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1 As the main feature of this London house is the dramatic staircase, it was perfect for Taylor Howes's art-collector clients. Sally Storey's lighting design is minutely detailed to emphasise the art, and the balustrade incorporates mouth-blown-glass finials – a technically difficult process. As a tongue-in-cheek detail, the cricketer sculpture is a working iPod docking station. >

BESPOKE SUPER GLAM

JUDITH WILSON *uncovers the high-tech, luxury details specified for some of today's ultra-glamorous interiors*



2

At this Moscow mansion, belonging to clients who collect art, Kate Hume has used a clever tool of chicanery. The television is set into walnut wall panels, subtly concealed by a piece of artwork by Dutch artist Arty Grimm. The painting, conveniently in two parts, is fitted into a slim bronze frame; tiny pull handles at the inner edges slide it back and forth.

Briefed by her clients to create the ultimate 'wow' interior, Louise Bradley designed a bespoke lift to run through the centre of this four-storey, 2,785-square-metre home in Kuwait. With a polished stainless-steel outer frame, marble floor and silent-motion mechanism, the circular, glass lift has 360-degree views.



3



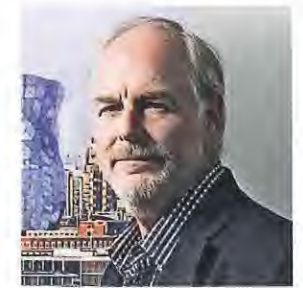
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This media room by Bill Bennette is a symbiosis of luxury and technology. The walls are panelled with sound-absorbing material and Colefax and Fowler velour, and wool carpets conceal sound-insulating felt. A Crestron [automated] system allows music to fade out, lights to dim and the film to begin. The bespoke bar has a fluted front finished in white-gold leaf.



5

The Champagne wall at this central London property, designed by Candy & Candy, combines drama with functionality. The refrigeration zone is at the base of the bar behind glass doors, and the wall behind the bottles is lined with mirror glass, set with LED lights. More light floods into the reception space via the structural glass floor, through which can be seen the swimming pool beneath. The walls are in a specialist plaster finish.



JOHN LEES

at Lees Associates
ON TECHNOLOGY

Before investing in technology, question whether it is essential. Look at what it does – how will you use it, and does it suit your needs?

It's possible to get Wi-Fi chips so small that they can be built into a necklace or a key fob. When you enter a room, the chip 'talks' to your computer, and can be programmed to alter the lighting automatically

If you are considering a swimming pool, choose an ionised system rather than a chlorinated pool. An ionised pool doesn't give off unpleasant gases, and makes the pool more natural

When evaluating technology, look for top-end thinking, but with sensible costs ▷

6



Designed by Lawson Robb, the cellars of this Grade II-listed town house in Knightsbridge have been converted into a gym and spa. The spa bath has structural columns that neatly conceal a mechanism to enclose the bath in Crestron-controlled blinds. The plunge pool on the back wall, fitted with a 60cm-wide spout, has a built-in alarm to prevent flooding automatically. The relaxation space is furnished with a bespoke, teak-slatted, under-lit platform supporting mattresses and bolsters.



Exquisite craftsmanship characterises this pool room designed by Bill Bennette. Heavily raked white crystalline marble forms a waterfall on the back wall, uplit dramatically. The recessed ceiling is finished in Italian polished plaster, exactly colour-matched to the pale aqua glass mosaics lining the swimming-pool basin, while columns in horizontally raked Jura stone echo the sand-blasted lines on the mirrors and glazed screens.



A media room should be beautiful as well as high-tech, so at Candy & Candy's One Hyde Park, bespoke finishes abound. Inspired by the park outside, images of birch trees have been printed on to film, and then sandwiched between two layers of glass, forming wall panels; this layering creates a magic-mirror effect. The bespoke, steel ceiling installation incorporates folded-metal forms made of phosphorus bronze. ▷

8

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Louise Bradley has used bespoke detailing to elevate this powder room into a haven of luxury and drama. She has designed curved polished-plaster walls, set with mirror-glass tree-motif detailing, which was crafted and applied by hand, and the central pedestal supports a bespoke mirror-finish-steel washbasin with Lalique taps. The WC is hidden discreetly behind a curved wall.



