

COME DINE WITH ME
The large hallway can double as a dining room when the bespoke console table is opened out. The colourful abstract painting is by James Galloway.



URBAN OASIS
Bottom left: the glazed 'winter garden' that adjoins the living area provides a stunning view over St Paul's Cathedral.

SPLASH OUT
Below left: the master ensuite bathroom comes with a white Agape bath and taps by Vola.

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL
Main pic: the living area as seen from the winter garden, which can be closed off from the interior by the folding glass doors seen on the left and right. The furniture, rugs, lighting and bookshelves are all bespoke creations by interior designer Anthony Colett.



NEO CLASSIC

Words KAY HILL. Photography ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL

This apartment in the NEO Bankside development is a study in contemporary elegance, mixing metallics and splashes of colour with midcentury style references

This month sees the grand opening of NEO Bankside, one of London's most prestigious new residential addresses. With stunning views overlooking Tate Modern and St Paul's Cathedral, the £4,000 scheme will include 133 homes in five separate 'pavilions', plus a state-of-the-art gym in the acre of grounds. The project is a joint venture between Grosvenor and Native Land, with the architectural design by Sir Richard Rogers.

At Native Land, development executive Nicholas Gray is proud both of NEO Bankside's innovative design and of its green credentials, which in many ways go hand in hand. As well as the solar panels on the roof and the use of the foundations for a ground-source heat pump, one of the key features of Pavilion A, the first to be completed and the nearest to the river, are the unusual 'winter garden' enclosed terraces that join on to the apartments' living areas. These are not, as



PALE AND INTERESTING
 Left: the matt-white Bulthaup kitchen has appliances from Miele and a dark granite worktop

HIDDEN TREASURE
 Right: the console table in the hall can be opened out to become a dining table seating up to 10

the name might suggest, somewhere for the residents to grow their tomatoes but are an indoor/outdoor room concept that also provides passive heating and ventilation.

Unlike the highly insulated double-glazing of the main floor-to-ceiling windows, each winter garden has single glazing and around a third of the glass can slide back, except for a balustrade, to give the effect of sitting on an open-air terrace. Each winter garden will help to keep its apartment cool in the summer heat and in the winter the area can be divided from the main living area by a concertina room divider to provide an effective insulating barrier against the cold.

Anthony Collett of architectural design practice Collett-Zarzycki has just completed the interior design of the sub-penthouse show flat and has chosen to make the winter garden very much an integral part of the living area. The spaces at NEO Bankside have been left open plan for versatility and Collett has used carpeting to delineate the living area from the dining area, study and kitchen, which also form part of his design for the main space. The large, colourful carpet is egg shaped, with the pointier end of the oval heading into the winter garden space, anchoring it firmly as part of the inside living area. But to maintain the ability to shut off this section, the carpet is actually in two parts, with a floor runner for the dividing wall set into it.

Collett's company likes to design its own furniture for projects and the muted upholstered sofas were made to form a giant L-shape. This enables most of the seats to be orientated towards the view through the window while still leaving a few places from which to watch TV. 'The television set was very hard to place because you didn't want it in the middle of the view,' admits Collett. The muted upholstery fabric was chosen 'so the furniture would silhouette itself against the colourful carpet' and the sun-filter roller blinds and sheer curtains are also elegantly unobtrusive.

At the back of this giant living area, but still positioned to appreciate the view, is the kitchen, with matt-white units by Bulthaup, appliances by Miele and a dark granite worktop that continues the muted colour scheme of much of the living area. To the left of the winter garden is a small informal dining area but the fact that buyers of a property like this might want to entertain has not been overlooked — the bespoke console table in the hallway was designed by Collett to open out to become a full-size dining table seating 10. 'On an everyday level it's a nice, generously large entrance hall but if you wanted to have a dinner party, you could set up the space to handle 10 guests very comfortably,' he says.

When Collett was designing the show apartment, he imagined the owner to be an art-loving professional who might

Contacts »Agape www.agapedesign.it »Bulthaup www.bulthaup.co.uk
 »Collett-Zarzycki www.collett-zarzycki.com »Grossenor www.grossenor.com
 »Miele www.miele.co.uk »Native Land www.native-land.com
 »NEO Bankside www.neobankside.com »Vola www.vola.com

also be a collector. 'I don't think it's a family flat and I didn't want anything too frilly or flouncy,' he says. 'It's a contemporary modern look, with style references from the mid-20th century.'

To cater for an art lover's need for somewhere to display artefacts and books, Collett designed bespoke storage in bleached sycamore. The mixture of open shelves and cabinetry zigzags all the way along the back wall of the apartment. In the entrance hall there is a huge, colourful abstract painting by Fiona Gallagher, while both the lounge carpet and the upholstered headboard panels in the master bedroom were inspired by the work of the English abstract painter Ben Nicholson.

The show flat has three bedrooms, all ensuite, with a walk-in dressing room in the master bedroom and an additional cloakroom. 'The bedrooms are all very restful, with pale, muted colours,' says Collett. With all the distractions of London displayed beneath the window, that's probably just as well. *idfx*



SWEET DREAMS
 The upholstered headboard in the master bedroom was inspired by the work of English artist Ben Nicholson. The mirrored cabinet is bespoke, designed by Anthony Collett

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