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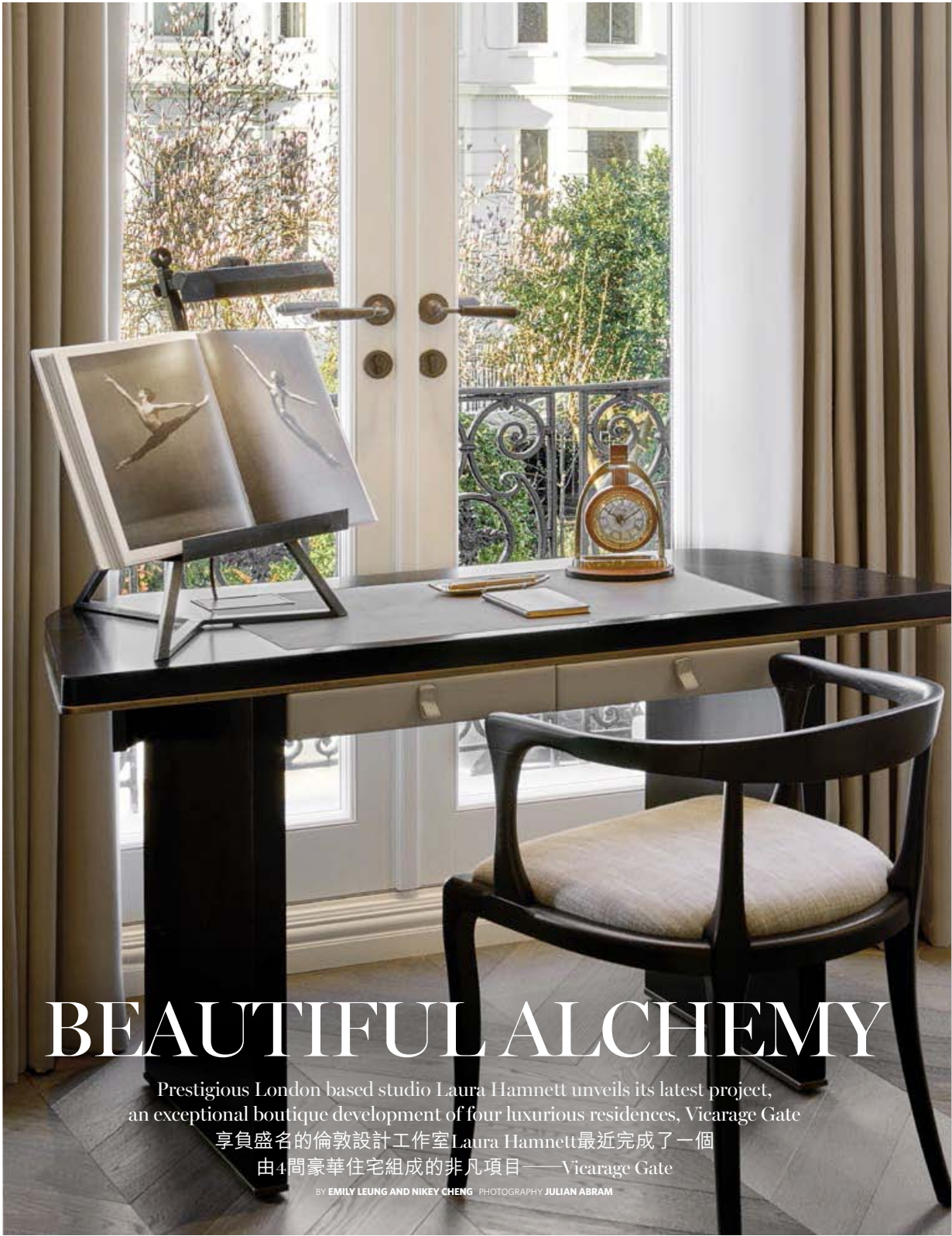
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BEAUTIFUL ALCHEMY

Prestigious London based studio Laura Hamnett unveils its latest project, an exceptional boutique development of four luxurious residences, Vicarage Gate
享負盛名的倫敦設計工作室 Laura Hamnett 最近完成了一個由4間豪華住宅組成的非凡項目——Vicarage Gate

BY EMILY LEUNG AND NIKEY CHENG PHOTOGRAPHY JULIAN ABRAM



The brief was simple, to convert a historic townhouse dating back to circa 1877-1880 into four luxury residences for resale. Reveals designer Laura Hamnett, who was tasked with transforming these spaces, “we worked with the architect to completely strip it out, so it was just the shell, virtually removing all walls and floors but retaining the original grand staircase and stained-glass windows in the stairwell. We then painstakingly designed every interior architectural element to bring it back to life.” She continues, “we always design developments with an imagined buyer in mind, as it is more natural for us to design with a personal approach. From past experience in this particular Kensington location, we made an assumption that the buyers were likely to be young European professionals, however it’s important to ensure that the design is never alienating another demographic of buyer.”

Having worked with this client on two previous projects, the parties had developed great rapport and trust, which Laura says, is key. “He is very passionate about his projects so he was quite involved with the creative process which is not often the case with developers and made the process even more enjoyable.”

