



AS SEEN IN

KITCHENS
BEDROOMS &
BATHROOMS



ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

The owner of this London apartment wanted to create a living space with strong statement colours and unexpected quirks to wow guests

Report: **Linda Parker** Photography: **Nicholas Smith**

Previous pages (p114): The entrance hall is lined with lattice and antique mirror panels with those on the right featuring handles and concealing cloak cupboards. On the floor, meanwhile, are Carrara marble tiles, which reappear in the master ensuite.

Previous pages (p115): The top-floor kitchen-living-dining space is set within a modern mansard loft addition, hence the sloping windows to the right. The frameless glass skylight, above the living space, floods the whole floor with light and creates a feeling of height.

Below left: The high-specification extractor has been custom made by ABK, with the same outline and proportions as the peninsula unit beneath it.

Opposite page: This luxurious kitchen features Siemens appliances, an ABK bespoke extractor and 20mm work surfaces in the Cygnus colourway by Silestone. The barstools are Adjustable Spoon by Antonio Citterio for Kartell.



W

hen Benjamin Gordon bought this striking 18th-century, Grade II-listed apartment in the centre of London, he envisaged creating an interior that was both luxurious and comfortable but also had a few unexpected twists. To achieve this, he enlisted the help of Martin Smith at Holloways of Ludlow, who met the brief by designing a range of high-quality fitted furniture throughout the apartment. This includes the panels of antiqued mirrored glass along the entrance corridor, which brings light and reflections into a compact space, as well as a sleek kitchen and ensuite bathroom.

Holloways of Ludlow then commissioned Clare Gaskin to execute the interior design. "Benjamin is interested in unusual materials and wanted to add an element of fun, to play with reality and confuse his guests a little," Clare recalls. She was asked to reference *Alice in Wonderland* to demonstrate his love of red and black shades, and also to create a home that he could grow with and that expresses his personality. Even the lobby is delightfully quirky with a 'street scene' setting created using a faux tree, paving stones, sky-blue ceiling and a classic exterior door with a knocker. Here Martin tells us about the project.

How did you decide on the finishes for the kitchen?

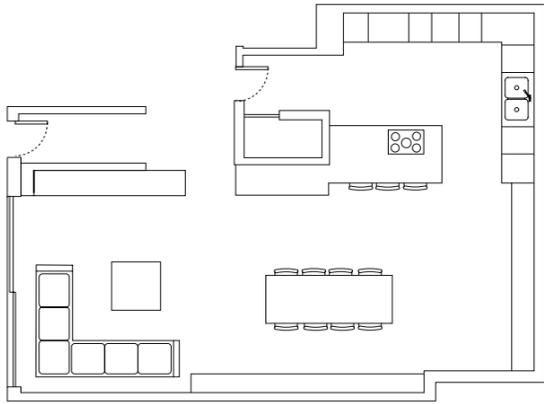
Benjamin was keen to create a modern and luxurious space so we have used Farrow & Ball's Off Black, with a gloss finish, for the majority of surfaces. By juxtaposing this with large swathes of natural materials (the stained oak and marble on the island), it softens the overall look.

Why was the kitchen-living space laid out in this way?

I designed the layout to allow for three clearly defined spaces – living, dining and kitchen – and so I wanted to create a dividing feature between each one. For example, the EcoSmart fire chimney sits exactly opposite the doorway with the same one-metre width, dividing the lounge and dining areas and also creating a defined 'art space' either side of the chimney. The peninsula unit then links the kitchen and dining spaces, and also acts as a drinks serving space at close quarters to the bar unit. ▶



Right: The dining area features a bespoke bar unit in stained oak and is partnered with a glass and metal dining table by Rupert Bevan and a Light Drizzle ceiling pendant by Ochre.



What was the design objective in the master bedroom?

First of all I had to rework the overall layout, claiming an area that was originally a fourth bedroom to create a large master suite with dressing room and bathroom, as well as a hidden utility and plant room that's accessible from the hallway. As the bedroom had such impressive dimensions it allowed the main space to be just a dramatic bedroom, with storage space for clothes and shoes elsewhere in the suite. Clare then finished the scheme by playing with scale using oversized bedroom lamps, a leaning floor lamp, grinning Cheshire cat cushions on the bed and a feature reading chair with playing card design – again referencing *Alice in Wonderland*.

