



INTERIOR DESIGN YEARBOOK 2016

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MASTERING LAYOUT AND SPACE PLANNING:

DESIGNING INTERIORS FOR FLOW AND FUNCTION

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Angel O'Donnell numbers among Andrew Martin's Top 100 Designers 2024. On top of their critical success – which includes a British Institute of Interior Design Award, eight International Property Awards, and the coveted Overall Winner trophy at the Society of British and International Interior Design. Angel O'Donnell has become a highly sought-after design studio, with clients from around the world – notably New York, Hong Kong, Mumbai and even Hamilton in Bermuda – seeking out their services in London. From heritage properties to contemporary new builds, recent projects include three Vantage Collection residences at Centre Point, a penthouse and sub-penthouse at One St. John's Wood, a sub-penthouse at The Bryanston, a Georgian townhouse, an Edwardian family home, four apartments at Park Hyatt Residences, and six apartments at The OWO Residences by Raffles.

A well-designed layout conceals the craft behind it. All the planning, skill, and precision fade into the background, leaving a space that feels natural and effortless. It brings clarity to a room, ease of movement, heightened functionality, and an uplifting mood. As a result, you can glide through it happily and freely, subconsciously safe in the knowledge that you won't stub a toe or send something flying. You can set down a glass mid-conversation without breaking eye contact with the person you're chatting to. Or settle into a movie without squinting or craning your neck. This is the goal Angel O'Donnell pursues with every project – because no matter how exquisite

the furniture, fabrics, lighting, joinery or art may be, they only shine when thoughtfully arranged. Each space has its own character. And each client has

their own unique set of preferences and priorities. This makes the process both complex and creatively rewarding. For the answers aren't just about where



Above: Centre Point - A bespoke room divider elegantly sections off the dining area



Above: Centre Point - a well-proportioned L-shaped sofa anchors a quiet spot in a large, open-plan space

things go. They involve clever use of colour, texture, materials, and smart space-saving solutions. As you'll soon discover, great planning goes far deeper than placement alone.

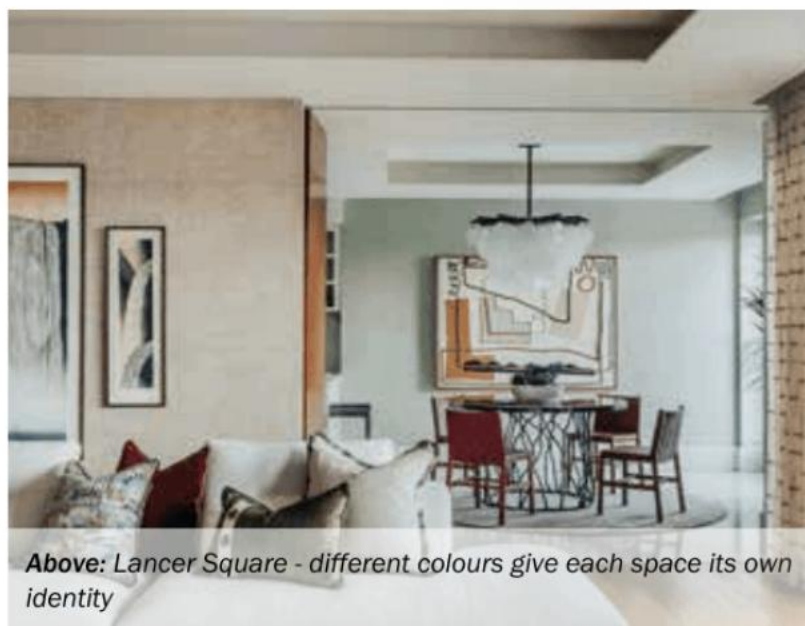
These possibilities guided our approach when planning the layout of a 27th-floor apartment at Centre Point – a brutalist landmark in the heart of London's West End. In the expansive open-plan living space, we chose low-profile furniture to let the sweeping views of Mayfair and Hyde Park take centre stage. A generously proportioned L-shaped sofa creates an island of tranquillity within the room, complete with easy-to-reach side tables and two irresistibly deep lounge chairs.

