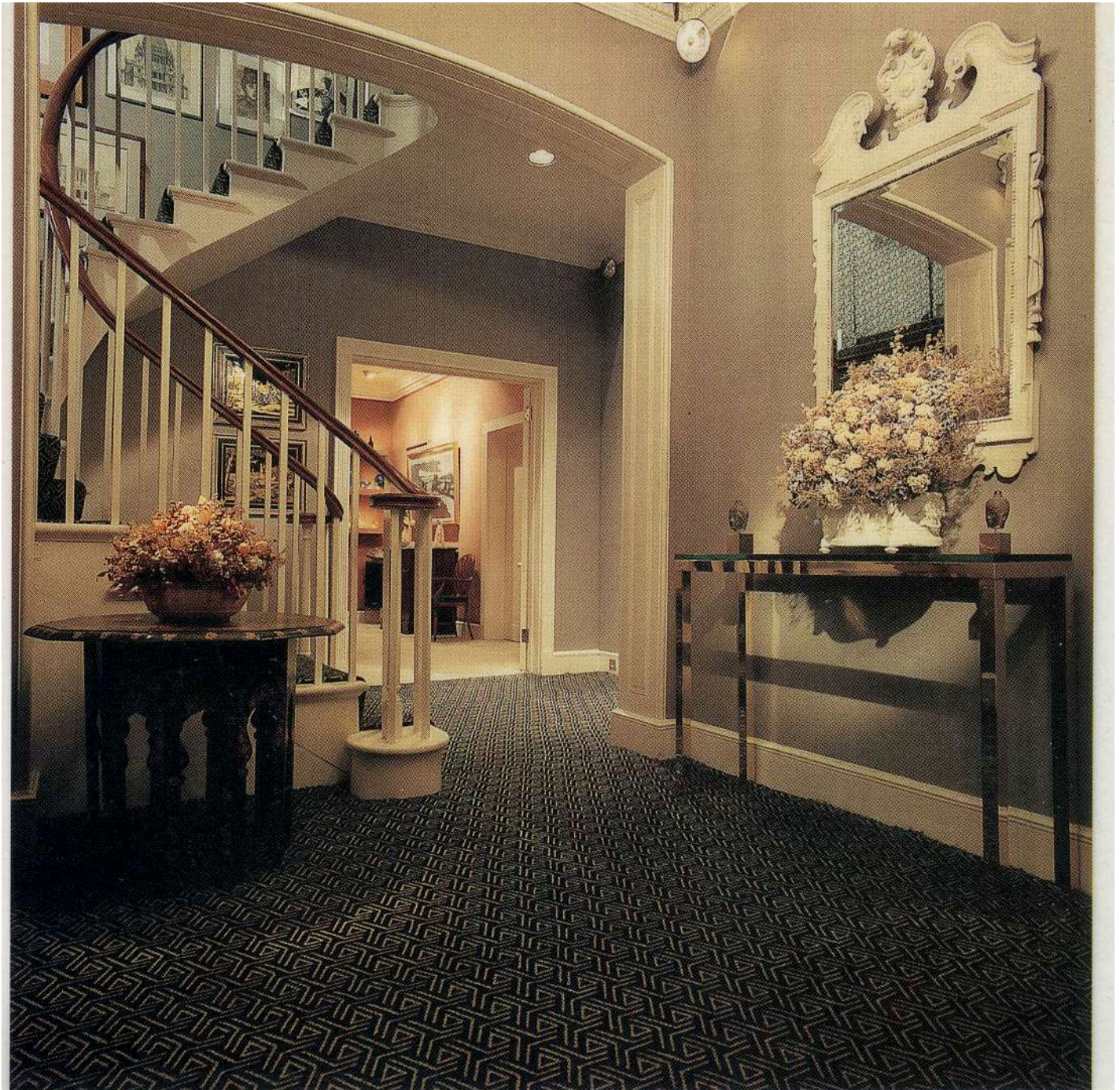


**UK HOUSE AND GARDEN MAGAZINE - VICTORIA
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Clients: John Schlesinger / Michael Childers



**Three-way brief for a three-storey
town house in Kensington**

**Owner, architect and interior designer combine their ideas
for updating a period town house. Photographs by Clive Frost**

