

Cosy CHIC

*Designed with vintage décor, as a pied-à-terre for a Kuwaiti family in London, **Nebihe Cihan Studio's** latest project exudes a feminine, Parisian chic vibe with a nod to Victorian era charm*

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An interior view of the entryway featuring Namban design wallpaper by De Gournay; Custom console table in Paonazzo marble and custom armchair by Nebihe Cihan Studio; Artwork by Jules Olitski called Innocence; Bronze Buddha sculpture by Valérie Wade; Poliedri chandelier by Fabio Ltd; Murano table lamps by Via Antica



An interior view of the living room featuring Alexander corner sofa, Aston lounge chair and Grant side table by Minotti; Custom coffee table and nesting table in oak finish and Macchia Vecchia marble by Nebihe Cihan Studio; Artwork by Sterling Ruby; Sculpture by Claudia Comte; Poliedri chandelier by Fabio Ltd, Gaios table lamps by Aerin

Situated a stone's throw from Hyde Park in London is a 19th century flat which has been owned by a Kuwaiti family since 1972. Most recently, London-based interior design firm Nebihe Cihan Studio has revamped the pied-à-terre while preserving the original architraves, the crown moldings and corniches. The result? A seamless marriage between classic Victorian architecture and vibrant Parisian influences. "It was imperative to me, that I respected the history of the apartment and retained its charm," says founder of the eponymous studio, Nebihe Cihan. "When I first saw the apartment, I fell in love with the original parts and wanted to keep those elements and merge the old with the new. The hallway had so much potential so I really wanted to keep the old windows and the glass, whilst highlighting the area through the furnishings."

The longevity of the space has been preserved while introducing modern elements through the incorporation of vintage and new pieces alike. "In terms of design, I am not guided by trends but prefer a more modern yet classic style that transcends time," explains Cihan.

"However, it is still important to incorporate edgy elements, to elevate the timeless design."

The space is home to an array of art pieces which have been sourced in collaboration with London-based art advisor-cum-curator Lawrence Van Hagen. "I love to use artwork to elevate the project and bring a different perspective," expresses Cihan. "Lawrence has a very well-trained eye, and as a result, was immediately able to curate the right pieces." Works by American artist Jules Olitski, Swiss artist Claudia Comte, LA-based Sterling Ruby and American artist Loie Hollowell are adorned on the walls.

Having always been passionate about vintage architecture, Cihan explains that for her, "old is gold. As soon as I walked in the flat, I fell in love with the old elements and character. I knew from the outset that I wanted to preserve the old architecture and the integrity."

Italian charm has been introduced through sleek Minotti furniture, with sophistication and functionality at its core. "I like the modern look of Minotti furniture because it has a timeless elegance and is functional in terms of comfort, which is always pivotal for me," says Cihan. "There is no point designing beautiful ▶



An interior view of the master bedroom featuring Leslie sofa and Rays coffee table by Minotti; 1950s American rectangular mirror by Valerie Wade; Gold dust Murano glass table lamp by Via Antica; Poliedri chandelier by Fabio Ltd



An interior view of the master bedroom featuring Wysteria' design wallpaper by De Gournay; Leslie armchair and ottoman by Minotti; Heaven bed by Baxter; Custom night stand in oak finish by Nebihe Cihan Studio; Artwork Loie Hollowell (Point of Entry 2017, soft pastel and graphite on paper); Poliedri chandelier by Fabio Ltd, Murano glass table lamps by Via Antica



An interior view of the bespoke bathroom in Bianco Carrara marble; Bathroom accessories by Samuel Heath; Canale sconces in Murano glass by Fabio Ltd

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interiors, if they are not functional or the client cannot engage with them.”

The mid-century modern furniture in jewel tones complements the gold, textured Namban design wallpaper by De Gournay displayed at the entrance. Italian marble has been custom-designed for the apartment, a testament to the family’s love for the material. The coffee table is made using Macchia Vecchia, the dining table with Nero Marquina and the console table at the entryway with Paonazzo. “When I am designing, it is important to me that the décor also reflects the personality and the life of the client.” The marble slabs have been handpicked from Verona and the woodwork has been executed in a factory in Bergamo, Italy. “For the centrepiece, I designed a custom console in Italian Paonazzo marble,” explains Cihan. “The idea was to keep the design feminine, therefore I used curvy lines and

rounded edges when I designed the furniture.”

A highlight of the living room is the Poliedri glass chandelier in smokey grey and an emerald green Minotti sofa, which is complemented by the grey muted palette in the dining area. Noting inspiration from the owner’s travels and rich love for la Ville Lumière, the studio has furnished the space with French brands by the likes of Pierre Frey and Nobilis, featuring rich fabrics and traditional designs.

A warm colour palette has been used to permeate joy throughout the space and evoke memories. “I believe that warm colours evoke feelings of happiness, energy and optimism,” shares Cihan. “I also think that some of the colours are more uplifting than others. Usually my design aesthetic revolves around neutral colours, however this was one of the first projects I designed where I experimented with a lot of colours. I firmly believe that colours

can define one’s personality and mood, and therefore you have to be very thoughtful [about] how you use them. Having spent so much in the apartment throughout the project, I also studied the lighting. I was careful to choose a palette that was warm and calm, even when it is really grey outside, as is often the case with London!”

Paying homage to the surrounding subdued London landscape, the bedrooms feature muted greys and taupes, with a De Gournay wallpaper comprising a Wisteria design and Murano purple table lamps, which Cihan collected from a vintage store in Brussels.

“I was really inspired by the client’s energy and her lifestyle when I was designing this project,” shares Cihan. “It is important that I achieve sophistication and an elegance in each project that I design.” ■ nebibeciban.com