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DESIGN





Thoughtful Luxury with
OLIVER BURNS

By Amber Gibson







London-based interior design and architectural firm Oliver Burns has been around for less than a decade, yet the high-class designers have already captivated audiences worldwide with their exclusive properties, environmentally-friendly designs and ethically-sourced materials, including leather, marble, wood, crystals and sumptuous fabrics from around the world

“Luxury should transcend the purely aesthetic and reflect deeper values and meaning,” the firm espouses on its website. Oliver Burns embodies this ideal by reducing carbon emissions and pursuing environmental standards, including being certified CarbonNeutral and achieving a bronze level in the EcoStep award.

Burns’ newest project, Walpole Mayfair, was quick to sell out. Each of the five apartments is designed with its own unique style: from the most traditional Number Two, with its stately 18th century fluted columns dividing the living and dining rooms; to the more glamorous Number Four, which brings Manhattan flair across the Atlantic with its striking apex roof design and open plan living and dining area.

The Grade II-listed Walpole Mayfair building was originally the home of Britain’s first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, and his son Horace. The apartments on the lower floors are more inkeeping with the traditional surroundings, and the apartments become progressively more contemporary as one ascends.

“Each apartment at Walpole Mayfair has its own completely individual look

and feel and we’re extremely proud of the end product,” says Joe Burns, managing director of Oliver Burns. “Period properties are a particular interest and specialty of ours and to work on one of this stature has been hugely rewarding.”

Creating a seamless connection between old world elegance and modern sophistication is an Oliver Burns hallmark, and this Mayfair penthouse has



this philosophy running through its core. A personal lift transports guests from the period lobby into the apartment’s double-height entrance level, where full-length windows and glass doors maximize the sunshine within. Light bounces off polished-white Calacatta Oro Gold marble floors and a hand-carved white onyx marble washbasin, creating a dance of light and shade. A dark wood kitchen and three lavish bedroom suites in earth

tones subdue the brightness and two furnished rooftop terraces provide the optimal setting for alfresco entertaining with a London skyline panorama. The firm is proud that “it offers the drama of innovative contemporary design and the prestige of a heritage building.”

Yet this is only one of Oliver Burns’ recent projects. Another significant undertaking was the redesign of a Georgian period townhouse in central London for a wealthy Middle Eastern client. Grand doors and fireplaces, intricate cornices and delicate gilding reflect the building’s Georgian heritage, while a vibrant Joan Miró painting pops against the otherwise neutral beige, gold and black palette.

The firm also recently won a civic award for rescuing the historic Dalton House, requisitioned by the British government during World War II, from ruin. An extensive development process, including an archaeological dig and soil testing, was required before restoration of structural support and interiors could begin.

“We worked with hundred of luxury brands, artisans and reclamation yard to create an intricate weave of eclectic ideas,” the firm reveals. An English country garden-themed guestroom contrasts with a more contemporary leather kitchen, and by working closely with conservation bodies, Oliver Burns preserved the building’s surviving original features and architectural quirks. It’s just another example of how Oliver Burns is bringing thoughtful luxury living to the mainstream London scene.