



PENTHOUSE *Prowess*

Sally Conran talks to Tania Jacobs about the inspired design approach behind the Penthouse Suite at the Old Bank Hotel in Oxford

It has been a busy time of late for Sally Conran Interiors. Having completed work on the re-design and refurbishment of the iconic 5* Old Parsonage Hotel in the St Giles district of Oxford, Sally has recently taken on a new luxury Penthouse Suite for the chic Old Bank Hotel, also in the heart of the city.

“The concept, was to create a spectacular luxury bedroom

suite with its own private terrace overlooking the city spires,” she explains. Taking full advantage of the heritage skyline, the property boasts stunning views of St Mary’s Church, the Radcliffe Camera Library and All Souls College.

Due to planning restrictions and the limited footprint and layout of the hotel roof space, the internal arrangement of the Penthouse Suite was expertly designed to maximise



a feeling of space. A gently sloping, contemporary pitched ceiling was specially created by architect James Wyman to further enhance the dimensions of the bedroom.

“We also added two floor-to-ceiling glazed sliding doors with electric curtains; flooding the room with light and drawing the eye out across the inviting private terrace,” Sally adds.

With considered planning, Sally was also able to incorporate a super king-size bed alongside generous storage, a private desk area with rooftop views, relaxed seating, a private dining area with coffee and cocktail-making station and an elegant marble-lined bathroom with shower.

A combination of natural materials such as velvets, linens and leathers in rich shades of forest green with dark smoked wood tones and warm brass accents, create a sophisticated palette throughout. These focal points are complemented by pops of glossy warm raspberry and felted upholstery in burnt orange.

A bohemian mix of mismatched velvets and mohair, tribal geometrics and expressionist prints for the seating area cushions gives the room a luxurious, layered and relaxed feel and an art deco inspired geometric rug completes the finished look.

One standout feature, is Sally’s bespoke designed, contemporary headboard in a dark forest green leather and linen with integral bedside tables. Sixties-inspired cone-



shaped lights in glossy black and brass have been added for a warming, symmetrical effect.

The bathroom meanwhile, has been sculpted in classic Carrara marble with a statement-style double sink area. A large wall-to-wall mirror and hanging pendant lights in ribbed glass create a soft flattering glow, while the spacious marble-lined shower with niche lit seat is perfectly designed for two.

A modern picture window frames yet another private rooftop view in the ensuite, while carefully selected original British 20th-century artworks, add personality and charm. Framed studies, artworks and abstract sculptures by artist Geoffrey Clark are showcased throughout, creating a unique aesthetic.

Outside, the private terrace, with stylish loungers and an outdoor dining area, overlooks the buzzing high street below.

“Essentially, what we managed to create, is a beautifully designed, contemporary architectural space cleverly positioned atop the hotel’s roof space,” Sally concludes. “Furnished in a rich, sumptuous and textural palette, this deluxe accommodation offers guests pared-back luxury and privacy with their very own bird’s eye view of the city of spires.”

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