adding a large skylight above the attic, she and fellow co-founder David Lopez Quincoces have created a beam of natural light that floods down a new sculptural staircase, filling every floor with sunshine.

Brightness even extends all the way down to the basement, which is now the heart of this house. With a new glazed wall opening out from the kitchen to the lush and shady greenery of the garden, it's a peaceful spot. The adjacent dining room, meanwhile, is a showstopping space designed for entertaining. Emphasised by a bookcase that stretches across two floors, and dramatic vintage pendant lights by George Nelson, this central location shows off this home's long, narrow bones in the best possible way, adding a sense of freedom and openness.

As well as transforming the feel of this property, the architects also had a chance to improve its environmental footprint. 'When this house was built, sustainability was an absolutely unknown concept,' notes Fanny. 'For us, being green is very important and something we are always aware of. In this townhouse, we have chosen high-quality windows that lock in warmth and an innovative heating system that reduces energy waste.'

Not only has this home's updated layout allowed the original architecture to breathe, it's also given its owners, a young art-loving couple, a renewed energy and love of where they live. 'Today, the house represents both their personalities and our vision of timeless interior design and architecture,' adds David. 'We sincerely believe that our projects are not, and should not be, about us, but instead about the people who live there. This time, those people have become friends as well as clients.' quincocesdrago.com

Opposite, and top right Custom made in black walnut and Calacatta marble, this kitchen is simple and streamlined. On the wall hangs a work by emerging British artist Camilla Emson. 'Nina' high stools by David Lopez Quincoces for Living Divani offer a pleasant spot to enjoy breakfast
Right A glazed wall opens out from the kitchen onto the serene garden ➤





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Formal sitting room A vintage sofa, reupholstered in linen, is paired with two armchairs designed in the 1950s and a 'Zig Zag' chair by Gerrit Reitveld for Cassina. The screen (right) is a bespoke piece and the nesting wooden tables are from Six Gallery
Study Tucked into a sunny corner of the landing, this work area features a vintage desk and chair. Ideal for contemplation, it affords an unrivalled vantage point across the garden ➤







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Main bedroom An enveloping walnut and straw headboard from Vienna complements the delicate tapestries by Japanese textile designer Chiaki Maki. Made with natural fibres and colours in his atelier on the slopes of the Himalayas, they were purchased at Assab One gallery in Milan
Opposite The cashmere-covered entrance to this bespoke walk-in wardrobe is another example of the luxurious details that define this home **See Stockists page for details** **ED**