

THE BEST IN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DECORATION

HOUSE & GARDEN

March
2014
£3.99

**GREAT
ENGLISH
INTERIORS**

**A private
tour of
Badminton
House**

CHILD'S PLAY
Furnishing
children's rooms

INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATIONS

**From pigsty
to parterre**

**Reviving a tired
town house**

**Facades get
a facelift**

RIGHT Kamini Ezralow sits on the sofa bed she custom-designed for her clients. It is set within shelving against a mirrored wall



DESIGNER PROFILE

Kamini Ezralow

Interior designer Kamini Ezralow used a subtle palette of grey and yellow in her scheme for this Mayfair apartment, which combines luxurious materials with a light, modern look. By **Judith Wilson**

PHOTOGRAPHS **CHRIS TUBBS**

Kamini Ezralow grew up in Hong Kong, then took a degree in European studies at the University of London, followed by a postgraduate diploma at the Inchbald School of Design. She worked at an architectural practice in Hong Kong, ran her own design studio in LA for six years, then returned to London in 2005 as managing director and creative director at Intarya, specialising in high-end residential work. In 2012, she started her eponymous design company with a team of four, and she launched her first furniture collection, Bronze, in 2013. Current commissions include the decoration of the Marbella Club Hotel, a chalet in Switzerland and a house in Chelsea. Kamini lives in Parsons Green with her husband and their two dogs.

‘My international clients bought this Mayfair apartment as their London base. They wanted it to feel homely yet luxurious, with a light, modern look. They entertain a lot, so a multi-functional space was essential. We had the property replumbed and rewired, cleaned up the original cornices, laid a walnut floor and added a Chesney’s limestone chimneypiece. My clients needed a second entertaining and

study space that could also work as a spare room, so we opened up a bedroom and linked it to the drawing room and dining room.

‘I see working with clients as a collaboration, so this project is an extension of their sensibilities. I devised a subtle palette to which my clients could add. I was fresh from designing my furniture collection, which uses materials such as grey-stained sycamore and bronze, so grey, yellow and warm metal tones were already in my mind. The walls are a mix of two Dulux

paints: the resulting pale grey has a slight blue undertone, which is cool and crisp.

‘When I meet clients, I watch how they move, talk and manoeuvre round a room. Good space planning and appropriately tailored furniture is essential. In the main sitting area, I designed an L-shape sofa to maximise space, and in the sitting room/study/spare room there is a custom-made sofa bed. The bespoke joinery here includes a lacquered desk with a pull-out section that doubles as a drinks trolley. I placed the ▷



ABOVE The ceiling light in the sitting area is made from a cluster of 'Rex' wall lights by Baroncelli.
BELOW Paint specialists helped to create the grey wall finish with gilded leaf details in the cloakroom



dining table centrally between the two sitting areas to allow each space to “breathe”.

‘I love layering textiles. The mix here has a luxurious sensibility, with a different feel at night. The curtains are a Fox Linton self-stripe wool, the sofa is in Pierre Frey linen and the “Carousel” cocktail chairs, by Robert Langford, have a Turnell & Gigon velvet on the front and an Armani Casa fabric on the back. Using contrasting fabrics adds a sense of fun. One of my favourite fabrics is Dedar’s “Tabularasa” cotton satin, which comes in incredible colours. In this apartment, I’ve used it on the seats of the dining chairs and desk chair. All the cushions are custom-made, and I’ve included designs from my new collection. “Hoop” is embellished with metal hoops and French knots, and “Rattan” has broad stripes of handwoven metallic thread.

‘I design in an organic way. The wool/silk Stark Carpet rug in the main sitting area was the first design I proposed to my clients. We looked at other designs, but ended up coming back to the initial choice. For me, design is a journey of discovery, so the process of evaluation was as important as the return. The chandeliers are all by Baroncelli. In the two sitting areas, we created ceiling fixtures by combining 10 “Rex” wall lights, clustered at varying drops.

‘As a designer, I surround myself with creative and skilful craftsmen. For the cloakroom, I wanted a tactile wall finish in a similar colour palette to the sitting room’s. We chose warm platinum grey with gilded details and I worked on-site with the paint specialists. It took two days for the artist to hand-paint the leaves.

‘Every job I work on includes bespoke furniture. We designed a television cabinet in pale natural tones to suit the scheme. It includes art-deco details – for example, a sunburst front – with a modern twist. I love this era, as it seems timeless and relevant. Aesthetics in a room matter, but it is equally important to create a living environment with good energy. I like to leave empty spaces so that my clients can continue to add personal pieces. Just like the silence between the notes in music, emptiness supports everything else around it.

‘I pride myself on listening to what a client wants. It is not about my ego. Recently, a friend of my clients told me that, as well as finding the apartment beautiful, my clients agree that it feels like their home. As a designer, that is the best compliment I can have’ □

*Ezralow Design: 020-7193 9323;
www.ezralowdesign.com*