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NOVEMBER 2011

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Man about town

A stunning selection of furniture, artwork and accessories has been carefully cherry picked to transform an empty shell into the ultimate bachelor pad

Report: Felicity Borthwick



Plenty of plump pillows and high-quality linen adorn the bed for hotel-style luxury. The crisp white pillows offer a brilliant contrast alongside the black feature wall for added drama. Chrome wall lights break up the swathes of black and enhance the masculine aesthetic



Above: Black furniture creates a masculine feel in this bedroom, while a 'Prada' sign, which Maurizio sourced from a gallery in New York, adds to the tailored-suit theme that inspired the design

Right: Maurizio has created a theme in each of the guest bedrooms and this particular one was inspired by gentlemen's suits – hence the pinstripe fabric on the storage trunk beneath the console and the cushions and bed throw in Prince of Wales. A sophisticated black palette and array of luxurious materials add to this effect



Spread across 143 acres of natural woodland, Keston Park offers the perfect antidote to a hectic day in the London office. Indeed, this was largely why James Hallam decided to buy a house here so it was essential that the interior convey the lifestyle he wanted away from work – calm and relaxed but also fun.

"I basically wanted to create a comfortable space where I can live and entertain friends away from the city – something modern, as I'm fairly young, but not minimalist," he elaborates. "I wanted it to have warmth and character and to reflect my style so I was initially cautious about using an interior designer as it's easy for them just to put their own mark on it," he continues. "However, a friend of mine recommended Maurizio Pellizzoni and he was excellent. I basically just let him know what I like and he presented me with all these amazing ideas that express my taste perfectly."

One of the first things Maurizio proposed was painting the central wooden staircase white, with a black top, to change the feel of the property and set the tone for the stylish, contemporary home it has



Below left: Black-and-white prints of African wildlife are a nice touch in James's bedroom, adding interest and personality to the scheme whilst also complementing the large black-framed mirror and nearby console table

Below right: A zebra-print rug adds another texture to the master bedroom whilst tying in nicely with the animal prints on the wall. The black and brown Ralph Lauren furniture establishes a visual link with the kitchen downstairs and Maurizio had some wardrobes custom made with a dark brown wood veneer finish to match



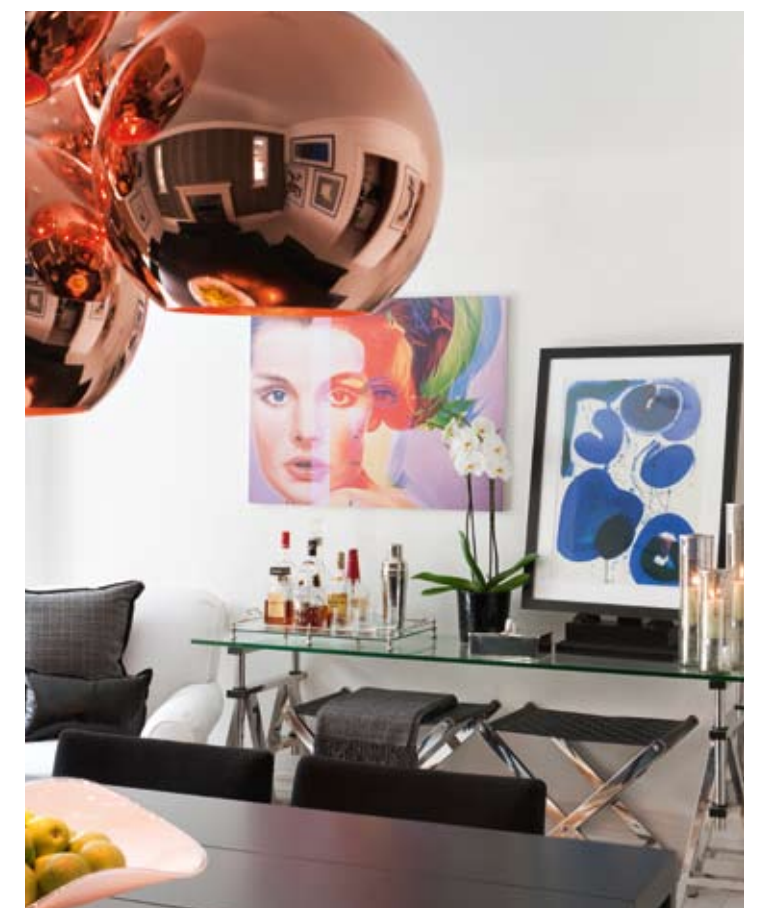
now become. The next area he tackled was the sleeping quarters, comprising three generous-sized bedrooms on the first floor. "Whenever my clients have more than one bedroom, I try to make each one like a hotel room with its own theme," Maurizio explains, "especially if they often have guests staying like James does." For one of the guest bedrooms, Maurizio drew inspiration from gentlemen's suits – a fitting choice for a stylish bachelor pad belonging to a young professional. "The trunk under the console is covered in pinstripe fabric, while the back cushions and throw on the bed are both in Prince of Wales," he elaborates. "This room is very much about men – the bed is very square and linear, the carpet's dark grey and I have also created a feature wall with black wallpaper featuring big charcoal dots." Chromewall lights from Ralph Lauren also enhance the hotel-like aesthetic and break up the swathes of wallpaper, while elegant black