To subtly distinguish the dining area, we introduced a bespoke floor-to-ceiling divider. We designed it with open shelves and coloured glass. That way, when the sun hits its lattice-like structure, chromatic shadows are cast across the room – adding beauty as well as purpose to the space.

Art was another key ingredient: eight jewel-toned etchings by Anish Kapoor that stretch from

the dining space into the kitchen, visually linking the two and encouraging the eye to travel the length of the interior. These thoughtful choices didn't just improve circulation between living, dining, and study zones – they also brought warmth and intimacy to a large, light-drenched space.

Colour blocking is another powerful tool for defining and refining interior layouts. At Lancer Square in Kensington, we selected a cohesive palette and let it flow liberally from room to room – especially where spaces



Above: Lancer Square - different colours give each space its own identity

shared sightlines. It's a clever way to zone without building barriers while adding instant personality. Colour does a lot of heavy lifting: it sets the mood, sparks emotion, and makes each corner feel intentional. Want a space that's soft and snoozy? Or warm and hug-like? Maybe one that perks you up with a bit of zing? Colour's got your back. In this project, a 1930s-inspired mint green brought a fresh, uplifting tone to the kitchen's breakfast area. In the living room, soft sand hues created a relaxed, grounded feel. While the entrance made a bold first impression with a blend of dark and blonde wood marquetry. The result? A home full of clearly defined yet beautifully connected spaces.

As a studio, we love crafting interiors that shift in mood and purpose depending on how they're used. That's exactly what we achieved at The OWO Residences, Whitehall, by cleverly zoning a large living room into two distinct areas: one for fireside conversations and hosting, the other for movie marathons. The space balances grandeur with

intimacy. Its towering windows, lofty ceiling, and generous footprint made it perfect for both formal and informal moments.

At the formal end, we introduced cooler tones – consoles with tapered legs, a sleek, inky-black coffee table, striking black and white photography, and a chandelier that resembles sheets of splintered ice. In contrast, the casual side features a well-padded L-shaped sofa and two plush russet ottomans facing a custom joinery wall with shelves, cupboards, a marble

