



A bedroom oasis of soft greens and Oriental details

International Flat of Mystery

A Primrose Hill bachelor pad gets a plush makeover – oh, behave

When presented with the blank canvas of a Primrose Hill flat, interior designer Nicola Holden (nicolaholdendesigns.co.uk) knew exactly what was needed. "The client wanted his modern Primrose Hill flat transformed into a statement bachelor pad. He wanted a 'wow' factor as you walked

through the front door, taking inspiration from Philippe Starke's use of lighting. I couldn't possibly comment on behalf of the client, but it's groovy, baby!" says Holden.

Before Holden got her hands on the flat, it sported a bland interior typical of a new-build, and both owner and designer wanted to ▶▶▶



Rich, red wallpaper makes a dramatic feature wall

▶▶ stamp the space – all light wood flooring and magnolia walls – with their own style.

Architecturally, the building is quite austere for the area, which makes the bold use of colour even more arresting. “The space was completely lacking in personality,” says Holden. “The client wanted it transformed into a cosy bachelor pad that reflected his character; a space that he delighted in coming home to.”

The premise was simple and directional: a retro-style living room, that fulfilled the “funky, dark and red” brief. The result? A mischievous and evocative space, conjuring danger, passion and the forbidden.

Holden took a lot of inspiration from the clean lines of Scandinavian design, spicing it up with paisley patterns and rich jewel-like fabrics. “I also drew on my Zimbabwean roots to add a splash of African ethnicity,

reflecting the client’s favourite holiday destination,” she says. “The Chinese-style bedroom was inspired by my love of Asia and my extensive travel through this part of the world. The bedroom furniture was sourced

IT’S AN EVOCATIVE SPACE, CONJURING UP THOUGHTS OF DANGER, PASSION AND THE FORBIDDEN

from Orchid and Shimu – both import their furniture directly from China. The lotus lamps on the bedside tables are from Lombok and the contemporary ‘Octopus’ chair is made in Indonesia. The picture above the bed was commissioned from an artist in China and the stunning antiqued gold wallpaper is from Brian Yates.”

The two very different design styles are linked by a statement hallway, the first thing you see upon entering the property, and something that really provides that ‘wow’ factor the north west Londoner was after. “It also brings together the different spaces through the progression of colour and the use of simple, contemporary pieces,” says Holden.

The interior designer has some good advice for those wanting to inject their homes with colour. “Just as neutral colours provide a sense of calm, so the use of colour adds character. I love the fact that wallpaper is back in fashion – using this on a feature wall adds colour gently. Splashes of the same colours can then be added through the use of bright accessories, like pictures, rugs and flowers.” ■



Lombok’s lotus bedside lamp



The statement hallway links the different styles together