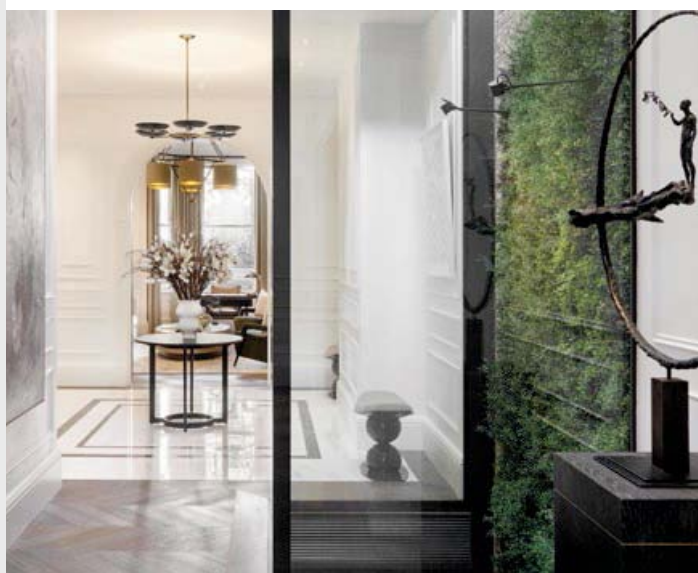
With sustainability being a key factor across all industries, the design studio ensured this was adopted through the project by creating timeless design using high quality materials that would stand the test of time. Says Laura, “we don’t follow trends and opt for designs that have longevity so our interiors would still feel relevant in ten years’ time and beyond. Good quality furniture hand-made from solid natural materials can be kept for generations. That is what sustainability is about for me within luxury design.”

這個項目的設計方案很簡單，就是將一棟大約建於1877-1880年的歷史建築改造成4間豪華住宅。負責改造工程的設計師Laura Hamnett表示：「我們與建築師合作，把建築徹底改頭換面，我們幾乎拆除了所有牆壁和地板，但保留了原有的大型樓梯和梯間的彩色玻璃窗。我們再精心設計了各個室內建築元素，讓空間重現生機。」她續說：「我們在進行設計時，會以想像出來的買家為本，有助自然地創作出符合個人特色的設計。根據以往在肯辛頓的項目的經驗，我們假設買家是年輕的歐洲專業人士，但同時要確保設計不會令其他買家群卻步。」

設計師與這次的客戶已合作過兩個項目，雙方早已建立了良好的關係和信任，Laura表示這是十分重要的基礎。「他非常熱愛自己的項目，所以對創作過程也相當投入，這跟發展商的合作截然不同，整個設計過程也更愉快。」

可持續發展是所有行業的關鍵因素，設計工作室特地選用高品質的物料來創造經得起時間考驗的設計，確保項目的可持續性。Laura指





In terms of the aesthetic style, Laura shares that they looked to Paris to influence the interior architecture introducing beautiful, curved doors and arches, bold veined marble and elaborate plaster moulding throughout. They then combined this classic backdrop with contemporary joinery, bathrooms, kitchens and bespoke furniture and styling.

Oak chevron has been used for the floors throughout the residence, while the walls are adorned with elaborate plaster moulding. The design studio opted for a monochromatic palette with light panelled walls and dark chevron floors, while dramatic contrast has been created with dark framed glazed double doors, Noir St Laurent marble fireplaces and bronze effect on the kitchen units. Classic contemporary furnishings adorn the interiors, together with sculptural lighting and artwork and a jewel tone pop of colour unique to each apartment to keep them harmonious while each establishing their own identity.

Says Laura, "the eclectic style of the lighting by Visual Comfort throughout had a real influence on the overall aesthetic. Their tripod picture light that we used on one of the desks is an all-time favourite of mine and the first piece I selected when designing the furniture for that apartment." Other sources and pieces to note include fabrics from Donghia, Robert Allen and Holly & Sherry for sofa cushions and bespoke upholstered

出：「我們不會追隨潮流，著重選擇耐看的設計，令我們的室內裝潢在十年或更久以後依然合時。由純天然材料和人手製作的優質傢俱可供幾代人沿用。對我來說，這就是奢華設計的可持續發展。」

在美學風格方面，設計師從巴黎風格中尋找靈感，引入優美的弧形門和拱門、奪目的大理石和精緻的石膏雕飾，再在這種經典的背景設計中融入現代細木工、浴室、廚房和訂製傢俱。

整棟住宅採用了橡木方格紋地板，而牆面則綴以精緻的石膏雕飾。工作室運用單色調主題，搭配淺色的鑲板牆和深色的方格紋地板，而深色的有框玻璃雙門、Noir St Laurent大理石壁爐和青銅廚櫃則組合出富戲劇性的對比效果。室內放置了多款經典現代的傢俱，還有雕塑般的燈具和藝術品，而每間住所各用上獨特的寶石色調，既能保持和諧格調，又具備專屬的特色。

Laura表示：「Visual Comfort的燈飾設計不拘一格，提升了住宅的整體美感。我們在其中一張書桌上擺放了這個品牌的三腳畫燈，那是我最喜愛的設計，也是我為該住宅挑選的第一件家品。」屋內還選用了多個優質品牌的產品，包括Donghia的布藝、Robert Allen和Holly & Sherry的沙發墊子和扶手椅



TIMELESS APPEAL

The designers looked to Paris for inspiration of the interior - sensuous curves converge with fine furniture and stunning materials to spectacular effect. Acclaimed designer Laura Hamnett (left).

