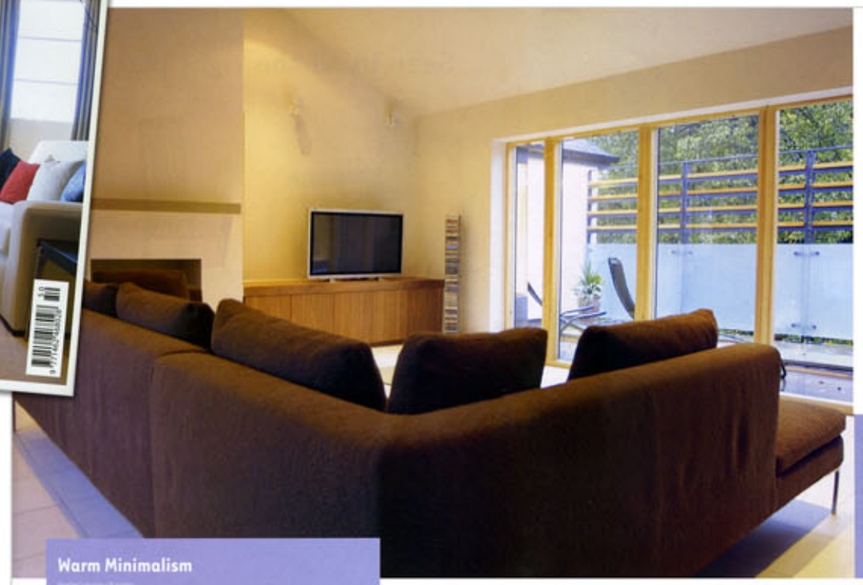
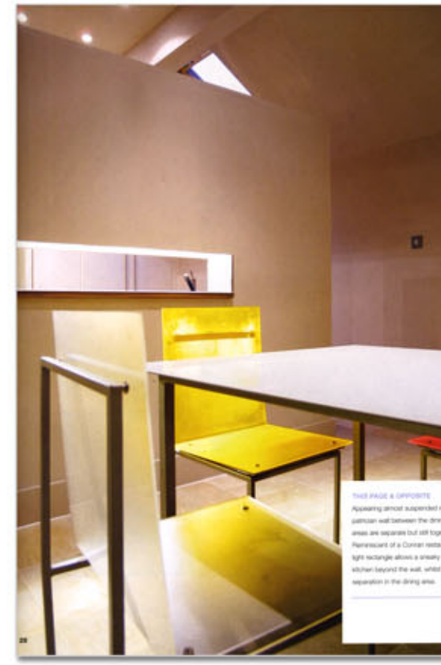


Warm Minimalism

Header Interior Russian

OPPOSITE

The designer of the house, Charles Sidi was particularly interested in texture, light and space. Playing with translucent lines and the interior architecture enabled Charles to mix up and contrast shapes and perspectives. Incorporated with the use of varied materials, glass, wood, stone and metal Charles would hope you form a context in the house plus the outdoors by contrasting new.



THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE

Appearing almost suspended in mid air the patrician wall between the dining and kitchen areas are separate but still together. Reminiscent of a Conran restaurant, the long light rectangle allows a sneaky peak at the kitchen beyond the wall, whilst sustaining separation in the dining area.

There must be something special about a project that gets everyone from the architect to the potential buyer head over heels in love with its very essence. This house was viewed with suspicion (in the nicest possible way) by the neighbours, loved by its creators and totally dotted amongst the traditional Georgian landscape that occupies most of the surrounding area. Simply named One (written as opposed to numerically) this house is unique.

Having recently moved in, Justin apologises for the sparse collection of furniture. With his busy work commitments and bachelor lifestyle, he has found little time to source perfect objects for his home. The fact of the matter is Justin's home is so intimate, interesting in its design, it actually needs very little soft furnishings. What initially attracted Justin were the property's clean lines and sweeping spaces which would be lost if accessorised.

Space, light and texture were the key points that the developer and designer Charles Sidi wanted to address. I comment that it reminds me of a cards, almost impossible to quantify. "It is two and a half thousand square feet" Charles declares, "and unless you have been inside, you have no concept of its size." Through working closely with Roger Stephenson of established Stephenson Bell Architects, exciting and unusual ideas came to the forefront in their design.

