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DESIGN

## Inside Churchill's Wartime HQ – A Raffles-Branded Apartment That Embraces Vintage Treasures And Bold Patterns

The Old War Office that was once under Winston Churchill's premiership during World War II has now been transformed into a new Raffles flagship hotel and 85 exclusive residences. In the heart of London's iconic Whitehall, this exclusive residence has heritage so steeped in history it is a Grade II listed gem with neo-baroque styles and ornate features. Think of a London apartment nestled within a quintessential British building; one imagines hybrid templates that range from classic Art Deco to grand Victorian flourishes. In an attempt to woo the cultural connoisseurs of the world, British design studio, [Angel O'Donnell](#) designs a three-bedroom apartment that balances homely comforts with statement patterns, sculptural furniture, and world-renowned art.



Any building with such a notable past provides a perfect canvas to celebrate the time-honoured craft techniques. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu

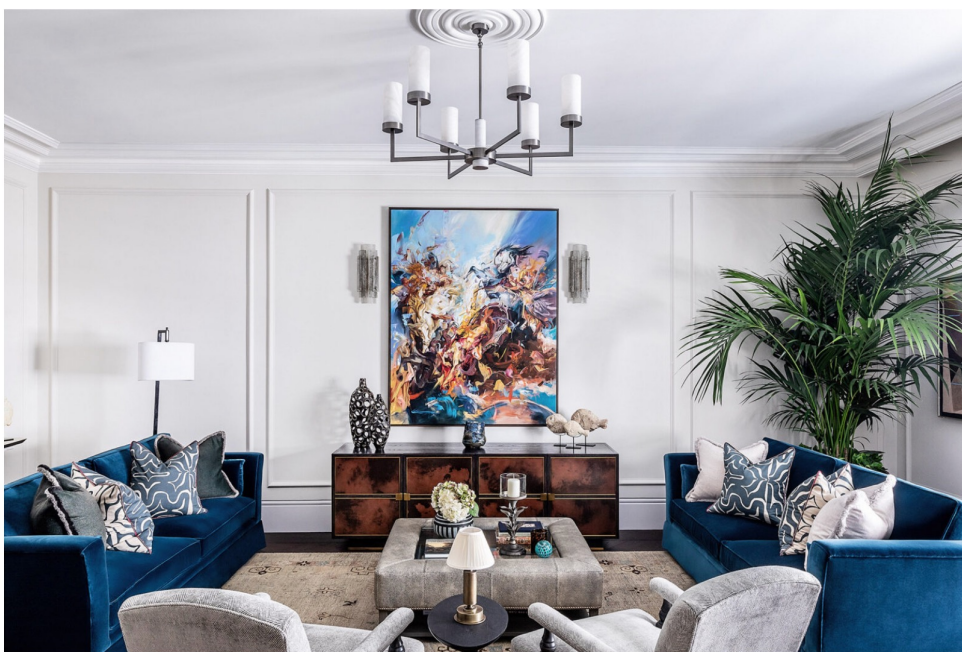
Any building with such a notable past offers a window into the urban history and culture; at the same time providing a perfect canvas to celebrate the time-honoured craft techniques. *“Our aim is to always create a generous and restorative home no matter how grand the property is. This was something our client wanted too. In fact, they specifically asked for understated luxury, a little eclecticism, and a lot of comforts”*, says Ed O’Donnell, Creative Director and Co-Founder of Angel O’Donnell.



The heavy arched door instantly fosters a cultural identity while the hallway includes a brutalist-inspired bench against a wall of abstract collages. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu

The heavy arched door instantly fosters a cultural identity while the hallway includes a brutalist-inspired bench against a wall of abstract collages. The simplicity of this transitional space lends a contemporary art gallery quality and sets the tone for what’s to come. *“We wanted our designs to celebrate the building’s natural charms. The apartment, for instance, is blessed with many original features – from high ceilings and large, decorative mouldings to an intricate mosaic floor. These details don’t require much enhancement, which is why we opted for a soft, neutral palette throughout most of the rooms. This – along with wood beading, which we added to elegantly break up large expanses of the wall – provides the perfect backdrop to furniture, artwork, lighting, and window treatments”*, explains O’Donnell.





The living room exudes pin-sharp detailing, weaving in multicultural flavours including bespoke velvet sofas and a hand-knotted Persian rug. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu



The dining area features a banquet-sized table, honed from a single slab of Italian Rosso Luana marble. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu

The living room exudes pin-sharp detailing, weaving in multicultural flavours including bespoke velvet sofas, a hand-knotted Persian rug with Arabesque ornamentation and an eclectic mix of decorative pieces. A Renaissance-inspired oil painting by a Colombian-born artist creates an arresting focal point in the living room. The dining area features a banquet-sized table, honed from a single slab of Italian Rosso Luana marble complemented with a carmine-coloured bench and sand and chestnut-toned chairs.



The grand hallway leads to the kitchen and three bedrooms and is adorned with mid-century Murano-glass pendants. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu



A handcrafted sculptural table with a twisted oxidised copper base occupies the ergonomic kitchen space. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu

The grand hallway leads to the kitchen and three bedrooms, and is adorned with mid-century Murano-glass pendants and a raw-edged stone table. A handcrafted sculptural table with a twisted oxidised copper base, by celebrated British designer Tom Faulkner, occupies the ergonomic kitchen space. It is further accentuated by vintage chairs, upholstered in rust velvet and a densely-textured banquette with multi-yarn cushions.





The principal bedroom includes a dreamy four-poster bobbin bed by Julian Chichester, a pioneer of contemporizing classic English furniture. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu

The principal bedroom includes a dreamy four-poster bobbin bed by Julian Chichester, a pioneer of contemporizing classic English furniture. A soft sage-linen sofa along with soft wool boucle armchairs add to the room's warmth and comfort. The plaster wall lights that are theatrically shaped like woodland flutes from Porta Romana, a British lighting manufacturer, emit the toastiest of glows. The splendid space is also replete with art by veteran landscape artist Richard Ballinger and neo-pop-art legend Damien Hirst.



A soft sage-linen sofa along with soft wool boucle armchairs add to the room's warmth and comfort. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu

Two guest bedrooms are treated to Savoir splendour with handcrafted Savoir beds, for a lovely extravagance. The cloakroom is conceived glamorously with equal attention to detail; covered in impactful marbled wallpaper of kaleidoscopically bright colours and mesmeric swirls. *“When you’re in the lovely position of interior designing large and lofty rooms, you tend to let rip and lavish them with big, near-oversized furniture. So many pieces – from the voluptuous oak table bases in the dining area to the elongated glass ‘petals’ that form the pendant lights in the hallway – look on the verge of being giant-like, while at the same time achieving perfect proportions”*, adds O’Donnell.



The cloakroom is covered in impactful marbled wallpaper of kaleidoscopically bright colours and mesmeric swirls. Image Credits – Taran Wilkhu

The elements of this space work in unison to create a home that hits the sweet spot of beauty, tactility and that all-important comfort. Angel O'Donnell, in its aim to deliver the most unique and deluxe residences, has created interiors that celebrate The OWO's cultural pedigree. *"We had to maintain a discriminatory eye and wheedle out anything that evoked the building's past too thirstily. This was an exercise in vigilance, constantly cross-referencing patterns, colourways, fabric choices, mixed-media art, lighting and furniture designs. Ironically, the more we edited, the more effortless our choices appeared, which is what you want at the end of the day"*, concludes Ed O'Donnell.

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