時尚雋永

這個靈感源自巴黎的空間展現出曲線美學、精緻傢俱及飾材的完美交織，締造驚艷的視覺效果。左圖為著名設計師Laura Hamnett。





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LABOUR OF LOVE
Despite the challenges of this project over a three-year period, the final result is a feast for the senses.

爱的力量
项目在三年的工程中跨越種種挑戰，打造出一場感官盛宴。

armchairs, bronze taps from Samuel Heath, wall lights by Kelly Wearstler, Gaggenau appliances in the kitchen, and the Chelsom chandelier.

When asked her favourite design feature, Laura is quick to point out the curved glass double doors. "They are breathtaking in person and add such a refined contemporary twist on the classical architecture. I also love the ornate plasterwork combined with the contemporary elements like the glass internal atrium and the kitchens. The kitchens were also designed by our team as integrated elements within the architecture, so the contemporary bronze effect units are concealed behind classical panelled pocket doors."

From start to completion, this project was a real labour of love for over a three year period. Due to the nature of the historic building, challenges were expected, including obtaining the relevant permissions needed to make such dramatic structural alterations, and the installation of a lift. Explains Laura, "the space planning of each apartment was crucial to make this a successful project for our client as the quality needed to be completely uncompromised. We had to make clever design features within the compact studio apartment for example, with a floating partition wall that housed a rotating television which could be viewed from both the bed and the seating area, as well as a slim breakfast bar to create a separate zone for the kitchen within the open plan space. It worked beautifully."

襯墊、Samuel Heath 的銅製水龍頭、Kelly Wearstler 的壁燈、Gaggenau 的廚房家電，以及 Chelsom 的吊燈。

當問及她最喜歡哪個設計時，Laura 即時指向弧形的玻璃雙門。「這道門非常特別，為古典建築增添了精緻的現代風格。我也很喜歡華美的石膏雕飾與玻璃中庭和廚櫃等現代元素的組合。廚櫃也是由我們的團隊設計，把帶有青銅效果的廚櫃隱藏在古典的口袋門後面。」

從開始到完成，這個項目都是一個以熱誠來進行的工程，歷時超過3年。由於這是一棟歷史建築，設計團隊遇到不少挑戰，例如進行大型的結構改動和安裝電梯前，必須獲得相關許可。Laura 解釋說：「要令這個項目成功，每間住宅的空間規劃可說是至關重要，不能忽略品質。我們必須在小巧的開放式單位內運用聰明的設計，例如把電視機安裝在可移動的隔牆上，讓用家在

“GOOD QUALITY FURNITURE HANDMADE FROM SOLID
NATURAL MATERIALS CAN BE KEPT FOR GENERATIONS”



Naturally, the client is thrilled with the end result of the project, and most happy with how successfully the layouts worked, making each apartment flow so well. Says Laura, “his priority was to be able to provide completely uncompromised luxury living for his buyers.” He certainly has, and even though this property was launched during Covid, Laura shares that this level of the property market has not really been affected. “People are viewing properties virtually which can mean that the details and feeling of an interior can’t be translated, but this residence has such a strong visual impact that it has still been a success,” she says.

Laura reveals that during the last few weeks of project, when the final elements were installed and revealed, it was extremely rewarding. “In addition to the full interior architecture, we fully furnished and styled each apartment to perfection using a number of bespoke items. The spaces feel so elegant and timeless but with a depth and warmth that is so essential to us as designers.”//

床上和休息區都可觀賞電視，還利用了一個細長的早餐吧台劃分出廚房區域。這個單位的設計效果非常優秀。」

而客戶亦對完成後的裝潢讚不絕口，特別是空間的布局使每個單位都擁有流暢空間。Laura說：「他的首要任務就是為買家提供無懈可擊的奢華生活。」他當然做到了，儘管這個樓盤是在新疫情期間推出，但豪宅市場並沒有受到太大影響。她表示：「現在人們都是在網上參觀單位，可能無法細味裝潢的細節和格調，但這幾個單位擁有非常鮮明的視覺效果，所以銷售很成功。」

Laura透露，到了工程後期，最後的元素都陸續完成安裝和擺位時，她真的感到很圓滿。「除了完整的室內結構，我們還運用了許多訂製傢俱來細心裝飾每間住宅，使其更加完美。這些空間予人優雅和永恆的感覺，同時具有深度和暖意，對我們設計師來說真的非常美滿。」//



ALL IN THE DETAILS
Clever design features include a floating partition wall with a rotating television and a slim breakfast bar.

見微之處
家區充滿巧妙的設計特色，當中包括裝有旋轉電視的懸浮隔牆和時尚早餐吧。