The materials used in here are stunning. Where were these sourced?

Clare drew from several different sources, mixing paper, fabrics and paints to create a soothing scheme that still had dramatic impact. Feature wallpaper behind the bed adds texture, with Shells wallpaper mimicking mother-of-pearl and adding a reflective quality. She has also used fabrics with Eastern influences from the Kashmir Collection by Mark Alexander, which work well to soften the boldness of the red and black.

What did you want to achieve in the master ensuite?

The master ensuite needed to flow logically from the bedroom and dressing space, but also let in natural daylight. This was very important to Benjamin as the previous ensuite had no exterior windows. Thus, the bathroom is now accessed through a corridor of stained oak wardrobes, turning the corner into a light, contemporary space defined by pale, luxurious Carrara marble. It also features a double-ended bath, double basin with bespoke cabinetry and a large, self-contained shower. **KBB**





Left: The bespoke walk-through dressing space, designed by Holloways of Ludlow, forms a corridor through to the master bathroom (the entrance is on the right-hand side, after the open shelves). It also features plinth lights, which provide subtle lighting at night from the bedroom to the bathroom, and continues in the bathroom along the marble bath plinth.

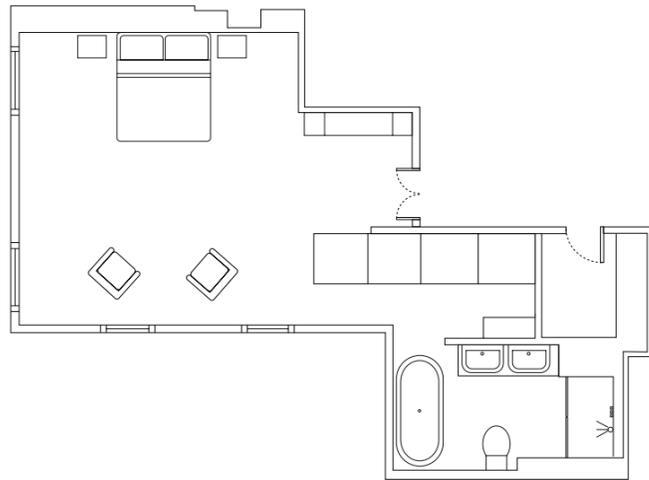
Right: The bedroom features a bespoke rug in wool and faux silk with barcode stripes by Amy Kent, bedside cabinets in a dark red lacquer finish from Chelsea Textiles and oversized Montebello table lamps from Bella Figura.

Below left: Clare Gaskin managed to find a cream 'playing card' fabric to upholster the reading chair, which she has contrasted with black velvet and red piping. The curtains are in a soft, shimmering fabric by Mark Alexander and create a continuous theme with the sheer curtains used in the living room above.



