



Project of the month

This tricky Holland Park project by Echlin involved unifying a traditional townhouse with two mews properties. Design director Sam McNally tells us how they made Kenure House a light and green contemporary space.



Kenure House is the redevelopment of a traditional London terraced townhouse and two mews buildings that create one contemporary home. We had to find a solution that unified the complex floorplates of the original three houses. The previous owners had knocked through in various places to create a bigger home but one that felt claustrophobic and dark, with lots of pokey rooms. We saw the opportunity to bring lateral space into play where small boxy homes and terraces had once been the order of the day.

We really thought about how the resident will use, live and navigate around the space. The idea of 'flow' was key, so we introduced an open central courtyard garden with a three-storey light-well at the core of the property, situated between the terraced section of the home and the mews elevation. This focal point also houses a two storey living wall which turns this heart of the home into something that's truly alive and offers views of greenery 365 days a year. Lots of glazing allows natural light to pour into the spaces surrounding the courtyard.

We designed the house to reflect the bohemian character of Notting Hill, and the refined elegance of

Holland Park. Holland Park gave us a lot of inspiration for the more organic materials used within the house; wood, stone, linens and silks, alongside large amounts of greenery. The property is also on the site of a former pottery, so we felt man-made and semi-industrial materials were also relevant – you will find extensive use of brick and patinated metal which, together with the internal staircases, were hand-crafted in a metal fabricating workshop in Newcastle.

We restored the traditional fascia of the house, combining this with more classic interiors at the front. Towards the rear, where the contemporary elevation is situated, we used more patinated metals and modernist pieces of furniture, and also included an all black cloakroom in the basement, which really takes you by surprise.

Another striking part of the design is the rooftop bath with a glass roof, which was a solution to the planning controls that stipulated the new design had to sit within the confines of the old building at roof level.

The entire project took around two and a half years, including planning.

Kenure House, Holland Park is currently on the market with Knight Frank and Domus Nova for £8.95m. Go to echlinlondon.com or call 0207 349 9610