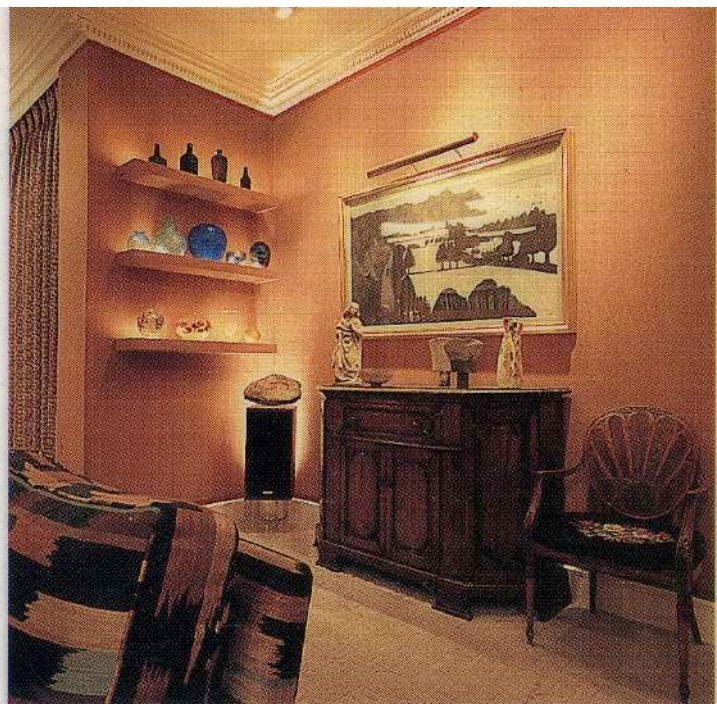


The period house shown in these pages is in a quiet corner of Kensington and has a typical two-storey-plus-basement elevation. The three levels, linked by an elegant curving staircase, are open at basement level to a pretty paved garden.

Under the direction of architect Peter Wood, the present owner had the building partly gutted and totally refurbished. The latter proved a fairly lengthy process. About three years ago, a further alteration — undertaken by Peter Wood in association with Derek Frost of Fox Linton Associates — extended the drawing-room and created a terrace-balcony above, outside the main bedroom.

Suiting-wool in a deep peach was stretched on battens over the drawing-room walls, finished at cornice and skirting level with a border in a deeper shade. Curtains by Fox Linton Associates are a terracotta-and-peach print fabric which coordinates the sofas, Florentine-stitched cushions and armchairs. The stone-coloured sculptured carpet by David Hicks, edged with a plain border, echoes the elegant French fireplace. The whole room provides a rich foil for the owner's pieces: the Roman relief in stone; the electric blue Lalique glass; the Picasso jug; Italian and Roman bronzes; paintings by Burra. Pictures and decorative objects alike are ingeniously highlighted either against reflective glass panels or by uplighting from the base of each shelf.

Downstairs a spacious study opens onto the

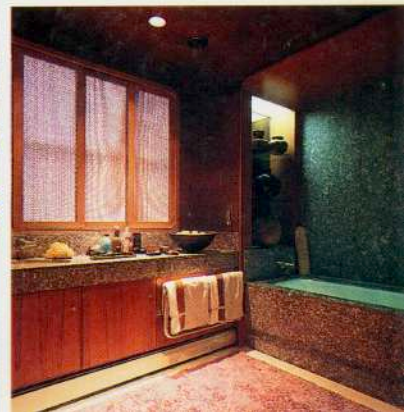


Above *The hall: geometric-patterned Hicks carpet offsets a brass-and-glass console and Ken Turner floral sculpture.*

Left *Inset spotlights in the drawing-room highlight pictures by Procktor, Vaughan and Burra.*

Above *'Early Morning Fog' by Burra hangs above a Spanish cabinet in the drawing-room. At right, an Edwardian cane-backed chair with needlepoint upholstery.*

paved garden through glass sliding doors. Here are housed pieces from the early years of this century: two decorative panels by Van painted in





Opposite page (above) The window seating-area was the result of the extension. Shelves and cupboards at left house the hi-fi units.

(Below left) Decorative panels by Van in the study.

(Centre right) The basement hallway, hung with a collection of prints and memorabilia.

(Below right) A collection of African pots is displayed on glass shelves in the bathroom.

This page (above) The copper weathervane in the bedroom stands on a seventeenth-century Italian fruitwood chest.

(Right) Folding-doors along one wall in the bedroom reveal walk-in cupboards.

the late 'twenties; art deco cushions; a 'thirties sweet dispenser filled with Smarties and jelly babies. Three fabric paintings by artist Rib Bloomfield add a modern touch, together with other examples by contemporary artists.

Upstairs the walls of the main bedroom are covered with honey-toned felt. Openwork screens at the windows filter the light, casting a chequered pattern over the fur-covered bed, the carpet by David Hicks, and sofa upholstered in white embroidered fabric. Silhouetted against one window is a cantering horse that was once an American weathervane, made of copper in the nineteenth century.

In the adjoining bathroom, cork wallpaper gives way to polished marble bath surround and unit top. African terracotta pots are displayed on glass shelves above the bath. The shower-cubicle doubles as a steam bath and the room is connected — as are most of the areas of the house — to the central hi-fi unit built into the drawing-room ●