furniture augments the masculine vibe. A huge Prada sign from New York provides the perfect finishing touch and reinforces the designer-suit theme. "I actually bought that sign for my flat but James liked it so much, I ended up giving it to him and ordering another one for myself," laughs Maurizio. The master bedroom also oozes contemporary style and masculinity with its assembly of black and brown wooden furniture – even the door and skirting boards have been painted black for extra impact. "Maurizio took me to the Ralph Lauren showroom on Bond Street to get inspiration for my bedroom and there was one display that really appealed to me, so nearly everything came from there," explains James. "However, the bed was so big that we had to enlarge the double doors leading into the room." There was also space for a fourth bedroom in the large attic upstairs but James decided he would rather turn this into a cinema room where ▶

Above: Touches of black give this room a definite masculine feel. Maurizio has even painted the skirting boards black to tone in with frames and fine pieces of furniture

Right: A bedroom display in the Ralph Lauren showroom on Bond Street provided the key inspiration for the master bedroom, as James immediately liked its modern, masculine aesthetic. An enormous bed takes centre stage within the space and faces towards full-length windows to make the most of the garden views





Above: Natural light floods the kitchen space thanks to two enormous skylights and two sets of floor-to-ceiling glass doors. The veneered kitchen units bring warmth to the vast white space and provide plenty of storage to ensure the kitchen remains clean and uncluttered

Opposite page, top right: The dining area features copper-coloured lights from Tom Dixon, a brown cowhide rug and sleek black furniture to complement the wooden cabinetry and black granite work surfaces in the neighbouring kitchen

Right: The black granite work surface extends over the side of the island to create a breakfast bar where James can sit and admire his beautiful surroundings thanks to French glass doors that link the kitchen with the garden

Opposite page, bottom right: Colourful artworks add a fun, contemporary touch to the sophisticated furniture

he could entertain friends. Thus, it now comprises a 20-seat Poliform sofa, retractable cinema screen and pool table, which Maurizio had covered in purple felt to match the life-size Joker figure that stands guard with Batman near the door, creating an instant feeling of frivolity. "I saw a big Spiderman figure at a games shop on my way to the theatre one night and thought how perfect something like this would be for the cinema room," explains James, "so I asked the sales assistant if I could hop behind the till and see where they were from, then ordered these."

Downstairs on the ground floor the project proved slightly more challenging as the design needed to work with the existing kitchen. "The kitchen wasn't really to either of our tastes; James wanted something modern and white but when we discovered it was worth £80,000 and pretty much brand new, we were reluctant just to pull it out as we were conscious of what a waste this would be," says Maurizio. "I spent three months trying to sell it on eBay but no offers came close to what it was worth. So, after much deliberation, we resolved to keep it and work with what we had, restyling the space with artwork, design accessories and feature lighting from Tom Dixon." ▶



Left: An entertainment room has been created in the loft where a contemporary pool table highlighted by clusters of pendant lights takes centre stage. L-shaped seating in the corner provides comfort for all James's friends

Looking around the finished kitchen-dining space, this was clearly the right decision as the overall aesthetic remains perfectly in harmony with James's brief and the rest of the house. Thanks to some skilful reworking, the room now looks predominantly modern with plenty of warmth and a slightly funky vibe in the dining area where sleek black furniture is teamed with a cowhide rug and cluster of copper lights suspended from the ceiling at various heights.

