

James Balston

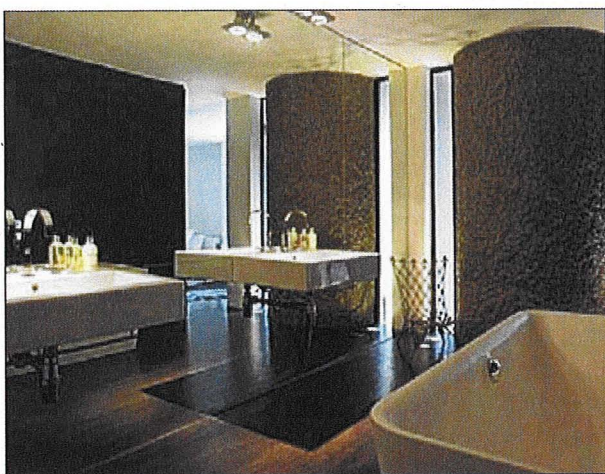
Ken Mackay, Tracey Wiles and family in their Barbican home

A MINIMALIST MASTERPIECE

THE Barbican's most stunning property is the family home of architects Ken Mackay and Tracey Wiles, who have created a minimalist masterpiece out of the former street-level premises of the Barbican estate office, accessed via a pedestrian ramp on Aldersgate Street.

"It has beautiful proportions. The Twentieth Century Society was creeping all over us, making sure we didn't touch the fabric of the building," explains Ken, who has a Clerkenwell-based practice.

Big rusty steel doors open into a double-height lobby and reception room. The apartment has original concrete walls and columns and hardwood flooring. New lacquered joinery conceals bedrooms and bathrooms. A bespoke Italian-made kitchen has a linear Corian worktop running the width of the apartment. Through a big side window they have a bird's-eye view of a communal playground where their children play.



Nigel Young

No part of the fabric of the building could be touched when a flat was created in a former Barbican estate office



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