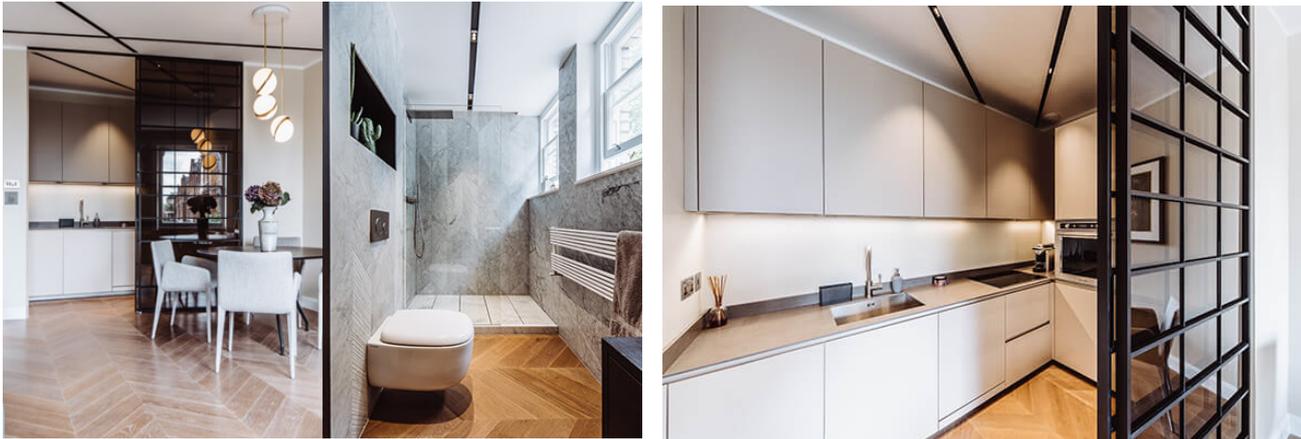




Italia and Partners redefine this South Kensington apartment



Architecture and design company, Italia and Partners, recently took on two London projects with a common goal: to reinterpret and redefine existing spaces to make them usable and functional, as well as having a big visual impact.

One of the interior design projects was at an apartment building in Wetherby Gardens, South Kensington. Measuring almost 65 square metres, the apartment had a large living area with a corner kitchen accessed through a small, dark, oppressive entrance hall that also led to the only bedroom, where the bathroom was located.

The main design challenges were to change the existing set-up, which was decidedly impractical, add a second bedroom and separate the kitchen. The result was exactly what the clients had been hoping for.

The kitchen was moved to the centre of the building and separated by full-height Rimadesio sliding doors that can close off the two rooms when necessary yet still create a more open space and allow more natural light in to brighten the environment. The kitchen by MODULNOVA has matte sand-coloured painted doors for the base cabinets and dove-grey for the wall ones. Under top cabinets, an LED light was chosen to illuminate the kitchen worktop.

On the ceiling, black diagonal grooves harbour laser blade spotlights by iGuzzini, and run from the living area to the kitchen to form a decorative element. While the durmast flooring in a herringbone effect is the main floor pattern of the whole house.

Other additions were a second bedroom/office, a corridor leading to the main bedroom, with a wide terrace overlooking the gardens that give the streets its name, and the bathroom (removing the need to access it via one of the bedrooms).

The bathroom is decorated with Carrara marble from design company Salvatori. It is used on the walls with a matt finish, as well as inside the shower and behind the toilet with a chevron pattern to match the oak herringbone flooring. The bathroom also features Juncos spotlights by Flos.

The cappuccino oak flooring sits alongside heat-treated oak furniture, which was custom made for Italia and Partners. Everything is “made in Italy,” both in terms of the materials and the workforce who took part in the project, guaranteeing an excellent level of finish.

Architect, Matteo Italia, says “For me, elegance and plainness are the guiding thread and also the final result we wanted to accomplish within the various rooms, where classic materials such as wood and marble are juxtaposed with modern ones such as smoked glass and very technical lighting.”