"All the colours in here have been taken from the kitchen," explains Maurizio. "The lights and rug tone in nicely with the wood cabinetry, while the dining table complements the black granite worktops." He also veiled one of the dining room walls in charcoal wallpaper to

make the room a bit darker and evoke a slightly moody, atmospheric feel – perfect for evening meals and entertaining friends. By day, however, James can enjoy a casual meal at the breakfast bar, created by a cantilevered surface on the central island unit, whilst admiring the stunning garden and woodland beyond.

James certainly now has the relaxed haven away from work that he craved – a stylish modern home that's equally amenable to rest or play and of which he's extremely proud and grateful for. "I was so impressed with how much time and work Maurizio put into designing this place," he marvels. "Every time I come home I still think 'wow, I absolutely love it'."

[KBB]

SourceBook

DESIGN

Interior Design Maurizio Pellizzoni Design (020 8318 9182 or www.mpellizzonidesign.co.uk)

KITCHEN-DINING AREA

Cabinetry For similar try Chamber Furniture (01959 532553 or www.chamberfurniture.co.uk)

Worktops Polished granite, available from Stonevale (01423 815416 or www.stonevale.co.uk)

Appliances Steam oven, two dishwashers, two fridges and freezer, all Miele (0845 365 6600 or www.miele.co.uk); Cooker, Mercury (0870 756 1236 or www.mercury-appliances.co.uk)

Barstools Anna Stool, Barker and Stonehouse (0844 420 4420 or www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk)

Flooring Large porcelain tiles. For similar try Porcelanosa (0800 915 4000 or www.porcelanosa.co.uk)

Dining table and chairs Poliform (020 7368 7600 or www.poliformuk.com) with fabric on chairs from De Le Cuona (020 7584 7677 or www.delecuona.co.uk)

Lights Tom Dixon (020 7183 9737 or www.tomdixon.net)

Rug Cowhide from Andrew Martin (020 7225 5100 or www.andrewmartin.co.uk)

MASTER BEDROOM

Bed, armchair and chest of drawers

Ralph Lauren (020 7535 4600 or www.ralphlaurenhome.com)

Wardrobe Custom made. For similar try Indigo Furniture (01629 581800 or www.indigofurniture.co.uk)

Wallpaper, curtains and table lamp Ralph Lauren, as before

Carpet Blenheim Carpets (020 7823 3040 or www.blenheim-carpets.com)

Rug Zebra skin from Africa. For similar try zebra-print rug from Argos (0845 640 3030 or www.argos.co.uk)

Ottoman Dark brown/black pony skin, B&B Italia (020 7591 8111 or www.london.bebitalia.com)

Mirror Custom made, Andrew Martin, as before

Animal prints Andy Biggs prints from the USA (www.andybiggs.com)

Bed linen Frette (www.frette.com) from LB London (020 7838 9592 or www.lblondon.com)

GUEST BEDROOM

Bed Poliform, as before

Wallpaper Noir, Designers Guild (020 7893 7400 or www.designersguild.com)

Prada sign Art gallery in New York, available through Maurizio Pellizzoni Design, as before

Bedside tables Andrew Martin, as before

Console table Custom made. For similar try Juliettes Interiors (01789 721911 or www.juliettesinteriors.co.uk)

Chest De Le Cuona, as before

Carpet Blenheim Carpets, as before

Ottoman Black pony skin, B&B Italia, as before

Bed linen and pillows Ralph Lauren, as before

COST

A similar kitchen would cost around £80,000, similar dining area around £15,000, similar master bedroom around £55,000 and a similar guest bedroom around £20,000