Viewing the house, Justin found the level of design and detail down to the fixtures and fittings to be of high quality and coupled with the knowledge that architects Stephenson Bell had been involved with Charles Sidi made the house appealing. Justin also knew that during the construction Charles had stopped working as a developer and had decided to move in himself so he had fallen for the project so much. Thus he was sure he was getting a home built to the highest specifications.

After previously living in Manchester City centre in an old converted warehouse apartment, One was a little different. "It actually takes you about half an hour to appreciate how the space in the house works," Justin explains. "It kind of

LEFT

Uncomplicated muted colours provide the basis for the most part of the house. In the lounge the floor to ceiling French windows allow an abundance of natural light into the room, whilst simultaneously providing a view to the houses private terrace. The neutral stone floor that reflects and lifts the room enhances the light.

OPPOSITE

Light and glass juxtaposes against dark wood and ivory plaster. Sculptural shapes are distorted and softened by an array of coloured lighting. One of the first design concepts to be decided upon for the house, the glass bridge, forms an extraordinary and integral part of the interior.

wraps around itself? Deceptive and intriguing on both the inside and outside, One is totally exclusive, so much so even the address has been modified. Originally addressed off the development next door, it has now been allocated its correct physical location on a private thoroughfare that has been in existence for about 200 years, named Narrow Walk. As the only house on the thoroughfare the name for the house, One, is accurate, marking its individuality. Although there is so much that sets the house in a world of its own, it remains very private and hidden from the main road and is actually extremely secluded. "If you didn't know exactly where it was, you would never be able to find it," Justin assures me.

The awesome glass bridge that crosses the hallway, effortlessly achieves the desired percepion of space and lights. Both the glass bridge and the bespoke staircase appear light and delicate when in reality, they are robust and extremely heavy. The artificial lighting forms another important element in the creation of space in the house and all the colours and placements specifically designed by Charles bring unity to the

interior. In the kitchen he highlighted the long rectangular serving hatch with artificial lighting. The partition wall appears to be suspended in mid air and the rectangle provides a bird's eye view into the kitchen beyond. A muted colour palate from the Kelly Hoppen range of paints has been used on all the internal walls in conjunction with coloured lighting. An acclaimed British interior and home ware designer, Hoppen's style has been a huge factor in the development of the house. Another influence in this Bowden home was the Memphis Milano London, which describes itself as an environment of contrasts created by Annouka Hempel. It is furnished uniquely in the mode of oriental modernism. The extent of this is evident and Justin describes his home as "Zen like, unfussy and modern" further adding "I don't like cluttered spaces, wallpaper or big gold mirrors!" Justin loves the shapes and height created by the internal architecture. "My favourite feature is the glass walkway in the entrance and the floor to ceiling height that runs to almost the third floor, it is simply stunning."

Charles Sidi has designed every detail of this home, even the doors are floor to ceiling to create the illusion of height. The kitchen is totally

handmade, down to cupboards and handles, as well as the original bathroom design. Contrary to what you may think, constructing a new/modern interior is, I am assured, far harder than refurbishing an old interior. Everything has to be perfect - there is no margin for error or lumps and bumps. During the building time of the house (lasting 18 months) Charles says he and his wife began to fall in love with it and were almost ready to move from their own house (which they had already built), into One, until Justin came along. Justin has plans for the New Year to dedicate time to buying some beautiful and special pieces of furniture and artwork to complement his striking home. This was Charles last project as a developer and he has now moved into product design, Sidi Production Innovation and Development. He continues to utilise his creative creak. Mindful that they will never live at One, they feel happy in the knowledge that Justin appreciates it every bit as much as they do. Charles can sleep soundly at night.

ABOVE

In the bathroom mirroring the rectangle shape seen in the kitchen patrician is a similar oblong light box. From floor to ceiling the room is completely tiled broken on the far wall by a length of mirrored storage cupboards. The reflection from the mirrors and the tiled walls heighten the size and expanse of the existing area.