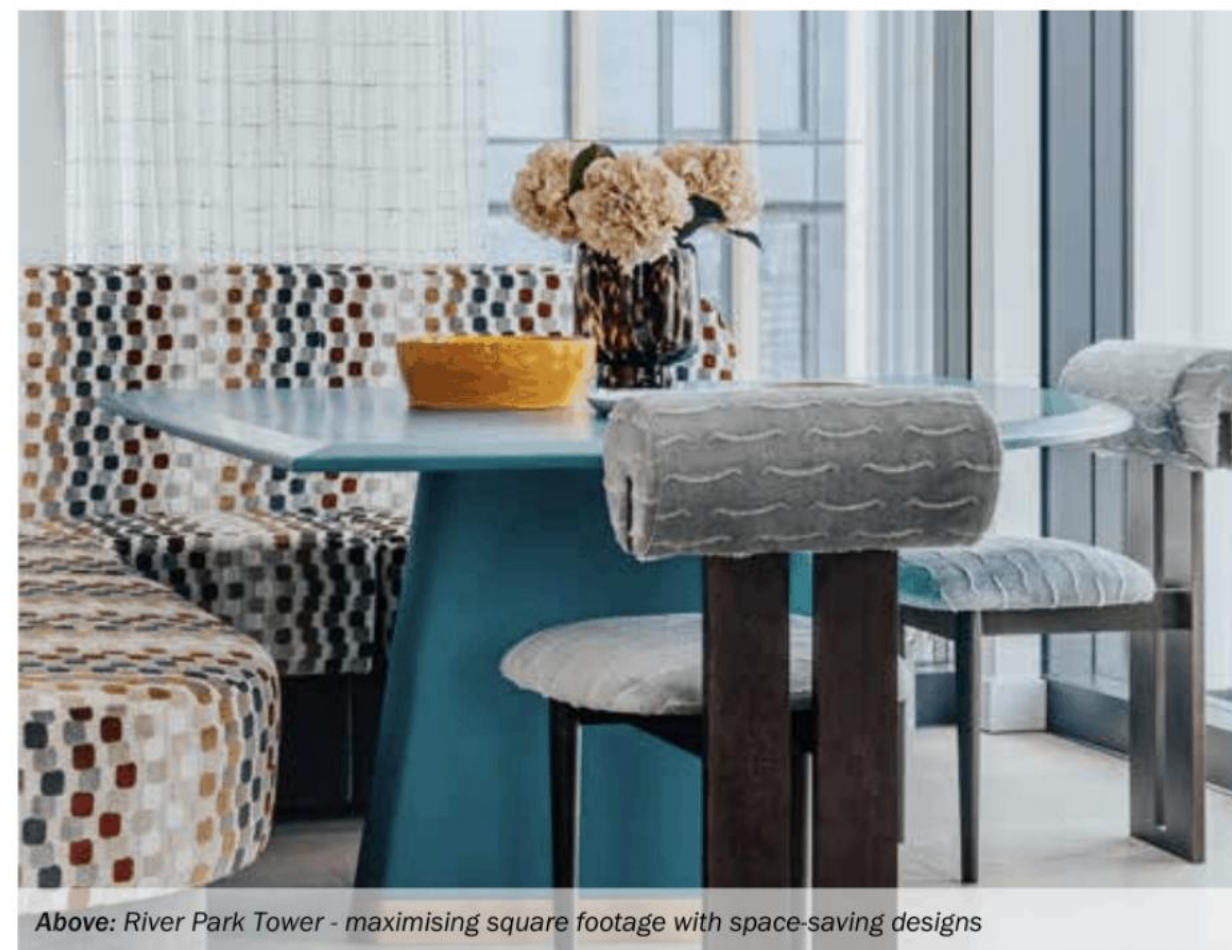
cocktail bar, a leather-wrapped library ladder, and a cleverly hidden TV. While these elements are polished, they're also welcoming and homely – inviting you to recline, snuggle up, and feel warm, rested and content. It's a layout that marries purpose with comfort. Of course, space planning is just as vital in compact homes – perhaps even more so. In a modestly-sized apartment at River Park Tower, Nine Elms, we made every square inch count – transforming a previously overlooked nook beside the kitchen into a surprisingly

spacious dining area. With the right approach, even unassuming corners can become magnetic social hangouts or peaceful retreats. The trick? Go bespoke. We installed a made-to-measure banquette that slots into place like a jigsaw piece, adds playfulness and character, and accommodates more people than several free-standing chairs. Built-in elements like these help smaller homes live larger – proving that with the right design, comfort, flow, and style never have to be sacrificed.

At its core, space

planning is about more than arranging furniture – it's about enhancing how we live, move, and feel in a space. Whether in a sprawling penthouse or bijou flat, thoughtful layouts turn interiors into experiences. From zoning and colour-blocking to clever joinery and custom design, it's the unseen choices that shape the way we interact with our homes. Done well, space planning doesn't just solve problems – it enriches every moment spent indoors.

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Above: River Park Tower - maximising square footage with space-saving designs

GEOMETRIC ELEGANCE

Angel O'Donnell channels the bold, uncompromising spirit of brutalism in a three-bedroom apartment inside London's iconic Centre Point. The studio's design story unfolds through strong geometry and arresting silhouettes, shapes that echo the tower's striking architecture. In the bedrooms, zigzag-patterned walls and honeycomb pillars nod to the building's external detailing. Elsewhere, totemic wooden sculptures introduce a sense of craft and scale, while a room divider comprising polygonal panes of coloured glass plays with light and transparency. Vintage pieces, dating back to 1963 when the tower was first built, layer in a sense of history. In the entrance hall, a ceiling mural captures the fiery hues of sunrises and sunsets that pour through the east- and west-facing windows. Uniting it all is a rich palette of materials, from honed marble to oxidised steel, grounding the interior in both past and present.



This project was designed by Angel O'Donnell and completed in 2024. Photography by Taran Wilkhu.



