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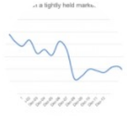

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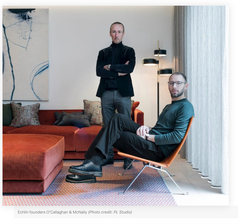
London-based design studio Echlin has lifted the lid on the transformation of a classic London mews house in Knightsbridge.

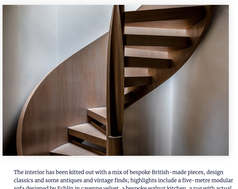
The latest project by Sam McNally and Mark O'Callaghan's firm has been a number of years in the making, and is billed as "the ultimate modern home".

Commissioned by a private family to "reinterpret" a three-storey building just off Lowndes Square, the team took inspiration from Hyde Park over the road, delivering a light-filled space with a six-metre-high vertical garden running along the entire length.

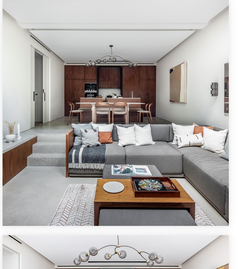


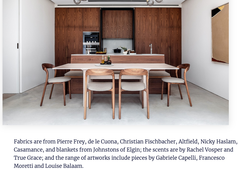
Echlin founders O'Callaghan & McNally (Photo credit: PL Studio)

Entered via an oversized bronze door, the 2,400 square foot residence is now linked by a statement oak helical staircase (handmade in East Sussex), and has copious amounts of glass to "bring the outside in".

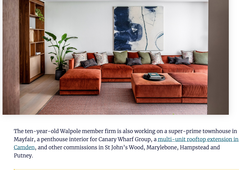


The interior has been kitted out with a mix of bespoke British-made pieces, design classics and some antiques and vintage finds; highlights include a five-metre modular sofa designed by Echlin in cayenne velvet, a bespoke walnut kitchen, a rug with actual copper running through it from Columbian manufacturer Verdi, a Fritz Hansen chair and Alvar Aalto lighting, and a bespoke marquetry dining table by Manchester-based Winter & Kurth.





Fabrics are from Pierre Frey, de le Cuona, Christian Fischbacher, Altfield, Nicky Haslam, Casamance, and blankets from Johnstons of Elgin; the scents are by Rachel Vosper and True Grace; and the range of artworks include pieces by Gabriele Capelli, Francesco Moretti and Louise Balaam.

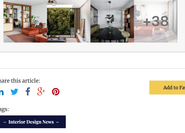


The ten-year-old Walpole member firm is also working on a super-prime townhouse in Mayfair, a penthouse interior for Canary Wharf Group, a multi-unit rooftop extension in Camden, and other commissions in St John's Wood, Marylebone, Hampstead and Putney.

Sam McNally, co-founder of Echlin: "The current climate has placed an even greater emphasis of the importance of how our homes are designed, how we use them and its impact on our moods. We are spending even greater amounts of time there and all the key criteria we introduced 10 years ago when we launched Echlin have come to the fore. Well ahead of the pandemic we have been creating homes where thought for people's lifestyles is at the core of our designs. We recognise that mood, wellbeing and happiness are all shaped by what surrounds us and we are committed to making these spaces as stylish but also as user friendly as we can. Our Knightsbridge Mews project is really our prototype for how to bring this greater awareness and thinking into luxury home design."

Steve Clinch, Head Architect, Echlin: "The vision was to transform a small mews with compromised rooms into a contemporary home with a great feeling of space. This has been achieved by opening up the plan and providing views into other spaces allowing the full width and length of the house to be expressed. A thoughtful use of joinery divides, with openings, combined with sliding and pocket doors provide flexibility within the space. The glass floor also allows views down into the basement along with lots of natural light. The head height in the basement adds to the feeling of space whilst the change in floor level provides a visual separation between the kitchen and dining room. At first floor the use of the ceiling pitch has transformed the bedrooms by with the master benefiting from sliding doors through the dressing area into the en-suite."

IN PICTURES: KNIGHTSBRIDGE MEWS PROJECT Echlin



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