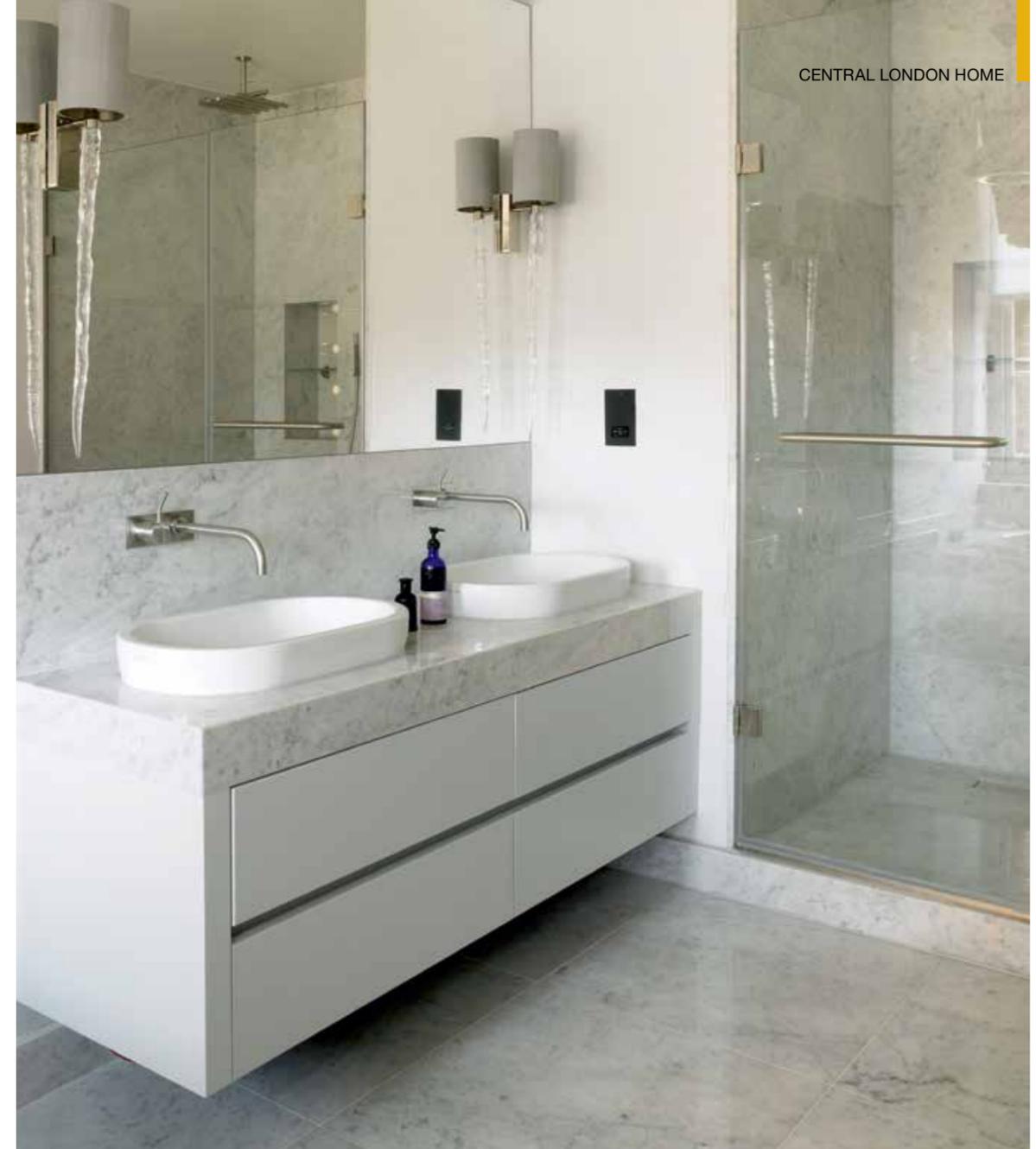
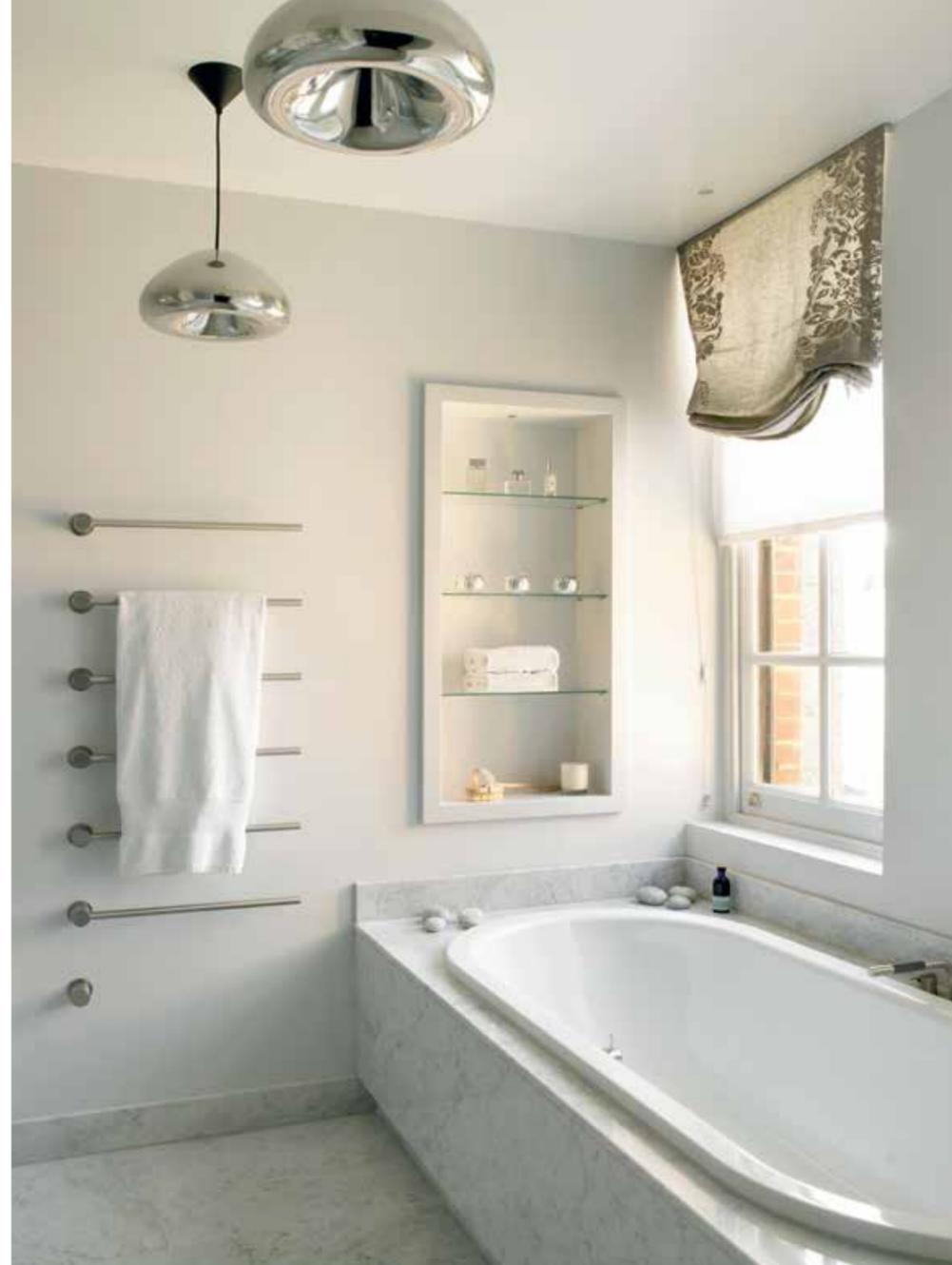
“Benjamin is interested in unusual materials and wanted to add an element of fun, to play with reality and confuse his guests a little.”





