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NOVEMBER
2007
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SPACE AND TEXTURE

When a pair of architects got their hands on the Barbican's long disused estate office, they transformed it into a family home worthy of the iconic London landmark.

PRODUCTION **AMANDA TALBOT**
WORDS **KATE JACOBS** PICTURES **HENRIK KNUDSEN**

Living area

The family calls this padded space "the pad." "We often hang out here and watch a movie with the kids," says homeowner Ken Mackay. "In the evening, when they've gone to bed, it feels warm, snug and luxurious, like a five-star hotel." To accommodate the building's listed status, they cleverly created separate areas using joinery built to order by top Italian furniture company Molteni & C., which simply slots into place (far left), and can be removed just as easily. ▶▶

WHO LIVES HERE

Looking at their home, it comes as no surprise to learn that owners Ken Mackay and Tracey Wiles are both architects. Tracey is an associate partner for acclaimed UK firm Foster and Partners, while Ken has his own practice, Mackay and Partners, with a portfolio including collaborations with top designers Philippe Starck and Marcel Wanders. They live here with Ken's children Wallace, ten, and Ennis, eight, and their baby daughter Sienna. They love the flexibility of the space, as Tracey explains, 'There are large, open spaces for parties and intimate corners for when it's just family'

Living area

The 'Andy' modular sofa by Paolo Piva and 'Mart' chair by Antonio Citterio next to it are both from B&B Italia. Find similar graphic cushions at Missoni Home. The steel wire side table is by Warren Platner for Knoll, available at Twentytwentyone. An 'Arco' floor lamp by Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni for Flos overlooks the space, available at Aram Store ➔➔



'WE KEPT THE MATERIALS AND COLOURS MINIMAL, WITH GLOSS FINISHES TO COMPLEMENT THE ROUGH CONCRETE'

Dining area (left)

'Aluminium' chairs by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra surround a dining table by MDF Italia. Floor-to-ceiling shelving built by Molteni & C houses an impressive wine collection

Office (above)

A mezzanine level was added to make the most of the fantastic high ceilings, including a home office that looks out over the dining area and through vast, high windows to the City beyond

Kitchen (right)

'This is really the family room,' says Ken. 'It's where we all meet in the evenings, make a meal and enjoy after-dinner conversation.' The glossy kitchen units are by Dada ➡





'WE AVOIDED THE SPACE LOOKING LIKE A SHOWROOM BY MIXING STANDOUT PIECES WITH FUNCTIONAL FURNITURE'



Bedroom suite

A 'La Chaise' chaise longue by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra makes a striking feature in the plush main bedroom (above), which is built on a mezzanine level. A pair of 'Bague' lights by Patricia Urquiola and Eiana Gerotto for Foscarini, available at Arca, make great bedside lamps (above and right). An en suite (left) with a Corian bath and double basin leads off the bedroom. "I love it," says Tracey. "Ken and I could live in this space. It has the rigour of an office fit-out with the luxury of a hotel."



ABOUT THE SPACE

This home was once the sales office of the Barbican complex in the City of London – hence its incredible scale. The space is laid out around a central core which supports one of the tower blocks above, so it is both open-plan and cellular, with the rooms arranged like they would be around a courtyard, with the textured concrete columns, like trees, in the main living space," says homeowner and architect Kan. To make the most of the awesome high ceilings, the couple added a mezzanine-level office and luxurious main bedroom suite (left). The furniture and fittings are polished, "acquired and tactile." "We used gloss finishes that complement the rough concrete – dark wood, grey lacquer, Corian, leather and mirror," says Tracey. "They work wonderfully together."

CONTACTS

- Aram Store** (020 7557 7557; www.aram.co.uk)
- Aria** (020 7704 1999; www.ariatop.co.uk)
- B&B Italia** (020 7591 8111; www.bbitalia.it)
- Dada at Mark Nicholas Design** (020 7278 7573; www.dadaweb.it)
- MDF Italia at Viaduct** (020 7278 8436; www.viaduct.co.uk)
- Missoni Home at Interdesign** (020 7376 5222; www.missonihome.com)
- Molteni & C** (01 484 530334; www.molteni.it)
- Twentytwentyone** (020 7288 1996; www.twentytwentyone.com)
- Vitra** (020 7608 6200; www.vitra.com)

For full address details, turn to page 209