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CHELSEA MORNING

*French interior architect
Pierre Yovanovitch has
brought a refined bohemian
charm to this London
townhouse, creating the
feel of a country retreat*

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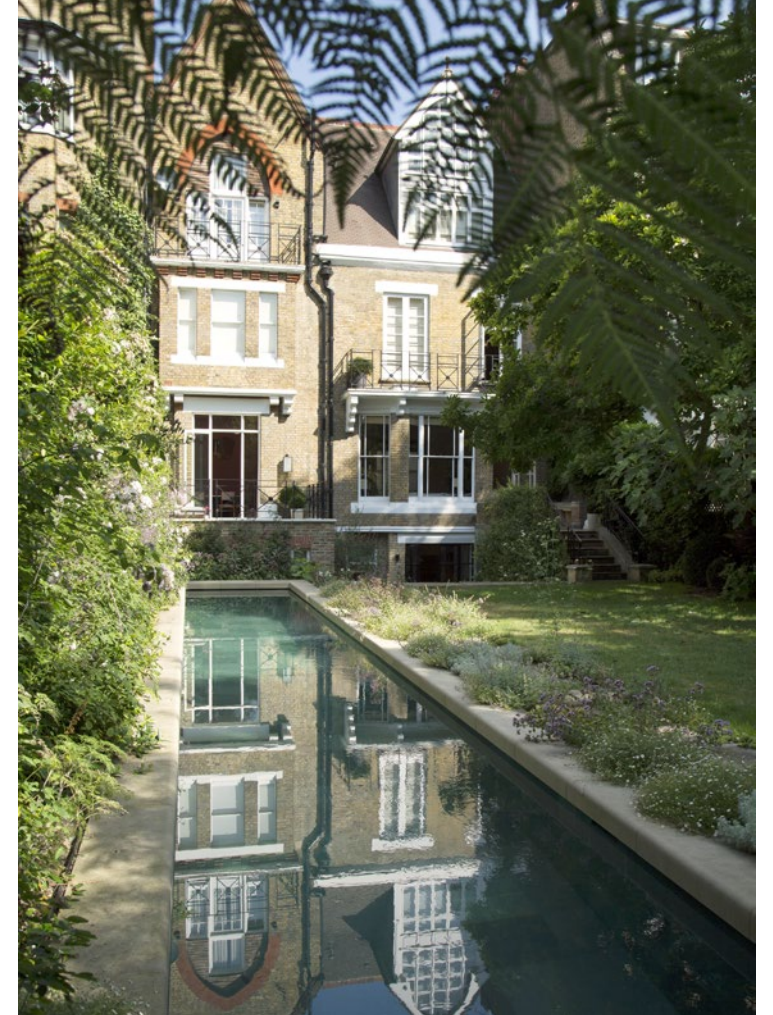
Living room A pair of vintage chairs by Otto Schultz flank the ceramic fireplace by Armelle Benoit. The mid-century coffee table is by American designer Harvey Probber and the sofa is by Pierre Yovanovitch. An artwork by Valentin Carron hangs on the wall on the right, and above the mantelpiece is *Scout Poster* by Wilhelm Sasnal. The floor lamp is the '9602' by Paavo Tynell for Gubi ►





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When planning his reimagining of this turn-of-the-century arts-and-crafts-style townhouse in Chelsea, interior architect Pierre Yovanovitch looked first to the colourful history of this London neighbourhood. 'The area's bohemian roots make it the ideal setting for an art- and design-filled home,' he explains. After an 18-month makeover, which included building a lap pool in the secluded and serene back garden, he has created an almost bucolic inner-city retreat, perfect for its owners and their two teenage daughters.

'The property had been recently renovated by the previous inhabitants, so the challenge was to give it a new, fresh spirit while retaining some of the work they had done,' explains Pierre. To do that, he judiciously added to the existing features, creating made-to-measure oak panelling and bespoke mouldings in collaboration with skilled artisans. 'I worked with French painter and ceramicist Armelle Benoit to create beautiful custom wall features and fireplaces inspired by the vintage characteristics of the architecture,' he adds.

His aim was to respect the 400-square-metre, four-storey townhouse's past, but also highlight the owners' extensive art collection, which includes works by Toby Ziegler, Camille Henrot, Jules de Balincourt and Liza Lou. These contemporary paintings stand out against the mix of vintage lighting and furniture that Pierre assembled. There are art deco pieces by designers Paul Frankl and Otto Schultz, as well as mid-century classics and his own modern creations.