Right: The luxurious double-ended bath has a marble surround and panels, and is raised on a plinth. The pendant lights are Void by Tom Dixon, and the room also features low-level lighting and downlights, all of which are controlled via the main Lutron system.

Opposite page: The basin unit has a mitred book-matched Carrara marble top, and was designed and produced by Holloways of Ludlow. Porta Romana Icicle wall lights have a sculptural quality that suits the scheme perfectly, adding a change of material and texture to contrast with the marble.



SourceBook

DESIGN

Kitchen and bathroom Martin Smith of Holloways of Ludlow Bespoke Kitchens & Joinery (020 7371 1787 or www.hollowayskitchens.com)

Building services Holloways of Ludlow Professional Builders (020 8487 9440 or www.hollowaysbuild.com)

Interior design Clare Gaskin Interiors (07879 455025 or www.claregaskin.com)

KITCHEN-DINING-LIVING AREA

Cabinetry Bespoke by Holloways of Ludlow, as before, painted in high-gloss lacquer from Farrow & Ball Off Black (www.farrow-ball.com)

Worktops Stained oak and Silestone in Cygnus, by Holloways of Ludlow, as before

Taps For similar try Grohe (0871 200 3414 or www.grohe.com/uk)

Appliances Fridge-freezer, domino gas wok hob, induction hob, combination oven, multifunction oven, warming drawer and integrated dishwasher, all Siemens (0844 892 9044 or www.siemens-home.co.uk); Extractor, bespoke design by ABK, from Icon Appliances (0115 981 7281 or www.iconappliances.co.uk)

Barstools Adjustable Spoon by Antonia Citterio for Kartell from Mac & Mac Interiors (01252 717771 or www.macandmacinteriors.co.uk)

Dining table Bespoke design in glass and metal by Rupert Bevan (020 7731 1919 or www.rupertbevan.com)