9



10

In this entrance hall at The Knightsbridge, 1508 London has created a bespoke 'living light wall' to enhance the limited natural light. Designed by Tony Sandles, the glass panels have burnished silver-leaf surfaces, with a delicate pattern inspired by 'Village Pond at Gelmeroda', a painting by Lyonel Feininger. Computer-controlled linear LED strips illuminate the panels from behind, creating subtle alterations to mimic a natural environment. >

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11

Lawson Robb's design for this temple-like cinema room is brilliantly discreet, using surfaces clad with silk-covered acoustic panels mounted on battens. Panels on the chimney-piece wall hide sub-woofers and, in place of conventional grilles, a ceiling detail allows the air-conditioning to vent through 5cm gaps between 'floating' silk-wrapped panels. This floating ceiling also hides the mechanism for the Crestron-controlled blackout blinds.



MATT CARLISLE

at Candy & Candy
ON DESIGNS
FOR THE FUTURE

We are looking to develop an 'intelligent' dressing room, where clients can browse their wardrobe digitally, and have a virtual personal stylist on hand to help select items

For some, the luxury of having a bespoke piece is worth a long wait. For this private house in London, Todhunter Earle commissioned designer Hervé Van der Straeten to create a custom-made television-cum-bar cabinet, which took 12 months to make at his Paris workshop. Exotic materials include doors in lacquered black pearwood overlaid with bands of patinated bronze, with a black marble top and bronze base.

13



Audio-visual arrangements must be housed invisibly. The examples here are set into retractable racks, which can be drawn out easily for servicing. Designer Bill Bennette has in-filled the surround and finished it in a satin black lacquer. There is considerable heat build-up, so the unit also has concealed ventilation slots. 'Once the doors are closed, a high-tech spaceship effect is achieved - modern technological art,' says Bill.

New, exciting finishes include a modern version of verre églomisé, a traditional process in which the reverse side of glass and mirror-glass is gilded in gold or metal leaf. As well as modern patterns, we'll be using unconventional materials such as resins and fine fabrics

Recently, we've developed a range of unusual metallic finishes, such as almond gold, pale brass and phosphorus bronze, which are appearing already in many of our interiors >



12



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14



A dramatic feature wall can transform an interior. At this Chelsea triplex, René Dekker has created a bespoke olive-tree bas relief, spanning three floors. The design originated from photographs, and was developed using hand drawings. It took a month to apply seven different resin modules by hand. Strip lights on each side of the wall add drama, while bronze banisters and a leather handrail impart tactile luxury.

15



Annabella Nasseti designs homes that are 'ingenious and innovative', without compromising on beauty and functionality. This bespoke oak-panelled door is armoured for security, and the fingerprint-recognition scanner is equipped with a sensor. Rather than touching the surface - which might leave fingerprints, which could be copied for misuse - the finger has to be swiped over the sensor.

16



Despite its state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and lighting on a Crestron system, this Sussex sitting room remains tranquil. Daniel Kostic at Intarya explains that a static mother-of-pearl panel, inspired by the natural world, is the deliberate focus. To the left of it, a discreet section in American walnut slides behind the panel to reveal the television, which can be angled to suit the viewer.