'The rooms are harmonious in a colourful way, which gives a real consistency to the property,' he says. 'But at the same time, each space has its own nature, with unique decorative bias and singular furnishings.' There are areas of vibrant pattern and texture, such as the raspberry-hued Fortuny wallcovering in the dining room, and unique items by up-and-coming British craftspeople, such as London-based Lola Lely from The New Craftsmen. Her curvaceous and chunky-legged wooden 'Elephant' table lends a cosiness to the breakfast area.

'I wanted this home to be joyful, but also a place where the owners and their guests can take time to appreciate all of the art and design pieces,' adds Pierre. 'In many ways, it feels like an escape from the bustling city. With a lot of attention placed on opening the house up to natural light and the surrounding garden, it has developed the atmosphere of a laid-back pastoral residence. Refined yet full of life, just like London.' pierre.yovanovitch.com

Lounge Bespoke metal doors lead to this light, bright room with its pale pink walls and elegant sash windows that look out onto the garden. The sofa, ottoman and coffee table were all designed by Pierre Yovanovitch. The kilim rug is a vintage piece and the bronze sculpture on the table is *Melatonin Mind* by Camille Henrot from Kamel Mennour gallery **Garden** Pierre designed the pond-like lap pool in this serene outdoor space ➤



‘EACH SPACE HAS ITS OWN NATURE,
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AND SINGULAR FURNISHINGS’

Lounge Hanging above the fireplace is the *Phthalo* by Liza Lou from Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery. The console table was designed in 1975 by American David Ebner and is paired with a chair from the 1950s. Above it hangs *Troubled Eden*, 2017, by Jules de Balincourt from Victoria Miro gallery. The floor lamp is a 1950s piece from Stilnovo and the quirky ‘Anthropomorphic’ chair, a 60s design, is by Chilean artist Roberto Matta **Above left** On the 1920s side table by Arttu Brummer is a vintage lamp by Niels Kähler and a ceramic hippo by Marshall Studios from the 50s **Above right** Alex Hartley’s photograph *The Days Go By* hangs above a bespoke bench by Armelle Benoit ►



Dining room *Laura 9* by Alex Katz from Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery hangs on the wall, which is covered in a raspberry-hued silk from Fortuny. The 'Detonado' sideboard, with its reclaimed wicker doors, is by Fernando & Humberto Campana and the pendant light is the 'DC 1627B' by Vincenzo De Cotiis, both for the Carpenters Workshop Gallery. Vintage Carlo Carli chairs surround the jesmonite-topped 'Pink & Blue' table by Lola Lely for Pierre Yovanovitch. **Hallway** *Silver Blue Yellow Pink Mountain*, a sculpture by Ugo Rondinone from Sadie Coles HQ, stands at the foot of the stairs. The vintage pendant light is by Finnish designer Paavo Tynell ►

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Breakfast area Doors lead from this space out to a courtyard (opposite) – the wall was designed by Armelle Benoit. Vintage bamboo lights are suspended above an 'Elephant' table by Lola Lely for The New Craftsmen. The 1950s chairs are by Danish designer Borge Mogensen ►





‘I WANTED THIS HOME TO BE A PLACE
WHERE THE OWNERS CAN TAKE TIME TO
APPRECIATE THE ART AND DESIGN PIECES’



Main bedroom A vintage oak bench by American designer Peter Danko from Eric Philippe gallery is placed beneath a photograph by Mona Kuhn (opposite). The room also has a private lounge area, with a vintage coffee table by Kaare Klint and a pair of his mahogany ‘The English Chair’, all sourced from Rose Uniacke, with a contemporary sofa by Pierre Yovanovitch. The floor lamp is the rattan ‘9602’ by Paavo Tynell for Gubi and the artwork is *Untitled* by Richard Prince from Sadie Coles HQ ►



Above Outside the entrance to the sauna, which is located in the basement, is a bespoke bench from The New Craftsmen. Hanging above it is an artwork by Garry Fabian Miller **Opposite** From this custom-built curved bench by Pierre Yovanovitch, it is possible to take in the full view of the garden, with its abundance of heavily-scented plants **See Stockists page for details** **ED**