Dining chairs The Sofa & Chair Company (020 8993 4415 or www.thesofaandchair.co.uk), upholstered in Alessio and Mirville Dusk, by Chase Erwin (020 8875 1222 or www.chase-erwin.com)

Pendant light Light Drizzle by Ochre (020 7096 7372 or www.ochre.net)

Bar unit Bespoke design by Holloways of Ludlow in stained oak, as before, with wine storage unit by Miele (0845 365 6600 or www.miele.co.uk) and countertop by Silestone (01256 761229 or www.silestone.co.uk)

Sofa Picasso sofa by The Sofa & Chair Company, as before, upholstered in Rivero Lava Rock fabric by Romo (01623 750005 or www.romo.com)

Curtains Sheer curtains, Ombre from Zimmer+Rohde (020 7351 7115 or www.zimmer-rohde.com); Blackout curtain fabric (used behind the sheer), Jazz in Silver Shell from Mark Alexander (01623 750005 or www.markalexander.com)

Coffee table Brooklyn by Villiers Brothers (01799 516680 or www.villiers.co.uk)

Cube footstools Ono cubes from The Sofa & Chair Company, as before,

upholstered in Sumatra Obsidian by Mark Alexander, as before.

Media unit Bespoke design by Clare Gaskin Interiors, as before, and Holloways of Ludlow, as before

BEDROOM

Bed Bespoke bed base and Strauss headboard, The Sofa & Chair Company, as before, upholstered in Brilliance Storm by Zinc Textile (020 7349 9680 or www.zinctextile.com)

Chair and footstool Blake reading chair and Pablo footstool, both by The Sofa & Chair Company, as before

Rug Bespoke rug by Amy Kent (07979 594651 or www.amykent.co.uk)

Flooring Stained oak flooring by Türgön (020 8343 3463 or www.turgonflooring.co.uk)

Bedside lamps Montebello by Bella Figura (020 7376 4564 or www.bella-figura.com)

Reading lamps on wall Tito by Cube Lighting (01442 876676 or www.cubelighting.com)

Ottoman Bespoke design in Metaphores Bel Ami from Abbott & Boyd (020 7351 9985 or www.abbottandboyd.co.uk)

Wallpaper Shells by Eletis from Abbot & Boyd, as before

Curtains Jahangir Smoke Blue from Mark Alexander, as before

BATHROOM

Joinery Bespoke basin unit and niche wall unit, Holloways of Ludlow, as before

Bath surround, splashback, wall cladding and tiles Carrara marble, Holloways of Ludlow, as before

Basins and WC Sfera range by Catalano (www.catalano.co.uk)

Bath Starlet Flair Oval by Bette (0844 800 0547 or www.bette.co.uk)

Brassware and towel warmer Vola (01525 720111 or www.vola.com)

Shower screen For similar try Matki (01454 322888 or www.matki.co.uk)

COST

A similar kitchen would cost around £38,000, a similar living and dining area about £45,000, a similar bedroom about £35,000 and a similar bathroom about £60,000



Above left: The lobby has been designed to recreate a 'street scene' using a faux tree, paving stones, sky-blue ceiling and classic exterior door.

Above right: The Venetian-style bespoke shoe cabinet was faced with 28 individually cut and bevelled mirror sections, which ties in nicely with the entrance hall design.

Left: The open-plan kitchen-living room leads off a light-filled hallway featuring decorative mirror panelling.



GET THE LOOK

Below: Hand-spun carpet from Blenheim Carpets, priced £225.60 per sq m. (020 7823 3040 or www.blenheim-carpets.com)



Right: Panton chair in Red from Zinc & Co, priced £62. (0800 034 6102 or www.zincandco.com)



Right: Wan hanging shade from Christopher Wray, priced £130.67. (020 7013 0180 or www.christopherwray.com)



Left: Bello Tear table lamp in Champagne with slim oval drum shade in black satin and gold lining from Heathfield & Co, priced £311. (01732 350450 or www.heathfield.co.uk)



Above: Amelia armchair in Night Sky linen from Neptune, priced £485. (01793 427427 or www.neptune.com)

Right: Lacquered bamboo side table in Persimmon from Westelm, priced £119. (020 7637 9150 or www.westelm.co.uk)