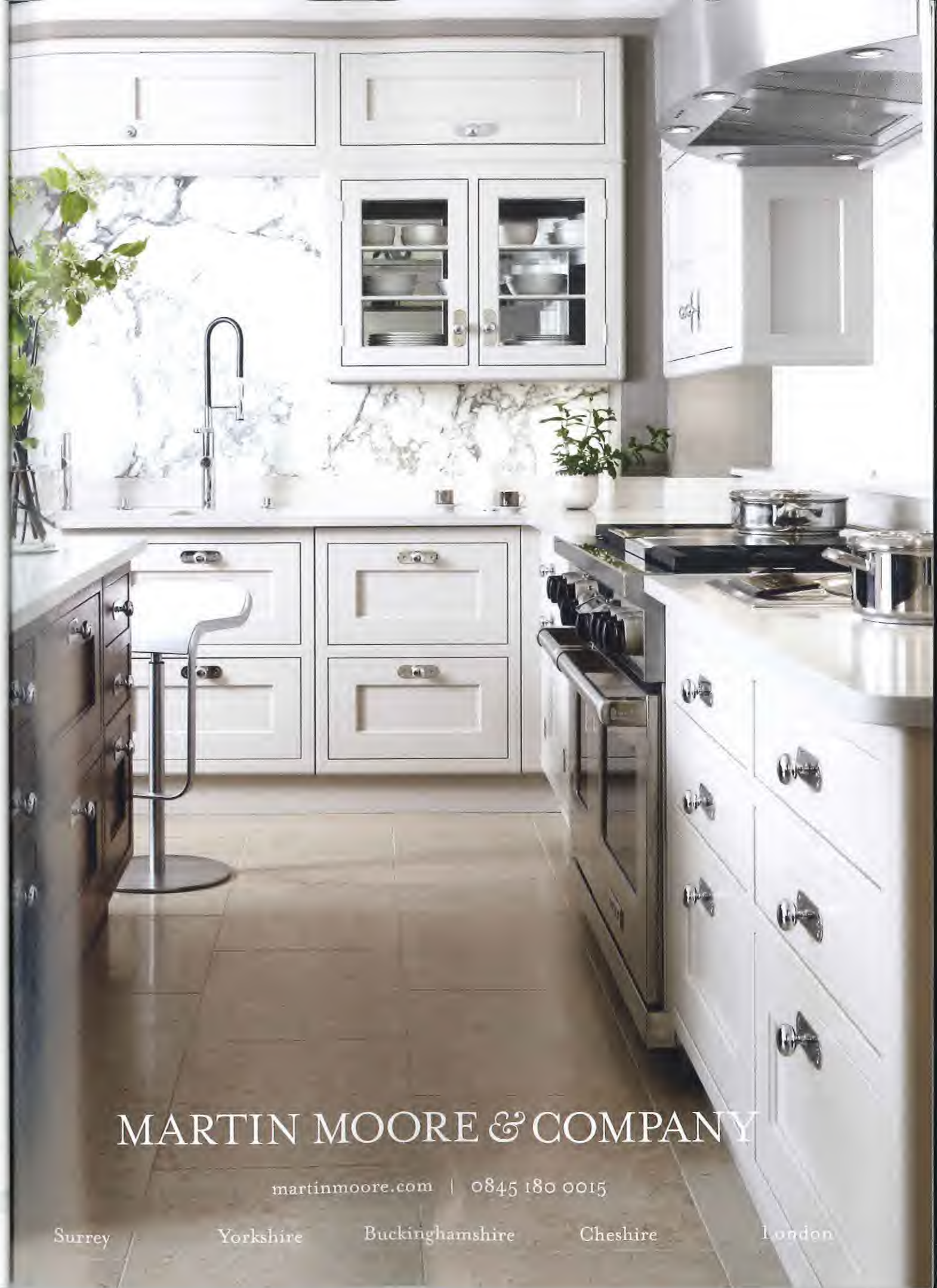
TARA
BERNERD
ON LUXURY

Rather than focusing on one show-off effect, give proper consideration to all your finishes. You can create punch by using obvious materials in a less obvious place, such as using grey stone on a wall, rather than the floor

Colour homogeneity creates a very luxurious look; for example, a hall with walls and ceiling in pillar-box red

Your iPad can be used to run sound, lighting and television at home. It's a good idea to consult an audio consultant to get the best out of the ever-changing world of technology

For me, design is all about intelligent space-planning. Creating an atmosphere and a lifestyle is more important than technology for its own sake >



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17
When Taylor Howes was commissioned to create this dining room-cum-wine store, the brief was to design 'a space for entertaining, with the feeling of a private members' club'. As it was above ground, the windows were blocked off and a slate floor laid to create a 'cellar' mood. The wine is in a temperature-controlled zone, with mirror-lined walls and adjustable fibre-optic lighting.



19
At One Hyde Park, by Candy & Candy, the bedrooms have discreet technology, including air-cooling ceilings - as hot air rises, it is automatically cooled on the ceiling surface - as well as electric curtains and concealed LCD televisions, controlled from push-button wall plates. Here, for drama, a wall is lined with hand-painted silk wallpaper by de Gournay, and the dressing table has a specialist lacquer finish.



18
Button-control technology is the secret to revealing the television in this elegant drawing room, designed by Janine Stone. Behind a wall of joinery, with a panel of artwork applied directly to its surface, there is a flat-screen television and surround-sound system.

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